

Police Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2011

9:45 a.m. Town Hall

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

Staff Present: Chief Ransom

Absent: None

1. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Auxer at 9:45 AM and approval of agenda.

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

2. Approval July 21, 2011 Police Committee minutes as written.
Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson to approve the minutes of August 18, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Visitors: Steve and Rebecca Ayraud

4. Financial Report:

The Mayor stated that this was in our packets.

5. New Business:

- a. Visitor's comments-

Steve Ayraud spoke to the committee expressing some concerns since moving to 105 W. Washington Street, Shepherdstown. He first thanked officer Harper for the time spent with the Ayraud's explaining the traffic situation on W. Washington Street. He stated that they are new to the Corporation and now realizes they are limited as to what can be done regarding traffic. He noted that a portion of W. Washington was in the County. He lives between Church Street and Duke. His concern is with the truck traffic. It is posted for "No Thru Trucks", but he's noticed that many trucks do travel that street. He has seen semi's, beer trucks, farm trucks and horse trailers.

Chief Ransom-there is a 10,000 lb. limit regarding trucks on that street.

D. Springer – asked if he noticed the truck traffic in one direction more than the other.

R. Ayraud – both directions.

S. Ayraud – W. Washington Street is a nice neighborhood with historic homes and asked for limits regarding limiting traffic, trucks and speeders.

Chief Ransom- his officers can monitor the speeders and trucks.

S. Ayraud – noted the Radar Signs on the agenda and asked what that meant.

Mayor – explained about the new underpass for the students and how we are looking for a radar sign that will post a driver's speed as they approach the intersection of High and Duke streets.

L. Robertson – after it's use on that intersection, the radar sign can be moved around town to be used as needed.

D. Springer – the radar sign will not utilize a trailer, but instead will be mounted on a metal pole.

S. Ayraud – has spoken with his neighbors, specifically Tom Martin, who has told him that that people are running the stop sign at the intersection of Washington and Church Streets. He stated that his neighbors said they would email the corporation but as of this date, none have done so. He also stated that any enforcement would be appreciated.

L. Robertson – is there a weight issue with beer/farm trucks and horse trailers?

Chief Ransom – he'd have to check.

Mayor – the town added some concrete at one corner to discourage trucks from turning.

L. Robertson – noted that the beer trucks park in the loading zone on S. Princess and to get out of town going back to Martinsburg (Jefferson Distributing), the only route is to go up Washington Street since there is no place for them to turn around.

Mayor- stated the town could address the speeding issue and watch for large truck traffic.

S. Ayraud – stated that maybe with new thinking about old habits this could change. He suggested the traffic could be re-routed and possibly speed bumps could be used.

Mayor – explained why speed bumps couldn't be used on State roads.

S. Ayraud – how about adding more parking? The town could convert Washington Street to one-way traffic and direct the other one-way traffic onto New Street.

L. Robertson – stated she thought that Washington was a wider street than New.

S. Ayraud – stated he measured them and was sure they were the same, but stated he would recheck them. He also inquired about a stop sign on the corner of Princess and Washington.

Mayor – explained that they are State roads and in the past they have wanted a flow of traffic with as few signs as possible.

Mayor – the town would look at these issues.

D. Springer – stated he noticed that the parking spaces on w. Washington were worse than the middle of the street.

7. Old Business:

a. Radar signs:

D. Springer spoke to this. He stated that he has checked lots of sources. Many are dependent on our current speed limit for the determination of the height of the actual sign. He's recommending a programmable sign. He confirmed that we want a solar-based sign and was told yes. He stated that lithium batteries would freeze and have to be replaced yearly. The Mayor stated that he would make copies for everyone, but D. Springer suggested he wait until he had all of the information to hand out. D. Springer stated that some have locking bases and all of them have some kind of locking device to prevent vandalism.

Chief – asked about warranties.

D. Springer – he had not researched that yet.

Mayor – he preferred to be able to move the signs around instead of having 8 separate poles mounted in the ground around town. No one thought as a historic district that 8 sep. poles would be a good idea.

D. Springer – the estimate for all of the signs he researched ran about \$3500 – \$4500.

S. Ayraud – mentioned that as an electrical engineer he'd be happy to help in any way and gave D. Springer his card.

* W. Smith – noted that there would be a funeral this Saturday and the Chief stated he was aware of it.

b. Discussion of creating an Auxiliary or Reserve Program

Chief Ransom stated that this is still pending.

c. Chaplain:

The Chief stated that this is still pending but would ask Fred Soltow to join the Police committee meeting.

d. Stats:

D. Springer spoke to this. He stated that he likes the format but had some questions regarding the actual statistics on the printout. He asked about crime being sporadic and the Chief stated that it was. The ticket writing. The Chief stated that not only is school back in session but he has more officers writing tickets. The expenditures. The Chief stated that the raid that was conducted elevated this number. The mayor mentioned that the new officer is doing a great job.

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

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

g. 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 10:21 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by, Lori Robertson