

Police Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2011

9:45 a.m. Town Hall

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

Staff Present: Acting Chief Ransom

Absent:

1. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Auxer at 9:52 AM and approval of agenda.

Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval April 21, 2011 Police Committee minutes as written.

Motion made by D. Springer, Second by W. Smith to approve the minutes of April 21, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Visitors: Matt Harper, Mr. Miller, Bane Schill, and C.B. Kernek

4. Mayor's Report:

The Mayor spoke to the recent vandalism and had Mr. Miller from ABC come to the meeting today. Stonewalls' is letting out late on Thursday nights and that is when the trees along German Street are being broken. It has become very expensive to replace these trees. Mr. Miller asked that Stonewalls' not serve patrons past intoxication, but once they are out their door, it's not an ABC problem. Do we have a public nuisance ordinance? The Mayor stated that the Stonewall's has been informed via a letter to keep the back gates closed to prevent people from sneaking in. Carrie did change the hours to close earlier and lost quite a lot of business. Mr. Miller stated that Tony's is making big money at the door because they charge more for 18-21 year olds, \$10-20. The ABC works with our Police Dept and ABC checks ID's. D. Springer asked about our officer's ability to access Stonewall's. Acting Chief Ransom stated that Carrie and Josh have always extended an open invitation to our police. Mr. Miller stated that ABC has the capability to do unannounced ID checks. D. Springer asked how often ABC did this. Mr. Miller stated it's not once a year, but as needed. Acting Chief Ransom stated that the Fire Marshall's office can get involved and that there is an influx of out of town kids that come in since the Va & Md bars close at 1am. The Mayor stated a letter had been written to get the bar hours changed and it had been opposed. Mr. Miller stated that when ABC gets a call they act on it immediately. C. Kernek stated the noise on New Street is pretty loud and asked about the noise ordinance. The Mayor stated that the police have a DB meter and when the noise level is above the ordinance they act on it. The Yorkshire, Devonshire, Yellow Brick, Stone Soup are all-ok. The Opera House is selling beer and wine but let out at midnight on Thursday nights. B. Schill stated that people are drinking beer in front of the Opera House on the sidewalk. The A.Chief stated the police have been monitoring that. L. Robertson stated that Thursday nights the Opera House stops the music at midnight and shortly after locks the doors once everyone is out. Mr. Miller stated to please contact ABC if we need anything and the Mayor thanked him for coming.

5. Financial Reports:

a. Financial Reports/Budget

The Report is in the packet.

b. The Acting Chief and the Mayor stated that the Police Dept can now be reached at the New Town Hall and L. Robertson will post it on Face Book.

6. New Business:

a. Article regarding how to contact the Shepherdstown Police

C. Kernek spoke to this and stated that in 1997 Shepherdstown had a Neighborhood Watch and the block captains are still there. The watch, over the years, has gotten complacent. He stated he felt it's best for everyone to watch everything via contacting the police for people being loud and disruptive and other acts. He stated that people want to be involved but aren't really sure how to be. They don't know how to describe an individual, when/what number to call (emergency/non-emergency) and that they can remain anonymous. He came up with a form and feels it should be edited and come from the Corporation to the public. He's thinking of doing another information form about to secure your home. L. Robertson suggested putting this information in with the water bills. A. Chief Ransom stated he really likes the Neighborhood Watch program and would like to keep it. C. Kernek stated that there is no interest since we have such low crime. A.C. Ransom stated the biggest problem he has is people not calling in a problem while it's happening. D. Springer suggested highlighting the non-emergency number on the form. Acting Chief Ransom stated that he'd like to do a weekly recap in the Chronicle. L. Robertson suggested using magnets with both emergency and non-emergency numbers on them so people could put them on their refrigerators. The Mayor loved the magnet idea and stated we will do this. D. Springer suggested a model/meetings, even You Tube for how to conduct a Neighborhood Watch.

b. Swearing in of Officer Harper

The Mayor swore in our new officer, Matt Harper and welcomed him to the Shepherdstown Police Department.

c. Corporal Cummings

Acting Chief Ransom suggested we have Corporal Cummings pinned with his stripes at the next Town Council meeting.

7. Old Business:

a. Discussion of creating an Auxiliary or Reserve Program

A. C. Ransom has not heard back from Corporal Ben Williams with Jefferson County.

b. Charging for false alarm calls:

To go in front of Town Council.

c. Residential concerns regarding vandalism

Addressed.

- d. Probationary period for new officers to be raised from the current 6 months to one year.
- e. Amend the military coverage from the current 60 days to 30 days.
- f. 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 W. Smith to adjourn at 10:38 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by, Lori Robertson