

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance:

April Fournier, Chair (At-large), Anna Trevorrow (District 1), Victoria Pelletier (District 2), Pious Ali (At-large), Mark Dion; Mayor.

City Staff:

Adam Harr, Executive Assistant for Health and Human Services; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief; Mark Dubois, Police Chief; Amy McNally, Associate Corporation Council; Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager; Caity Hager, Emergency Management Coordinator; Jason Grant, Fire Marshal; Maggie McLaughlin, Director of Health and Human Services; Bridger Rauscher, Interim Director to Public Health.

Announcements

Review and Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2024

Minutes moved by first Councilor Trevorrow and seconded by Councilor Pelletier
Unanimous vote.

Regulation of Explosives

Chief Gautreau: The regulation of explosives has lived in Chapter 14, which is the Planning and Urban Development Chapter (as Article 22). These regulations should live in Chapter 10, with the Fire Department having the authority to regulate and enforce them. Fire is currently doing the enforcement, and we did updates in penalty fees. We also updated our Fire Prevention rules and regulations. For ordinance, it requires full council approval to move this.

Warming Shelter Update

Caity Hager: First Parish Church has offered their space, to be run by Common Space, and funded by Maine Housing to have a temporary warming shelter when the temperature meets the threshold. Activated when the daily low is 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Windchill will be taken into consideration.

Trevorrow and Pelletier - Concern with the 15-degree threshold, as it feels colder at higher temperatures too.

Dena: Over the last week the capacity at the HSC has been 10-20 available beds and that will continue to be a resource when there is capacity. So if cold nights don't trigger the activation, there is another option. An educational flier can be created with additional resources and options and shared with the public.

Update on Syringe Service Program Action Plan

Bridget Rauscher : The action plan is to reduce the number of improperly disposed needles in the community. Outcomes of the first quarter are showing improvements. Harm Reduction Ambassador program is launched with 3 members. A larger number of needles return to the number given out under the plan. Increased public health staff clean up, paying special attention to areas on the mapping, with additional containers localized and handed out.

After 3 months of implementation, it appears that the SSP Action Plan will be incrementally successful in helping reduce the syringe litter.

Bayside Update

Chief Dubois: 728 calls or service in October to 731 in September, indicating a decrease from month to month. Bayside is 30 percent of the cities arrests and 40 percent of the cities overdoses occur in the Bayside neighborhood.

Councilor Fournier is concerned about the increasing amount of shootings in the city.

Goodbye to Fire Chief Gautreau

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm

Next Meeting: January 14, 2024