

Mayor David Sims called the special council meeting of April 10, 2018 to order at 6:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sims, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Valerie Thompson, and Adam Arthur, Clerk Colleen Garrigan, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, and Police Chief Vic Watson. Also present were Marcia Cossette, Jerry Higgs, Foster Mayo, Travis Stolley, Christine McNair, and Sgt. Willie Cowell.

Mayor Sims said that school safety is on everyone's mind these days. He shared a crime report from the Idaho State Police that the Bonners Ferry Police Department has a Clearance rate of 82, which is one of the highest in the state. Chief Watson explained what the Clearance rate is—reported crime calls that are resolved.

Mayor Sims said we went from seven officers to six officers last year due to budget issues. He'd like to go back to seven officers if the council is in agreement.

Chief Watson said that the dynamics for the School Resource Officer (SRO) have completely changed over the years. They used to have to take care of school rated crime, and now they have to be concerned of potential for mass homicide.

Valerie Thompson said that student safety is always first on her mind as a parent. Andrakay said they'd asked Superintendent Gary Fleuger and Kevin Dinning what their priorities were, and they would like more of a presence at the outlying schools.

Rick Alonzo said the city gets the SRO for two months out of the year, and the school gets them for ten months out of the year. Chief Watson stated that School Resources Officers are patrolman first, and they are converted to School Resource Officers. Sometimes they need to be rotated through, so they don't get burned out. Travis Stolley said that working as the SRO can be overwhelming at times.

Chief Watson said that last summer there were two trainings at the high school for active shooters. Sherriff Dave Kramer, EMT's, law enforcement, and firemen participated in the training.

Mayor Sims said that the city of Ammon got a grant to put some gunshot detectors in their schools. The schools were all connected by fiber back to the dispatch. It sends a signal to law enforcement if it detects a gun shot.

Mayor Sims said that they won't be able to have 24/7 coverage with only five officers. Chief Watson said that the cities of Ponderay and Priest River have an officer work until 2:00 am, and then the next officer doesn't come in until 6:00 am. The county officers cover the four hours during these early hours of the morning. Chief Watson said there has been six officer shootings in North Idaho since he's been here.

Two candidates were interview earlier today, but neither is certified and December is the soonest that they can get certification.

Mayor Sims said that he gets complaints all the time about people driving through town at 60 mph and going too fast through the school zones.

Foster Mayo left the meeting.

Chief Watson showed a video that demonstrates the zero motorcycle. He would like to pursue grand funding to buy one. Any officers who use a motorcycle need to go to training first. Andrakay said that there are free trainings available to the officers that we are not taking advantage of. She also pointed out that we have an equipment issue. Some of the bulletproof vests are expired.

Rick Alonzo made a motion to go into executive session in pursuant to Idaho code 74-206 Subsection 1 (b); To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student. Adam Seconded. Roll call vote. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Valerie Thompson “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Executive Session ended at 10:10 and adjourned.