

Police Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2013

9:45 a.m.

Town Hall

Members Present: J. Auxer, L. Robertson, and D. Springer

Staff Present: Chief Ransom

Absent: W. Smith

1. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Auxer at 10:00 AM and approval of agenda.
Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.
 2. Approval February 2013 minutes as written.
Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson to approve the minutes of February 2013. Motion carried unanimously.
 3. Visitors: Karen Motivans
 4. Mayor's Report:
 - a. Financial Reports
Stats –
Chief – did them but forgot to mail them out, will do ASAP. He also noted that a fully loaded Crown Vic was donated to SPD from the JCSD.
 5. New Business:
 - a. Police Hearing Board—
Mayor – pending
 - b. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors -
Chief – ordinance re: smoke detectors, it's a \$250 fine for renters and commercial property. The FD responds to a fire call and sees that there isn't a smoke detector – per State Code there must be one. This is an ordinance to help keep the town safe.
D. Springer – doesn't want the police dept. going into home to enforce.
Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by D. Springer to recommend to Town Council to adopt an ordinance reflecting the State Code regarding smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Agenda items from Councilperson Motivans:
K. Motivans spoke to this and stated that this is a laundry list from people that have come to her, and to Town Council.
- 1.) German Street clubs 1:00 AM closing time – what is plan of action?
Chief – can't tell the bars to close at 1am-they have to do it voluntarily.

2.) Complaints from residents regarding vehicles:

- • Aggressive driving down German Street (not at night) U-turns, squealing tires, loud music. She thinks it is students.
D. Springer – this isn't limited to students.
L. Robertson – many are in their 30's & 40's, and it is a night as well.

- • Aggressive driving and dangerously crossing pedestrians at the Sheetz/Campus Dr. area especially at peak time (school letting out, commuters returning home, dusk). Includes left hand turners (moving east) being passed on the right into the Sheetz driveway.
Chief – Sheetz/Campus Drive is out of town, so we can't enforce traffic, we can only assist. You can call the county or the campus for a presence there.
Mayor – we only have one officer on during the day. This is a county issue. We need to make them aware, he will call the Sheriffs office.
K. Motivans – how about a pedestrian stripe?
Chief – it's a DOH issue.
D. Springer – DOH could mark the area by Sheetz with a solid line to prevent cars from using Sheets lot to go around cars that are turning into the campus?
Chief – Doh will have to assess. It's a big problem.

- • Misunderstanding of how to use turn lanes to enter Shepherd Grade
K. Motivans – this needs to be converted to a dash line.
Chief – this is for Ken Clohan.
Mayor – will relay.

- • Speeding on High St. and German St.
Chief – we are running radar as much as possible.

- • Motorcycles speeding on Duke St. Gun their engines and speed to cross bridge.
K. Motivans – motorcycles many don't have mufflers, they go to fast and they are too loud.
Chief – they have mufflers and are within the noise ordinance, and we run radar regularly and most are within the speed limit.

- • Perception that 911 is for dire emergencies only.
K. Motivans – people don't want to abuse the 911 system by calling to often.
Chief – we have handed out a flyer, and magnets in the past, we can do it again. Please call 911 for a fight, noise, etc.
D. Springer – calling dispatch supports their jobs.
Chief – wants people to call, they can remain anonymous.
Mayor – let's put the info in the paper again.

- 3.) My observations of police issues

- • Trucks using streets marked as 'No Trucks'
Chief – on Washington and High Streets. He needs a better definition of gross weight/no trucks.
D. Springer – good idea.

- • Not seen speed monitoring on High Street since the electronic sign was removed.
Chief – only one officer on during the day.
 - • No more monitoring of the new 4-way stop at High and Duke – needs attention
 - • Not enough speed monitoring on edges of town where posted 25 mph - O’Hurleys/Morgan Grove Park
Chief – again, only one officer on during the day.
 - • Seems like the commuters who use town as a cut-through are rudest drivers we have.
 - • Can Shepherd cops ticket speeding where adjacent to University?
Chief – yes, they can enforce anywhere.
D. Springer – we could funds from the tickets, SU tickets go to the State. Be nice to change the legislation so SU gets the funds = parking garage.
K. Motivans – does SU officers help Thursday pm?
Chief – yes they do.
 - • Motorcycles without mufflers... increased noise in town every year as more people take up the hobby.
 - • Need to return the Police Log to the Chronicle?
Chief – doing it again.
 - • Dog messes – have we ever issued any tickets?
L. Robertson – it’s a \$50 fine if our officers see it.
4. Need the residents to see community policing taken seriously. Many say they see our cruisers leaving town more often than seen in town. What happened to the evening meetings at town hall with Police and Shepherd police? I saw one and then the rest were cancelled?
Chief – community meetings were once a month.
Mayor – set an agenda and pick a day and time.
Chief – we respond to the outskirts of town and we transport people to the regional jail, so that could be what they are seeing.
Mayor – we only have one officer during the day and if he has to do these things, people won’t see him in town.
D. Springer – how about a High Street Neighborhood Watch.
Chief – they’ve been tried before with little to no participation.
5. Be on-the-spot for the KNOWN times of day when we already know there will be issues. For example, for Shepherd at 8, 10 AM and 3, 5 PM.; Thursday nights; Football game parking in residential; commuters cutting through town AM and PM.etc.
K. Motivans – to help with the ebbs and flows.
Mayor – we have one guy one during the day. The Resident Only Parking signs help a lot during the football games.
K. Motivans – can court be held during the day?

Mayor – it's not feasible.

K. Motivans – how about traffic blitz from 5-6pm from our officers.

Chief – we just don't have enough guys.

K. Motivans – can you do it once a month?

D. Springer – can we get a grant for this?

Chief – no, no grants available for this.

6. Cell phone use.

K. Motivans – the officers have been seen using their cell phones while driving.

Chief – the officers are exempt

K. Motivans – thanks for hearing me out.

Mayor – of course.

7. App updates –

K. Motivans – who does this?

Chief – I do, it needs to be updated.

6. Old Business:

a. K-9 Policy -

Chief – Pending

b. Update – camera placement near town run at Jefferson Sec. Bank.

Being moved.

c. Purchase of AED Defibrillator – information forthcoming -

D. Springer – spoke to B. Schill. There are restrictions, he has reservations against it.

Chief – to check.

d. Bikes

D. Springer – are very positive, would like to see them back on the street.

e. Crosswalk at Washington & Princess Streets.

Mayor – 4 –way stop was nixed by DOH.

D. Springer – what about the crosswalk by the dance studio?

Chief – still need to ask.

7. Misc

a. Probationary period for new officers to be raised from the current 6 months to one year.

b. Amend the military coverage from the current 60 days to 30 days.

c. Discussion when hiring new officers to offer an incentive of them working for three years under contract if we pay for Police Certification.

Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by D. Springer to adjourn at 10:00AM. Motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Lori Robertson**