

Police Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2012

9:45 a.m. Town Hall

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

Staff Present: Chief Ransom

Absent: Wanda Grantham Smith

1. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Auxer at 9:51 AM and approval of agenda.

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

2. Approval of September 20, 2012 Police Committee minutes as written.

Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson, to approve the September minutes 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Visitors: Stephen Ayraud & William Brown

4. Financial Report:

- a. Stats – D. Springer – noted that the last 3 months are up from one year ago, a lot. Were there more violations? Not a complaint, this is very positive.

Mayor – we have more experienced officers, they are more diligent, and in general violent crime all over is up 18-20%.

5. New Business:

- a. Visitor – S. Ayraud – spoke to the speed limit considerations in town and asked if we received the email he sent. He was told that we did.

Mayor – the State will not allow us to change from 25 mph to 20 mph on state roads. We will change all of the side streets to 20 mph. Alleys to stay 15 mph.

D. Springer – to clarify: State roads-25 mph, Side streets – 20 mph, and alleys 15 mph.

Mayor – inconsistencies were pointed out to them in their own code.

S. Ayraud – the town's regulations need to be clear, and noted that he is disappointed in the State due to the regs not being clear.

Mayor – the regs state that they can go that low, but they chose not to. They don't have to. They can go lower in other places.

D. Springer – the policy isn't wrong, they are just reluctant to enforce that option.

S. Ayraud – continued to argue his point-inconsistency. What about the 4-way stop at Washington and Princess streets?

Chief – they have to study it first.

Mayor – the study will be done after the underpass construction is finished. The pedestrian signs are up at Church and German. There is a problem with people going around school buses.

a-1 - Request to make Back Alley ‘one way’ west bound from King St. to Duke St. due to excessive traffic and children playing in the area.

W. Brown – spoke to this and stated that his concern is with the kids playing in the streets. The speed bumps are an inconvenience.

D. Springer – this issue are cars are going fast from Duke down to King.

L. Robertson – has concerns about making any street one-way since we close our streets so often for events, and people need ways to get around the street closures. Is in favor of extra speed bumps to slow people down. It works well on Back Alley off of Princess Street.

D. Springer – should do a comprehensive review-could put up “no through street” signs.

Mayor – he’d rather do the signs and speed bumps instead of making it one –way.

D. Springer – make note that the speed bumps can cause water to veer over to peoples yards-he suggested moving the speed bumps closer together. We should also give this info to Karene Motivans for her traffic study.

S. Ayraud – the “no through truck” signs don’t work really well on Washington Street.

D. Springer – or on the alley behind Thomas Shepherd Inn. Can it be enforced; he doesn’t see the officers there?

Chief – it is enforced.

b. 2012 Shepherdstown PD Officer of the Year Nominee:

Chief – Officer Harper was recognized Tuesday night at the Hollywood Casino and the Chief attended. The Chief has had lots of positive feedback from the public and other law officers.

S. Ayraud – has met him and was impressed.

D. Springer – will the Chief provide a write up?

Chief – yes.

D. Springer – he would like to see a review process next year, so when the Chief makes his decision he has input from the police committee and the community.

L. Robertson – the Chief let’s us know is decision based on the fact that he’s the one who works directly with the officers. It should be his call.

Mayor – congratulations to Officer Harper.

- c. Additional fine for individual's found guilty of larceny of street signs or destruction of property.

Mayor – we don't need an additional fine, we need to make them pay restitution of destruction/larceny of property.

Chief – we need a set fee.

Mayor – Frank Hill does that already.

Extra – Chief recommended that add to our ordinance the 61-3-13 petit larceny.

Mayor – read the **promotion made by L Robertson, Second by D. Springer to recommend to Town Council the proposed Petit Larceny ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. Amend the noise ordinance to remove the 30-minute continuous noise clause at 65 db.

Chief – explained that he'd like to get rid of the 30-minute time frame since most of the time his officers don't sit for 30-minutes to listen to it, and measure it.

S. Ayraud – when sound is measured, it's done by a rating system – a db meter. He has measured the sound on Washington Street and it's very high.

Mayor – we have good participation by the club owners regarding the bands playing there.

L. Robertson – how did the 65-db number come to be the standard? That is quite low.

A room full of people having a lively conversation can be as much as 80 db.

Mayor – we would need an ordinance change.

S. Ayraud – is it measured at the residence?

Chief – yes.

L. Robertson – agrees with the Chief to remove the time frame.

Mayor – another loud location is the ATM machine at JSB.

Chief – how did 65 db come to be the number?

D. Springer – Mayor Dom signed the ordinance. The ordinance stipulates an exception for churches, why is that?

Mayor – the bells.

D. Springer – doesn't feel like the churches should have an exception. Why are they excluded?

Mayor – not sure, he'd have to ask Lance.

W. Brown – there is no noise problem from the church nearby where he lives.

Mayor – will have to do some research and look at it as a whole.

6. Old Business:

- a. Police vehicles – delivery status:

Delivery expected any day for the first car. The Chief left a message. The second one is being built.

D. Springer – repairs should stop on the ones we have. New tires recently?

Mayor – not yet.

Chief- he told Jenkins to get new tires.

D. Springer – we should switch out the new tires for old ones when we get rid of the old car. Everyone agreed.

b. Radar Sign placement:

It will be moved at the end of the month to the Day Care.

D. Springer – we need to get the mounts in the ground before it gets to clod so the sign can be moved more frequently, or as needed.

L. Robertson – then the police can pick and choose where they need it most.

Chief – to get with Frank.

c. Camera placement near Town Run at Jefferson Security Bank:

Ongoing

d. SWAT equipment:

Chief – everything is ordered except the vest.

Mayor – why the special vest?

Chief – because this vest is more appropriate for the types of situations the officer will be faced with.

e. Phone application:

The Chief stated that the app is up and running. There will be a press release this week, and he will get the info to L. Robertson for the FB page. The tip line is up and tips can also be placed in the water box.

f. Speed limit on Town owned streets-

Already addressed in an earlier conversation.

g. Purchase of AED Defibrillator – info forthcoming

Chief – has meetings set up with two different reps.

Mayor – can we get a grant for this? The Municipal League?

h. Promotional Board –

Chief – still working on it-he still needs to email the job descriptions.

D. Springer – wants to volunteer to be on the Board.

Mayor – hasn't decided if there's even going to be a Board yet.

Misc – an officer on a bike? They have to have special training and Officer King can't ride right now.

D.Springer – lets look into police auxiliary.

L. Robertson – to email council members to help people cross the streets Halloween night.

Motion made by L. Robertson to adjourn at 10:54am, Second by D. Springer. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Robertson.