



PACT Police and Community Together

Meeting Minutes

Police and Community Together (PACT)

Meeting Minutes Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 Public Safety Center

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Michael Ryan at 5:37 p.m.

Attendance: Amy Blunn, Georgia Broyles, Tom Heritage, James Johnson, Tamra Martin-Venable, Fernando Muzquiz, Craig Nichols, Joan Shaefer Poach, Michael Ryan, Alan Sheldon, Mike Stone, Buddy Tennant, Mel Turner, and Jim Wollack. **Regrets:** Lori Altenbern, Ernie Hasty, Phillip Regeski and Debbie Reynolds. **Public:** James Wells, and Maeke Ermaith, Councilor Pete Laybourn (Ward 1), Councilor-Elect Richard Johnson (Ward 3) and Councilor-Elect Dr. Michelle Aldrich (Ward 3). **Cheyenne PD Staff:** Chief Brian Kozak, Capt. Nathan Busek, Officer David Inman and PIO Alex Farkas.

2. Approval of October 1 Minutes: Motion to approve by Jim Wollack, seconded by Alan Sheldon, all members present voted in affirmative, no opposition – Approved.

3. PACT President Nominations

- a) Remarks from Jim Wollack
- b) Floor opened for further nominations – None forwarded

Per PACT By-Laws in the absence of another candidate, Jim Wollack elected next PACT President by Acclimation – All members present voted in affirmative, no opposition. The two-year term will run from Jan. 1, 2021-Dec. 31, 2022.

4. PACT Vice President Nominations: With the office of Vice President now vacant, nominations were accepted for the office.

- a) Remarks from Fernando Muzquiz
- b) Floor opened for further nominations – None forwarded

Per PACT By-Laws in the absence of another candidate, Fernando Muzquiz elected next PACT Vice President by Acclimation – All members present voted in affirmative, no opposition. Additionally, per PACT By-Laws, Fernando will serve out the remainder of the vacated term (Dec. 31, 2021).

4. Presentation: President Michael Ryan offered remarks upon finishing his time as president. A plaque was presented to Chief Brian Kozak for his service and support to PACT and the community by all of the PACT officers who served from its official inception in 2016 until the present. Michael also thanked the PACT officers, PACT members, the Chief and the CPD for their support.

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5. Status of Chief Brian Kozak and CPD: Chief Kozak offered comments in regards to his current status in light of the incoming mayoral administration. He listed several program accomplishments (see also the video found on the CPD Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CheyennePoliceDepartment/videos/658563858172341/>)

- a) Chief Kozak presented a plaque to Michael Ryan for his leadership of PACT over the last several years
- b) Chief discussed the importance of having that community partnership and input that PACT provides to the Department
- c) Decision by incoming mayor Pat Collins came as a shock to the community and the department and has had a negative impact on the morale of both
- d) Chief has stated he is willing to stay on during some sort of transition process to ensure department stability
- d) Councilor Pete Laybourn made a few comments on the matter, stating it is overblown, that people need to calm down, and that the council will address the situation
- e) Remarks from public guests in support of CPD and the chief, and their ineffectual attempts at getting any answers from Pat Collins on the subject

6. PACT Statement on the Subject – Michael Ryan discussed the recipients and the aims of a public statement from the PACT. It will be geared towards an orderly and rational transition and that Kozak would prefer to remain on during the transition process

- a) James Johnson, Georgia, and Amy provided additional input and asked questions regarding the statement's contents
- b) Further comments from public guests in support of the chief and CPD and to the councilors present to pressure Collins on the matter and the necessity for transparency
- c) Comments from Mike Stone about keeping the focus of the statement narrow
- d) Michael Ryan will rework the statement and provide a draft within the next day with a timely deadline this weekend to ensure it can be provided to the recipients before the next council meeting

7. Chief's Report

- a) The department has hired a new civilian Public Information Officer, Alex Farkas. She is from Cheyenne and previously worked for the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce in a marketing capacity
- b) The Use of Force Review Board is now fully implemented, the chief discussed a few of the things they have been doing so far, mainly training and getting up to speed on their role and noted PACT's Mel Turner, Jr. was one of the three civilians chosen as community representatives
- c) The truck weight ordinance is on its third reading with the council next week, this ordinance will also raise the weight limit to 26,000 lbs on certain side streets often used as shortcuts by heavy transports so that the new weight limits can be better enforced, Enforcement of this new ordinance will either be done by specialized traffic patrol officers with portable scales or under escort to the nearby port of entry to be weighed
- d) The Chief discussed the Faith & Blue essay contest for high school students. One of the winning essays involved greater community outreach with the homeless and public education on the animal shelter
- e) Grants: CPD was turned down for two grants that would have assisted with domestic violence programs as well as hiring a second social worker.

8. Membership Updates: Two members have withdrawn, three have been moved to the new affiliate status (still in the distribution and email updates, but non-voting members). Our current membership stands at 21 active members and five affiliates.

9. By-Laws Discussion: By-Laws Committee Chair had to leave early so Michael Ryan discussed the overview of the changes and process. Michael Stone moved and Buddy Tennant seconded to approve the forwarded amendments. All members present voted in favor, no opposition, the amendments to the By-Laws are approved

10. Discussion on Policies and Procedures: The necessity and structure of such were outlined by Michael Ryan Michael Stone moved and Alan Sheldon seconded to approve policies and procedures. All members present voted in favor, no opposition, the policies and procedures are approved.

11. NEXT Meeting Format: Due to the uncertainty of current Covid-related restrictions, the next meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2021 will be a regular business meeting rather than a combined community program/PACT meeting as originally scheduled.

12. Thank You: President Michael Ryan offered his thanks once more to the CPD staff, PACT members, and public guests present who have helped to make PACT what it is.

13. Other:

- a) Craig Nichols won tonight's trivia question and a \$15 gift card to JAX

Next PACT Meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted by James Johnson, PACT Secretary