

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Councilor Hall at 1832 Hrs.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Deering, Councilor Smeltz, Councilor Hall, Mayor Bradley, and Police Chief Williams.

Also present: Sam Sulkosky.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted by Councilor Smeltz, seconded by Councilor Deering. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Columbia Avenue Traffic

Shelby Chunko, 21 Columbia Avenue stated that there has been an increased volume of traffic on Columbia Avenue; specifically heavy truck traffic and speeding vehicles. Ms. Chunko requested that a four way stop sign be considered to slow down traffic. Many of the trucks are construction vehicles and many are carrying the waste materials from the DONSCO foundry. Ms. Chunko asked if trucks over a certain weight can be banned. Councilman Hall stated that the plan is already in place to ban truck traffic over a certain weight. Chief Williams stated that PennDOT will not allow a four way stop sign unless specific requirements are met and the amount of traffic and number of vehicles are taken into consideration. Ms. Chunko requested that someone call DONSCO and ask them to speak to their drivers to avoid the area. Chief Williams stated that he talks to them about every two to three months to remind them to direct their drivers on the desired route to take to get to the foundry. The police department has cited drivers which seems to help for a few months.

Pit Stop Hobbies, 262 West Main Street

Don Longsderff, 307 West Donegal Street discussed the issue with Pit Stop Hobbies with the PA system and lighting. Mr. Longsderff talked to the new owner of Pit Stop Hobbies regarding the issue but they have not been cooperative so he started to call the police. Mr. Longsderff stated that it starts in the early afternoon and runs until 10PM or later. It starts in May and goes through to

October. Residents can't sit in their back yard during the summer weekends because of the constant noise and lighting.

Tammy Longsderff, 307 West Donegal Street stated that the noise can be heard inside the house with all the windows and door closed. She contacted Pit Stop Hobbies after 10PM when the noise ordinance is in effect but the noise doesn't stop.

Mayor Bradley asked if the noise has gotten worse or is it just that the residents have had enough. Mr. Longsderff stated that it is both – the noise is worse and they are all tired of it.

Sandra Leyh, 15 Donegal Springs Road stated that one of the problems may be that Amtrak cut down large trees that served as a noise buffer. Ms. Leyh also stated that the speakers seem to be louder than in the past.

Patricia Lea, 333 West Donegal Street stated that she has lived in her house since 1990 and the noise has always been bad but may be worse now. She can be in her house with doors and windows shut and can still hear the noise.

Jacqueline Kerchoff, 26 Donegal Springs Road stated that they live the farthest away but can still hear the loud speaker.

Al Kerchoff, 26 Donegal Springs Road said that they have lived there two years and last summer (2017) was worse than the prior year.

Jeannette Goehring, 313 West Donegal Street stated that the PA system as well as the lights are a problem. She has lived there more than ten years. Her specific requests are that she not hear the public address at all. Her suggestions are to make it a closed group using existing technology and smart phone apps. There are three apps that are free that can be used. For the lights, she would like them lowered on the post and not aimed directly toward her home and garden. She talked to the owner about this and he felt that it would be expensive to change the lighting.

Barb Howard, 317 West Donegal Street stated that even with her windows closed she can still hear the PA system. The lights are very bright and she did talk to one of the employees of the business and that employee thought that lowering the lights could easily be accomplished. However, the owner disagrees. She also stated that there are times that the lights are on but the PA system is not being used. This occurs most often during the week.

Councilor Deering asked if the police have checked the decibel readings. Chief Williams stated that there have been checks which resulted in Citations being issued.

Mayor Bradley stated that if laws are being violated, the police should be contacted at the time of the violation.

Mayor Bradley will act as a mediator between all parties and get a meeting scheduled in early December if possible.

Speeding Vehicles

Matt Floyd, 466 Donegal Springs Road first wanted to thank the committee members for their civic duty. He reported that speeding vehicles continue to be a problem on Donegal Springs Road. He has an app on his phone and was able to 'clock' vehicles driving in excess of 80 mph. Chief Williams stated that the speed signs cannot be used unless there is approximately 150 feet of clear sight in order to operate accurately. Mayor Bradley stated that he has been in contact with PA legislators to encourage them to allow local police to use radar. Jacqueline Kerchoff, 26 Donegal Springs Road asked if the speed sign can be permanently installed. Mayor Bradley stated that is not an option because of the limited number of signs owned by the Borough. Matt Floyd asked if there were other options such as speed bumps and/or parking on both sides of the street. Chief Williams stated that Donegal Springs Road is a state route and PennDOT controls what can and cannot be done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes for the regular Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 25, 2017 was made. A motion by Councilor Smeltz and seconded by Councilor Hall with the following corrections to the minutes: the date of the meeting corrected to September 25 and add the Birchland Avenue/Springville Road discussion raised by Councilor Deering. Motion carried unanimously with the changes to the minutes.

Councilor Smeltz requested that the approved minutes be emailed to members of the Borough Council.

FDMJ REPORT

No report.

EMA REPORT

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Main Street Parking

No report.

Main & Marietta cross walk update

No report - Mayor Bradley has not heard anything from Harrisburg yet.

Winterfest 2017

Chief Williams reported that approval from PennDOT for the street closure and detour has been received and everything for Winterfest is on schedule.

Facilities Use Form

The form for Facilities Use has not been finalized yet and is still under review.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for commercial vehicle parking from Scott Felton. (9-A)

An email from Scott Felton, 324 Farmview Lane was received by Chief Williams regarding parking his work truck on a public street. Mr. Felton uses his work truck as his main source of transportation and has been parking it on the street for sixteen years. He recently received a parking ticket and is requesting that the ordinance be waived to allow him to continue to park his truck on the street. The ordinance was reviewed and it was determined if the truck is under 11,000 pounds it can be parked on the street. Chief Williams was requested to check the registration of the truck to determine the size of the truck and provide a report at the next meeting. The committee also decided to issue a temporary 30 day permit to allow Mr. Felton to park on the street until after the next meeting when a determination will be made.

Request to limit oversized vehicles on N Market Ave. (9-B)

An email from Victoria Start, 321 North Market Avenue was received regarding tractor trailer traffic on Market Avenue. Chief Williams stated that signs can be installed to limit traffic to vehicles under 26,000 pounds. A motion to erect weight limitation signs on North Market Avenue from Main Street to Hill Street was made by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Deering. Motion passed unanimously.

Request for a "Children at Play" sign on Oak Alley. (9-C)

An email was received from Todd Barto, 735 Terrace Avenue requesting 'Children at Play' signs be erected in the alleys behind his house. Mr. Barto did not attend the meeting and therefore the committee did not act upon his request.

Requested changes to the Borough Civil Service Rules. (9-D)

Chief Williams recently attended training for Civil Service Rules. Changes to the weighting for the written examinations and oral examination and timing of polygraph and background checks were presented by Chief Williams and discussed by the committee. Councilor Smeltz made the motion that the changes be tabled until the next month's meeting to give the committee time to think about the changes. Motion was seconded by Councilor Deering and passed unanimously.

BUDGET

Chief Williams provided the committee with a breakdown of the current budget showing line items that have exceeded the budget. Overall, the budget is on track and is \$66,868.40 under budget for the year.

Future purchases include new uniforms which are on back order. Councilor Smeltz asked if the computer hardware for the new RMS system can be purchased this year. Chief Williams stated that we may be able to be reimbursed for the purchase of the hardware because we are participating in the NIBRS pilot program but he is not sure if the hardware is purchased this year if that will affect the reimbursement. Chief Williams will investigate and purchase this year if possible.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mayor Bradley stated that there are seven candidates available for the position of police officer and wanted guidance from the committee if additional candidates should be added. Councilor Hall stated that there are viable candidates in the seven candidates and if we move quickly in the background checks, the seven candidates should be adequate.

Councilor Deering asked what the options are for the Birchland Avenue/Springville Road intersection. The problem is the speed on Birchland Avenue and children must walk along the busy street to get to the bus stop and the school district will not add an additional bus stop. The intersection doesn't meet the criteria for a four way stop sign. Chief Williams will contact PennDOT to determine if the stop signs can be moved and if so, how can this be accomplished.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2049 Hrs. Councilor Deering made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Smeltz.

Submitted by Susan Birchall