

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

The meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to Order by Councilman Robert Jackson, Jr.

The following members were present: Vice President Sean Steeg, Terry Green, Mayor David Wessels, Chief of Police Jeffrey Buckley, Borough Manager Daniel Varner, and Code Enforcement Jim Morris.

Richard King took the minutes of the meeting.

The following guests were present: Dean Harris and Jennifer Clark

Recognize guest for public comments. There were no comments from the guest present.

Code Enforcement Report.

Jim Morris asked if there were any questions on his report.

Mayor Wessels ask about the E-code update. Jim Morris said that there is a long agenda to go thru and it will be about 30 days. Jim mentioned that he submitted it around a week and a half ago. Jim said that he has ordered 1,000 tickets and they should be here soon. Jim said that we should have a final number in October to be put into the budget for equipment.

Chief of Police Report.

Chief Buckley asked if there were any questions on his report.

Chief Buckley stated that the new portable radios are working great. The coverage is very good. He said that we have received 7 portables and 2 mobile radios with the grant that will be coming.

Chief Buckley said that the outbound lane is open at the arch now. He said they will cone off inbound lane and clean up.

Chief Buckley said that the Mayor, Dan Varner, Chris Stevens and himself was on East Penn Street directing traffic in around the laundry mat and there was 1 lane that you could get vehicles thru.

Robert Jackson asked why the Police cars were numbered 21, 31 and 41. Dan Varner said that this was done when he was Chief of Police instead of using 1, 2 and 3.

Chief Buckley reported that Chris Stevens and Huntingdon County had filed a grant application that may provide funding for additional radios. If we receive that funding, some of the money in the budget for radios will be used for lapel mikes and accessories for the new radios. Some of the money could be used for the parking enforcement system.

Mayor Wessels stated that he wanted to thank everyone including Chief Buckley and Dan Varner for their assistance during the high water and said that this was an education experience. Mayor also stated that he contacted EMA Joseph Thompson and Declared a State of Emergency.

Robert Jackson asked why it took the school district so long to cancel school. Chief said that they were waiting to see if the water went down. Chief stated that he called and recommended that they close school for the day and then they did.

Old Business

Mayor Wessels brought up about the Bus Stop pickup on Moore Street at the corner of 9th and the concern of students crossing the street and cars coming around the turn. It was mentioned the bus does stop at 10th & Moore Street to pick up students. It was mentioned that there is a bus that stops at the Deli to pick up students. Mayor Wessels asked if we needed crossing guards. Dan Varner said that we do not need to back to the Crossing guards because if someone doesn't make it on time then there is a liability and responsibility. Mayor Wessels will contact Tammy Peterson to set up a meeting to discuss the situation and that the school district needs to move their school bus pickup if there is a problem.

Chief Buckley spoke on the 2018 Standing Stone Marathon and said at the meeting he had with them, they wanted to stage a dumpster in the field behind Laney's but might be looking at the Juniata College area. Chief said that he has not spoken to him since this meeting. He mentioned that they are working hard at getting this off of the downtown streets and this will require less manpower. It was mentioned that the Chief contact Mike Thompson and get a list of the volunteers that will be helping. Mayor said that this is a major liability. Chief is to email him about the dumpster and ask for a list. The date for this event is on Sunday, October 14, 2018.

Unfinished Business

Robert Jackson said that the Sidewalk Ordinance to review and update was tabled for now.

Jennifer Clark asked why this was tabled and that there were people that have fallen, and that this was the landlord's responsibility and is effecting residents.

Robert Jackson brought up about the street lighting at Juniata College and various locations and said about getting LED lights. Dan Varner said that he did some research and in 2016, Penn Dot did Smithfield Township and the lights shown much smaller area. Dan Varner asked why this was brought up. Was there a concern or complaint? Mayor said that there were some students that did not feel comfortable walking the streets.

Mayor Wessels brought up about Bob Reitman and Mark Colussy working on a grant for LED lighting and spoke on this about doing the upgrade. He mentioned about putting poles and lights in the middle of a block.

Jim Morris said that Janice Hoover did some research on this.

Dan Varner said that you need to look for equal or better lights for less money. He also said that you need to look at the big picture and long term goal.

Chief Buckley stated that the Juniata College put out a survey about how they were feeling on walking the streets in Huntingdon.

Mayor Wessels said that if this was a 100% free grant, we should consider it. Dan Varner said that you need to look at the electrical bills etc.

Sean Steeg mentioned about doing a Community Chat at Juniata College and maybe have some officer there also.

It was mentioned to cross off the Parking lots of large trucks parking in the lot that this has been taking care of.

Robert Jackson mentioned about the line painting throughout town. Dan Varner said that he is waiting to get the paving done first. He said that he has contacted Heaton's and that they are so far behind due to the weather and they will get to us.

Mayor Wessels reported on new Parking Meters and said that we are on a holding pattern right now and working on the enforcement side first. We can set this up for next year.

Chief Buckley reported that he wanted Dan Varner to see the webinar on the parking meter enforcement put on by United Public Safety. Chief said that he has asked for a quote and United Public Safety sent one for 3 years. Chief said that United Public Safety wants to work with us and they have worked with other communities our size. Chief said that the equipment will pay for itself the second year. Chief mentioned about how 911 employees work with the tickets and the bookwork and they do it when they can. Chief said that he does not have a person to do this.

Chief Buckley read the quote from United Public Safety. The quote consisted of hardware package, extended warranty, annual data plan, monthly mobile license, case of 50 rolls of polyvinyl paper, custom configuration and onsite training. Year 1 will be \$10,020.88, Year 2 will be \$3,466.88 and Year 3 will be \$3,466.88. Chief Buckley said that they will send out late notices and will keep track of payments. He said we can still use our old style tickets and enter them manually, but this gives more accountability.

Public Safety Committee recommends that we proceed to go with the quote from United Public Safety to purchase a parking meter enforcement system..

Robert Jackson mentioned about the intersection at Warm Spring Road and Oneida Street has a low shoulder and should be repaired.

This needs to be addressed by the Maintenance Committee.

Dan Varner mentioned the Gas Company is putting in a new line going from 18th and Mifflin to the rear of the Science Center. The Gas Company provided Dan with a copy of a letter that was signed by the previous Borough Manager that the gas company is not required to overlay the whole street.. Dan stated that this is a borough agreement and that we need to live up to it.

Terry Green mentioned about 1500 Washington Street and Barry Taylor wanting to know if we could hold off on the paving. Barry said that if the street is paved then the gas company will not come back and dig up till 4 years later.

Dan Varner mentioned that we need to look at the Ordinance that prohibits hunting with Bow and Arrow. Dan stated that he has had several people ask him about hunting with Bow and Arrow. Dan stated that we need to change the ordinance to remove Bow and Arrow. Dan mentioned that we can do this as long as we follow the Game Commission regulations, and the people stay away from buildings. There was a suggestion about Archery Season coming up and we should do permits and include regulations and stay 50 feet off of the trails. Dan said that he will get with Solicitor Wilson.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM