

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE- VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lochmoeller at 5:32 PM

Roll was called;

Chairman Lochmoeller – Present Alderman Plufka – Present
Alderwoman Ebeling – Present Alderwoman Sims – Present

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Approval or Amendment of the Agenda

Agenda was approved by acclamation.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Citizen Comments

Randy and Sandy Deelo – 9130 Pine Ave. raised a hand to speak. Chairman Lochmoeller recognized them. Randy shared that they would like more traffic calming devices on the street. He feels that Speed cushions do slow traffic and it would deter speeding delivery cars and cut-through traffic. He suggested an “adopt a speed hump” idea to defer cost if needed.

Chairman Lochmoeller suggested they follow the traffic calming “tool kit” that is available on the website to get started.

4. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. City Administrator Report

Bola shared the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis report – which states that the Missouri Attorney General challenged the Senate Bill 5 ruling issued in 2015 in January 2020 and the court ruling was overturned in November 2020 by the Cole County Circuit Court. As such, reconstituting the provisions that applied only to St. Louis County, means that all municipal police departments in St. Louis County must be certified by August 2021 and comply with a list of minimum standards. Bola noted there is no impact to Brentwood. We are in compliance of all 12 items noted.

5. REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND ALDERMEN

A. Chairman Lochmoeller - Ward 3

Chairman Lochmoeller thanked Alderwoman Ebeling for serving on the Committee. (Pat did not seek reelection for the Ward 4 Alderperson position.)

B. Alderman Plufka - Ward 1

Alderman Plufka also offered thanks and appreciation for Alderwoman Ebeling’s service to the committee. He also noted that he will contact Randy and Sandy and assist with the Traffic Calming Tool Kit and how to get the process started.

C. Alderwoman Ebeling - Ward 4

Alderwoman Ebeling thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve.

D. Alderwoman Sims - Ward 2

Alderwoman Sims echoed the sentiments shared in thanking Alderwoman Ebeling for her service.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Police Department

Chief Spiess shared information on Crime incidents noting 6 car break-ins and night-time crime, which is escalating.

Angie Hawkins shared a power point presentation addressing some incidents of night-time crime and the volatility and uptake in incidents. It was asked what the city would/should do to alter the pursuit policy. Chief Spiess stated that he would do nothing right now, but that an alteration in policy could affect SLAIT insurance or compliance. Bola noted we have a “no pursuit” policy right now but can review if needed.

Motion was made by Alderman Plufka and seconded by Alderwoman Sims to give Chief direction to develop a policy/plan with insurance and police force policy implications, and potential regional engagement of other cities on crime prevention, pursuit and prosecution basis and report back to the committee.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Chief also noted that Hattie Carman's injury has made her unable to return to work and she will be pursuing disability compensation. The loss of a Sergeant will be addressed under Old Business.

B. Fire Department

Chief Cottrell shared that the new ambulance is projected to be received by the end of April.

Chief also stated that they will be participating in a STL County Dept. of Health program that administers COVID vaccines to homebound residents. They are working out the logistics but are excited to offer this to residents.

The Turn-out gear measurements have been made and they should have new suits within the next two months.

An RFP for Ballistic protection has been sent out. Looking to bring recommendations back to April

They have a new employee that will start next week – Chris Cosmas – Firefighter/Paramedic

And they have posted an opening for the Assistant Chief position. They have received several applications to date, and one internal candidate has applied.

C. Public Works Department

Dan Gummersheimer gave an update on streetlights for Brentwood Forest and York Village. They are moving towards the construction phase of these two project sites.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Meeting Minutes - None to review

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Request to Approve a Promotional Process for a Sergeant Position

Chief Spiess shared that with Hattie out and her pending retirement, the squad is one officer short and down a supervisor (Sergeant) as well. Police Dept. has Corporals ready to sit for Sergeant test, but also if a Corporal is promoted, they will then need to promote an officer to fill that Corporal spot and the supervisory role. Promotions were not budgeted for fiscal year.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ebeling and seconded by Alderman Plufka and Alderwoman Sims simultaneously to approve the allocation of monies for the promotional process of positions.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

B. Discussion about Sponsorship Policy – St. Louis County Police Academy Recruit

Chief Spies shared information on recruitment of new officers going through the academy as an option to pursue best recruits here and elsewhere. Since cost for the academy is \$6500, we could prepare an agreement, like was done with Fire Department candidates, to hire a recruit and then have them work to recover the costs.

Motion was made by Alderman Plufka and seconded by Alderwoman Sims to develop the recruitment policy in committee for further discussion.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

C. McKnight Road Traffic Discussion

Dan shared information and the data collected from this traffic study, noting that the percentage of large vehicles allowed is small. Ladue has not yet met but will discuss at their April meeting. Alderman Plufka noted that the data does not support the claim of Don and Aldean (residents) that many large trucks pass through on Southbound McKnight each day. We have made an effort - hopefully the traffic trailer is working. We will share any additional data collection at next month's meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Citizen Comments -none

11. ADJOURN

A. Adjourn

Motion was made by Alderwoman Sims and seconded by Alderman Plufka to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.