

Police Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2011

9:45 a.m. Town Hall

Members Present: J. Auxer, L. Robertson, and D. Springer (arrived late)

Staff Present: Chief Ransom, F. Welch

Absent: W. Smith

1. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Auxer at 10:07 AM and approval of agenda.

Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by none. Motion carried unanimously thinking we had a quorum.

2. Approval of September 2011 Police Committee minutes as written.
Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by none to approve the September minutes 2011. Motion carried unanimously thinking we had a quorum.

3. Visitors: Pastor Fred Soltow

4. Financial Report:

The Mayor stated that this was in our packets.

5. New Business:

- a. Visitor's comments-

Pastor Soltow stated that he has had conversations with Chief Ransom and the Mayor regarding parking along Queen's Alley. The angled parking works pretty well but basically mandates cars travel up the alley. Once at the top at the intersection of Queen's Alley and Church Street (one way) it's difficult to turn right if there is any kind of non-compact car parked there. The angled parking is fine with him if we can make that one parking spot at the turn for compact cars only.

D. Springer – clarified that it was on the east side and that the alley is quite narrow.

Pastor Soltow – stated that it was indeed a hard turn to make.

L. Robertson – asked if it was residential.

Chief Ransom- stated that it was a metered spot.

Mayor – stated that it's a hard spot to enforce if made into a compact space only. He and F. Welch will take a look at it.

Chief Ransom – stated that there had been some issues with our cruisers parking in the church lot.

Pastor Soltow – stated not really. The church has meeting nights on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, going until 9pm and Thursday mornings can be busy.

Chief Ransom- will tell his officers to stay out of there.

- b. Pastor Fred Soltow as a guest regarding the Department Chaplain:
Chief Ransom offered the position to Pastor Soltow to be Police Chaplain. The officers are excited and want him to be on-board. He would be there for emotional support, whenever needed. Pastor Soltow accepted the position.

Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by none to approve Pastor Soltow as Police Chaplain. Motion carried unanimously thinking we had a quorum.

Discussion- Chief Ransom suggested Pastor Soltow come to a police staff meeting that is held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm.

- c. Cpl. Cummings, Officer King, Officer Cook presentation.

Not held today. There was a discussion regarding the transference of ownership of Turk, the police dog to Officer Cook, who is also canine certified. Chief Ransom stated that Cpl. Cummings has expressed an interest in taking some classes. D. Springer – expressed concern over the dog being passed around and we all agreed that Turk should stay with his handler for an extended period of time. The Chief will speak to both officers.

- d. Discuss increasing the fine on Ordinance 7-103© Invasion of Privacy by Looking:

This is a Peeping Tom Ordinance. The current fine is \$160; the proposed new fine is \$250.

Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by D. Springer to approve the fine increase to \$250 for Ordinance 7-103(c). Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Purchase of vehicles:

Chief Ransom spoke to this and stated that the department needs some replacement vehicles. Currently the two Crown Vics are ok, but the three Impalas (2005 and 2-2007) are costing us a fortune. They are requiring a lot of maintenance, roughly \$5,500 over a short period of time. The Mayor's idea is for the Chief to start looking around for replacement vehicles and bring the data back to the committee at the next meeting. The mayor would like to see the first replacement car in service by December 1st, then every 3-4 months, replace another one.

D. Springer – would like to see a breakdown of the repairs and noted that there is a benefit of using one mechanic instead of several, so the mechanic can be familiar with the cars.

Chief Ransom- stated that he would pull the maintenance costs of all 3 Impalas to back when we bought them.

Mayor – noted that the more research the Chief has to do pulling the breakdown of repairs the less time he's on the road doing police work.

- f. Film Crew:

Chief Ransom stated that he had been notified about a film crew coming to town Oct. 31st and Nov. 2. They will be taking up 14 parking spaces during filming on German Street, near the Meck and the Museum.

- g. The ATM is on for the finance committee per the Mayor.

6. Old Business:

a. Radar signs:

The Mayor stated that some of the radar signs have no warranty, while some have 3 months to a year and none have vandalism coverage.

D. Springer stated that there are pros and cons-some mount to existing poles and some mount anything.

The Mayor stated again that the warranty was important.

D. Springer stated that he would call the company Light Cast to see if a warranty was available as they are a reputable company. Their quote was \$4,400.

The Mayor requested that D. Springer report his findings to him and if there is agreement, then they will be ordered.

Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by D. Springer to approve the purchase of the radar signs not to exceed \$4,500 and based on the findings of the warranty. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discussion of creating an Auxiliary or Reserve Program

Chief Ransom stated that this is still pending.

c. Stats:

D. Springer noted that we had lower numbers and was that due to lower staff with Officer King being gone for a bit. There were fewer voided tickets, an increase in boots, the new meters were \$9,000 and Chief Ransom agreed with the above and stated that Officer Cook's uniforms and the warm weather uniforms were being ordered. The Chief also noted that Thursday nights were quieter.

d. The cameras were delivered today per the Chief.

e. Chief-Laura has sent out 135 letters on our boot list and \$880 has come in due to those letters.

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

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

h. 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 11:02 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by, Lori Robertson