

Item 25-0844: 2025 Fire Department Mid-Year Report

Item 25-0856: 2025 Legal & Admin. Services-City Clerk Mid-Year Report

Item 25-0841: Alcohol License Violation Convictions

Item 25-0816: Special Events

Item 25-0840: Director's Report

Safety and Licensing Committee

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 5:30PM

Alderperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 33:32

All right, moving on to 25-0844, which, staying with fire, is the fire department mid-year report. Chief Hansen.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 33:39

Yes, thank you, chair. Our mid-year report was attached to the agenda. I'm happy to offer a brief review of the time that we have spent over the last six months. As we've just kind of concluded, we have spent a lot of time on our upgrade to paramedic engine companies, to ALS engine companies. The time included, you know, training all of our members, whether a paramedic or not, on the capabilities of that we can do as a paramedic, and also familiarization of the equipment and patient care guidelines that we have so that everybody is on the same page when we get on scene.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 34:18

The other thing that I'd like to mention is that we spent time this year filling our openings due to retirement. So, we had five retirements, and all the promotions related to those retirements were done in house. We were able to hire a—six people that are going online as of this Friday. We were able to hire one extra because one of our current members was deployed to Kuwait for a year. So, we worked with HR to keep that position covered while he was gone.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 34:53

The last major thing that I wanted to talk about was the efforts that was put forth by Human Resources, union leadership, and fire department leadership. We are concluding a—our negot—contract negotiations where, about a month ago, we have a tentative agreement with our labor, and they will be voting on the contract next week, I think Tuesday and Wednesday, or Wednesday/Thursday, with the hopes of it passing and then going through committee and council in the month of August. So that's a significant achievement when you think of contract negotiations can be very spirited, but I can say that we have great relationships on all sides of the aisle, and with Director Rachman's leadership it was a excellent experience for everybody.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 35:48

Lundgaard Park pavilion is under construction. If you haven't been on the north side, go take a look at it. I mean, the walls are up. Concrete is poured. That is scheduled to be done in September, late September, and we'll be having a dedication either in October or maybe even in the spring, because it might align with May 15, and that might be the day that we choose to do the dedication.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 36:12

Regarding the financials, on page five, you can see we're right on target. We're at 44% for budget spent this year, and that's a good place to be, so we're really happy about that. And then lastly, I'd just like to talk about our responses. We're at 4,125 emergency responses this year. That is up just slightly from our previous year.

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And of course, as always, about 75-76% of those are medically related. Happy to answer any questions you may have.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 36:44

Okay, great. As always, great report. Thank you for all the information. Questions from committee members? All right. No?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 36:53

No, just—

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 36:54

Comments?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 36:54

—glad to see that maybe—that we'll probably have chili at budget Saturday again. Gotta keep—keeping the union happy.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 37:01

Yeah, we're on track for the budget. So yeah.

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen 37:05

I think you will. I think you will.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 37:08

It's always a big hit. So, all right. Okay, anything else?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 37:13

All right, we'll move on to 25-0856, is the legal administrative services mid-year report. Anything from the clerk's office? District four. All right, go ahead.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 37:26

So just a couple of things to highlight, I guess, is postage costs just went up again on July 13, so that's something that we kind of struggle with every year. But we are working on both reducing in house mailings if we don't have to send out mass mailings for certain things. We've really encouraged other departments to cut back if they're able to. And then our contract with our mail machine that we're currently leasing is up at the end of September, and so we're looking at a different, lower cost option for metering all of our mail, which will be by piece rather than a quarterly contract. So, with the increases in postage costs, we're looking at ways that we can cut costs other places as well.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 38:11

Other than that, we're pretty much on track where we expected to be for most of our different accounts. Special events, right now, we haven't brought in a lot of money because of the new chargeback model where we're charging back after the events. We're not seeing all that money up front. So that's to be expected. If you guys have any questions, I'm happy to try to answer them.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 38:30

Okay, on track, as far as budget goes. I'm looking here, the numbers looks like at 40% used 39.8.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 38:39

Yeah, and that's between us and the attorney's office, but with ours—with our specific ones, which are record keeping, licensing, elections, and mail/copy, mail/copy is the only one that's a little bit higher than you would expect. But because we send out all the absentee ballots in the spring elections which are only happening in the spring, it would be a little bit heavier on the front half.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 39:00

Okay, great. Thanks for clarifying that. I was looking at it as a whole. All right, any questions for the clerk? The new clerk. Congratulations on your confirmation at the council meeting last week, by the way. Alder Fenton, go ahead.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 39:13

Thank you, Chair. In terms of the special—new special events procedure—obviously, we've seen one here where we had a little bit—the event organizers had a little bit of trouble—has everything—we're in our big special event time in the summer and com—are people basically getting the new process, and it's blowing smoothly?

City Clerk Amy Molitor 39:34

Yes, very much so. Um, we obviously have Mile of Music coming up. We just got—from Sergeant Ostermeier we just got all the information on that, and everything's in place. We have—I believe it's five of the big special event service agreements are in place. So, with the bigger ones, especially, everything is pretty much set for them. With the smaller events, because we know them, we've been working with them, reaching out, as we see that 45 day before the event deadline approach, and everything has been going really smoothly.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 39:57

Okay, great. Great. Thank you.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 40:02

Good question. Yeah, there was the one that didn't realize the extent of the work that they had.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 40:10

We can blame PD for that.

[That was a joke, and multiple people laughed.]

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 40:14

Chief Olson's not here to hear that, but I'm sure it might get relayed. Okay, are there any other questions on the clerk's mid-year report? Not seeing any.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 40:25

Okay, we can move on to 25-0841 is a list of alcohol license violation convictions. They are all selling alcohol to a minor. Gonna list them. El Azteca restaurant on Northland Avenue, Lindo Michoacan on Richmond Street, Mill City Public House on West College Avenue, Northland Amoco on East Northland, and the Bent Keg downtown at on College Avenue. That's it for those. Anything from staff on those? No? Okay. Question? Alder Firkus, go ahead.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 40:58

Thank you, Chair. Between the public hearings and these, are we seen any sort of unusual spike, or is it just kind of this is a wave, kind of collecting and then just kind of showing up on our agenda? Or is this just kind of status quo, as far as how many violations were seen?

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 41:12

Attorney Buruin, you want to take that? Or district five, okay. It's—almost gonna say...Okay. Should be on.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 41:24

So, these checks do go in seasonal cycles. From my experience for over the last couple of years since joining the city and working with the police department on these things, I would say that my experience, I don't know that the police department's been doing anything different, but this last cycle, or the cycle that we're dealing with, does seem to have been a higher rate of failures on these checks from what I have seen. I don't know why that is, though.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 41:52

Okay, I'm just wanting for perspective that this is like a little—because it seemed like a high-water mark. I just wanted to see if that's true, or if I'm just kind of....

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 42:00

It is from my experience. I don't know if anybody from the police department would think otherwise, but I think so.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 42:07

Okay. So possibly an increase. Has there—you want to comment on possible any changes to the approach or not? You don't have to. Six is back on.

Unidentified Staff Member 42:20

Yeah, we haven't changed our approach, so it's just the same methodology we've always been using. It just happens to be resulting in these sells to minors.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 42:31

Yeah, yeah, and, well, at least all of them showed up today, and we were able to hear what happened and what they're doing to hopefully not have it happen again. Okay, any other questions on that list? No? Okay.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 42:45

There's a list of special events, quite a few of them, because it's summertime. Move to directors reports. City clerk, you have staffing updates listed.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 42:57

Yes. As you guys know, I was appointed and approved. Thank you very much, and we are in the process of hiring a deputy city clerk to replace me in that position. The job opening closes on the 27th, so if you know anyone who's interested, encourage them to apply. And then we're looking at doing interviews in early August. So hopefully we can get a full staff up again soon.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 43:22

Okay, great, great. Thanks. Fire Chief, you don't have anything listed. Okay, and police chief is not here, but nothing listed for APD.