

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Councilor Hall at 1830 Hrs.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Smeltz, Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Hall, Mayor Bradley, and Police Chief Williams. Also present was Borough Manager Sam Sulkosky.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilor Fahndrich, seconded by Councilor Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Diane McComsey, 816 East Main Street, asked if East Main Street 25mph speed limit can be extended to Elmcrest Boulevard. Ms. McComsey stated that because of the increased businesses added over the years to that end of town, the 40mph speed limit is no longer safe. Councilor Hall stated that only the East bound lane of Main Street in that area is within the Borough limits. The west bound lane is in Rapho Township and Ms. McComsey will have to request the change from that Rapho Township also. Chief Williams will set up the speed signs in that area and report back to the committee on the findings at next month's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting held on August 27, 2018 was made by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion seconded by Councilor Smeltz. Motion carried unanimously.

FDMJ REPORT

An email was received with the report and is in the packet distributed to committee members.

EMA REPORT

No report

SVEMS REPORT

Captain Blanchflower gave a report of the number of EMS calls within the Borough. She also stated that a baby boy was born in the Borough and was transported to the hospital. Councilor Smeltz asked if any major problems were encountered during the recent flood in the Borough. Mayor Bradley invited SVEMS to the After Action Review meeting that is scheduled for October 2, 2018 at 6:30pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Main Street Parking

Mayor Bradley stated that the agreement has been executed.

Main & Marietta cross walk update

No update.

Facilities Use Form

No update.

Fireworks Ordinance

No update

Parking W Main & S Plum Sts

No action

New Haven St Weight Restriction

No update

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Budget Request

Chief Williams presented the proposed 2019 budget to the committee with explanations of additions to the budget.

Chief Williams stated that he added hardware upgrades in the police department budget as required by end of support from Microsoft. The station computers and car computers will all have to be replaced.

Councilor Hall asked if the car computers must be Toughbooks or if tablets can be used. Chief Williams stated it is necessary because the police cars are in constant motion and a standard laptop does not hold up to the conditions in a police car. Mayor Bradley also stated that the fire company averages two runs each day while the police cruiser is out all day, every day which adds to the wear and tear of the car computer.

Chief Williams also discussed the current radios in use by the police. The radios are reaching end of life and will have to be replaced next year. The Lancaster County Chiefs Association requested that the County provide radios and support but Commissioner Parsons stated the County is not willing to do so. The cost and maintenance of the radios will be the responsibility of each individual municipality even though as Councilor Hall pointed out, the County does provide this service to all the Fire Services in the County. The County will allow the police to use only two specific brands of radios even though there are many radios on the market that will work with the current radio system. Chief Williams estimated approximately \$30,000 will be needed to replace the radios and base units. Councilor Smeltz stated that the County should issue a formal letter stating this information. Chief Williams stated that if replacements are required, we will have until the end of 2019 to do so. Councilor Hall inquired if the radios in the cars are necessary if each officer has a portable radio. Chief Williams stated that some departments operate this way and he does not see a safety issue if the car radios are eliminated. However, Chief Williams stated that two spare portables will be needed in the event a radio is out of service.

Chief Williams discussed replacing the current police firearms with Smith & Wesson 9mm (S&W). The current firearms are Glocks and have been in service approximately five years. The Chief's recommendation to change to S&W is based on the FBI changing to S&W 9mm. Additionally, the firearm is more accurate, has less recoil, holds more rounds, and the ammunition is less expensive. Six other police departments in the County have already switched to the S&W. There is also a good trade-in being offered at the present time. Councilor Hall stated that we should have a plan in place so that firearms can be replaced on a regular basis to take advantage of new technical advances. Councilor Smeltz instructed the Chief to provide an estimate at next month's meeting of where the budget will be for the remainder of the year.

Handicapped Parking Space Request

A request for a Handicapped Parking Space at 201 East Main Street was received. There is a curb bump-out at that location so the best location is the first parking space on the east side of High Street. A motion to approve the request and move to full council was made by Councilor Smeltz and seconded by Councilor Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

None

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mayor Bradley stated that he received a complaint regarding traffic on Columbia Avenue approximately two years ago. Truck traffic is still a problem.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

The committee went into Executive Session at 2000 Hrs.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2054 Hrs. Councilor Smeltz made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Susan Birchall