

VENETA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE/TOPIC: Resolution No. 1334 - PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY FEE POLICY AMOUNT

Meeting Date: September 13, 2021
Department: Administration

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ISSUE STATEMENT

Should the Council adopt Resolution No. 1334 establishing a public safety fee amount of \$4.00 per month effective on January 2022 City utility billing statements?

BACKGROUND

City Council held a work session on May 24, 2021 to review the potential need for a public safety fee. Consensus was to have staff prepare an ordinance to create a public safety fee using the format and function of the City's Transportation Utility Fee ordinance adopted in 2016. The First Reading of Ordinance No. 562 to enact a public safety fee occurred at the Council's June 14, 2021 regular meeting. The Second Reading and adoption of the Ordinance occurred at the Council's July 12, 2021 regular meeting.

At the August 9, 2021 regular Council meeting the council reviewed public safety fee amount options and directed Staff to prepare a resolution to establish a \$4.00 per month public safety fee effective January 2022. That resolution is before the Council for action this evening.

Staff has been communicating about the proposed public safety fee through several communication channels. A double-sided flyer accompanied the August monthly city utility billings. A City Facebook page post linked to information about the public safety fee. And we hosted "Chats with Matt" at City Hall Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and then added Monday and Wednesday lunch hour to answer questions and discuss the public safety fee.

While some Facebook posts didn't agree with the fee amount—or a fee at all—feedback from conversations with the public included:

- What has been the history of contracted Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) staffing levels?
- Is the City collecting all the franchise fees its owed?
- How does Veneta compare to other cities for public safety services costs?
- What does the current contracted LCSO staffing level provide in terms of services:
 - o inside and outside the city (for example, schools)
 - o residential and commercial
 - o single-family and multi-family
- How does LCSO manage patrol service coverage when a deputy is on an excused absence?
- Are dispatch services and deputy follow-up consistent?

Questions were addressed or are being researched to help improve oversight of the LCSO contract. At the August 9th Council meeting, Staff presented a methodology for calculating a public safety fee amount that meets policy needs. In short, the methodology involved: 1) Setting a target revenue

amount based on clear policy objectives, and 2) Selecting a time frame to achieve those policy objectives.

To achieve the policy objectives of sustaining the City's 4-months + \$100,000 financial reserves policy and allocating a maximum of 50% of property tax revenue to the City's Law Enforcement Fund, the total current funding gap is approximately \$192,075.

Assuming that the City issues approximately 2,000 monthly utility bills, and that public safety fee would first appear on city utility bills for the January 2022 billing period, the Council selected a 24-month billing period to arrive at a \$4.00 per month public safety fee amount. Starting in January 2024 and every subsequent January thereafter, the Council would set the public safety fee amount based on Staff's input on whether the City is achieving the Council's policy objectives.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Establish a \$4.00/month public safety fee effective for January 2022 services billed the first week of February.

CITY COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Establish a \$4.00 per month public safety fee billed pursuant to Ordinance No. 562.
2. Establish a per month public safety fee other than \$4.00 to be billed pursuant to Ordinance No. 562.
3. Take no action on setting a public safety fee amount.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"I make a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1334, a resolution establishing a \$4.00 per month public safety fee billed pursuant to Ordinance No. 562 and effective for January 2022 services billed the first week of February."

ATTACHMENTS

None