



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 19, 2019

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: Councilman Jeff Henley, Chairman; Councilman Richmond; Councilman Erb; Councilwoman Smith; and, Councilman Holleman

Others Present: Deputy Fire Chief Ray Williams, Police Chief Alonzo Ansley, David Smith – Building and Codes; and Susan Harris.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Henley and noted for the record a quorum present.

The minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting were submitted for approval. Councilwoman Smith stated that she didn't remember missing this meeting and David Smith had to contact Paula McWhirter to verify that she was not present. After that was done a motion was made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Richmond. The vote for the motion was unanimous.

BUILDING & CODES DEPARTMENT

David Smith presented the department's monthly reports and advised that he would answer any questions. Councilwoman Smith wanted to know what's going on at Building Codes. Mr. Smith said that they are considering expanding hours of operations to be able to accommodate the contractors. He also said that it would be a flex schedule for when employees would come to work. Currently work from 7:00 until 4:00 and with flex schedule some would come in at 9 and work until 6. Trying to also streamline a paperless department for the inspectors in the field. Tracking on commercial permits and multi-family permits. Will try to get more info and share with the Committee. There was a cutoff at 8:00 for scheduling inspections. This will change to be more customer service oriented to the contractors. Looking at staggering the hours and scheduling contractors based on that. Move the cutoff to 10:00 due to the later working hours. The codes inspectors and administrative staff will not need to have their hours changed. There are mechanical inspectors, gas inspectors, plumbing inspectors, building inspectors; and, electrical inspectors. Any given day there may be 16 inspections and the next day 25 which will involve personnel. Councilwoman Smith asked about overtime and Mr. Smith said there should be none involved. The longest inspection would be plumbing and framing (30-40 minutes). Tablets were discussed. The County already uses them and we will be shadowing them to see how it works. Using tablets would enable immediate notification to contractors.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Chief Williams presented the department's monthly reports and advised that he would answer any questions. There were 828 emergency runs for the month of May. Stations 1 and 6 have always had the most runs. Stations 3 and 9 are getting up on their runs. A lot of these runs are medical related. There are a lot of opioid calls. 70% came from the emergency services side and 2.5 from fires. All the department is first responders. Few are paramedics. About 20-25% can go on the medical calls and assist. Question about cost to train. We have people in house that are qualified to teach EMR classes. That doesn't cost the department anything except maybe some overtime. One they get this certification they have to recertify every 2 years and we do reimburse that cost (\$25). Committee would like to know the cost to train staff.

Discussion about the opioid crisis or any other drug epidemic. Chief Ansley said that there has been a clamp down on doctor's regarding opioids. Some of the drugs are very dangerous if you get it on your skin. It's a serious problem. Fentanyl is the problem now. If you're addict you are going to do whatever it takes to get the drug (robberies, theft, etc.) If you get a needle stick you have to test the addict as well as the officer/firefighter/ems involved. It goes beyond just a crime, its safety. Committee wants to know what to do about this. Chief Ansley stated that so far this year there were 700+ incidences. A constituent of Councilman Richmond lost a son from this and he's just concerned. This person is concerned about what to do. Ansley said that there needs to be some help. Most addicts get hooked on the pain meds prescribed by their doctor. As a community we need to get involved in other avenues. Councilwoman Smith talked about mental health patients. If they say that they don't want to do something you cannot make them. That's where the problem starts. With this the only other thing to do is have them arrested and put in jail. She stated with this they would have some detoxing during the stay. They get out and it starts over.

Ms. Smith asked about the dispatched and canceled part of the CFR reports. There's nothing that can be done about that. You have to respond and then 911 gets a call from someone to say everything is ok, please cancel. In the case of an automobile accident if it's stated there might be an injury you have to respond. When someone else arrives on the scene and determines there are no injuries you are cancelled. It happens.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ansley presented the department's monthly reports and advised that he would answer any questions. Councilman Henley asked if his department was EMT certified and Chief told him that they were first responders. Some of his men may have EMT certifications. They are trained in first aid. Did some training with the Fire Department this year. Most was active shooter but it was a great thing to do. This included extrication of injured people.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Councilman Erb made a motion to forward Resolution 2-2019-20 regarding authorizing an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Clarksville, TN and the 911 Emergency Communication District of Montgomery County to the full Council. Councilman Travis seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

Submitted by:
Susan Harris
Clarksville Fire Rescue