

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:32 Hrs. In light of the Coronavirus Emergency Declarations issued by the Borough of Mount Joy, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the President of the United States, this public meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Eichler, Councilor Castaldi, Mayor Bradley, and Chief Goshen. Interim Borough Manager Casey Kraus was also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for December 21, 2020 was made by Councilor Castaldi, seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion to adopt the Agenda carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Dave Schell of MSMJ thanked everyone who helped put Winterfest together. The retailers he spoke to were happy the event took place.

Dale Murray, (no address provided), thought the area utilized for Winterfest is a great new venue for future events. He questioned what the latest police policy regarding scheduling was or if there was one. Chief Goshen explained that there isn't a policy, but rather a preference to have two officers on at all times. Currently we are down two full time officers and are utilizing part time officers, and himself to fill the gaps. The reason for the question is that Dale Murray resides in Rapho and was surprised to hear that there was mutual aid between Rapho and MJBPD. Chief Goshen explained that this is very common in this area of the county to backup other municipalities. We assist Manheim as much as they help us, as well as Northwest Regional and Susquehanna Regional, and sometimes Elizabethtown Borough. Depending on the severity of the call, especially in the southern Rapho Township, it is easier and faster for MJBPD to answer the call with the understanding that Manheim finishes the call upon arrival. It is very beneficial to help out each other from a safety perspective. Chief Goshen welcomed Dale Murray to stop in the office to discuss two officer mandate. Dale Murray questioned the Agenda as to why it states one officer versus two officers. Chief Goshen

explained that this is the request to hire a second officer, as approval had already been granted for the hiring of the first officer.

Councilor Castaldi questioned when Manheim's contract expires and Dale Murray stated it renews the first of the year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting held on November 23, 2020 was made by Councilor Castaldi, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion to approve the Minutes carried unanimously.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Gohn was not in attendance; no report received to date; typically provided at the Council meeting.

EMA REPORT

Matt Kratz thanked everyone for their help with the IP for Winterfest. He also thanked everyone for their help with the winter storm last weekend. Three briefings were held which helped coordinate emergency response and it remained event free, minus some minor public works maintenance issues with their trucks that were resolved right away (no EMS or fire calls related to the storm); some traffic issues. COVID is still rampant. Relief package should be passed tonight at the Federal level; not sure what it looks like for our area or what resources might come our way. Will pass on any information he receives from PEMA. Matt worked with Chief Goshen and Interim Borough Manager Kraus for expenses incurred as we were right under the threshold we needed to claim. Hopeful that there will be some leniency for future expenses. Spoke with the Chief and will submit his report for submission with the Public Safety Committee packet. Mayor Bradley questioned if there is timeline for putting plans together as there was one, but it is no longer in effect. Matt would like to get back to a set schedule. He feels that once Council approves an event, the timeline should begin. Mayor Bradley feels we should have plans in place one month out. Not all events may include the Main Street corridor. He feels that Chief Goshen, EMA Coordinator and MSMJ should have a meeting to discuss expectations for future events. He would like everyone to think about it. Councilor Fahndrich thanked Matt for his assistance with the winter storm.

SVEMS REPORT

Captain Blanchflower was not in attendance but her report is in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

Residential Parking Permit Ordinance

Councilor Castaldi made some changes as a preliminary first step and forwarded them to Councilor Fahndrich for her review. She feels it is so cumbersome coming from the City of York to Mount Joy Borough. Mayor Bradley suggested that we make a list of what we would like to see in our ordinance. Some of the thoughts are as follows: Purpose – Residential districts to not be overburdened with parking for non-residential purposes; preserve the character of residential districts. Definition – Need to work through this as to whether or not Public Safety Committee should have a role in determining residential districts or a role in initiating the process; may require a need to form a separate committee. Prefer whole blocks; not half blocks; need to define block. Process – Initiate by residents and/or initiate by Council. Need to have 75% signatures of the designated area. If resident driven, the resident would take the application/petition to the Public Safety Committee first and they would make a recommendation to Council, then Council would take action on it. We should think about whether or not there should be a process for public input, perhaps in the form of a hearing. Also, need a process to rescind or to remove residential parking by residents or by Council. Chief Goshen cautioned that the process should be to initiate a recommendation only. Need to reference the issuance of parking permits, signage; type and placement. Does anything need to be incorporated in the parking enforcement ordinance if we initiate this? Chief Goshen explained that the language would need to be cleaned up a bit to stipulate parking permit areas within the Borough. Chief Goshen cautions that the parking fines should remain at a flat rate and just have the Borough parking ordinance reference the parking permit. That would be the easiest route to address it. Councilor Fahndrich will retype it with Councilor Castaldi's changes and Mayor Bradley's comments, and will forward it to the committee so everyone has a few weeks to review it before January's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of retirement letter

Officer Jason Smith is officially retired from the Mount Joy Borough Police Department. Everything was completed last week. The effective date was December 1, 2020.

Request to hire a full-time officer

Due to the retirement of Officer Jason Smith, Chief Goshen requested approval to hire a full-time officer. Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council Chief Goshen's request to initiate the hiring of another full-time officer. Councilor Castaldi seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Bob Ruschke, 550 North Angle Street, questioned as to who could apply for the parking petition in an apartment building – owner or tenant. Chief Goshen stated that the only person permitted to apply for the parking permit would be the actual owner of the building; tenants do not have a voice in the matter.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Councilor Castaldi restated an announcement that Interim Borough Manager Kraus provided to Council via email that Mount Joy Borough will host a presentation by a Penn Medicine Physician on COVID-19 in Lancaster County on Friday, January 8, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom. They are very excited and looking forward to presenting this to the public and Borough employees. Councilor Castaldi will get this put on the January Council Agenda. Councilors Fahndrich and Eichler thanked Interim Borough Manager Kraus and Councilor Castaldi for putting this together.

Councilor Fahndrich discussed the thirty-minute sign in front of Crafter Factory. Councilor Castaldi has been down there a couple of times. There is consensus to remove the thirty-minute sign. He feels there should be two spaces with two-hour parking signs in that area. Mayor Bradley feels we should remove the signs and leave it as is because of the mixed area. He also explained that removing a sign requires an ordinance change, so we should package it with other advertising we are doing for ordinance changes.

Councilor Fahndrich questioned whether or not our ordinance was up to date with current parking signage. Chief Goshen doesn't believe that the signage matches the ordinance. Councilor Castaldi feels someone should research it. Chief Goshen explained that the Director of Public Works should have the information and is ultimately responsible for the installation and removal of all signs. Interim Borough Manager Kraus explained that there are no current pending ordinance changes.

Chief Goshen explained that they conducted the oral interviews. This week with vacations and leading into Christmas, ideally, he was going to start the background investigations but that got pushed off to this weekend to start those and that is going to be off of the prior approval of Council to hire one officer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

An Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 20:08 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by: Diana Ellis