

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 1, 2020

The Public Safety Committee met via teleconference, on September 1, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council chambers at City Hall. The meeting was broadcasted to the public via ZOOM.

Present at the Meeting in the Council Chambers: Chairman Sharp, Alderman Jenkins, Clerk Hurd, Police Chief Mettillie, ED Director Beadles, Office Manager Passage, and Assistant Fire Chief Greg Hurd.

Present at the Meeting via teleconference: Alderman Hughes and Alderman Connor

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at 4:34pm

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Chairman Sharp asked members of the committee to hear property maintenance agenda items first. There were no objections by committee members.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

Alderman Sharp asked Mr. Gary Swanson owner of property located at 1007 N Santa Fe Ave. to address the committee.

Mr. Gary Swanson, informed the committee that he has not made much progress due to the heat. He explained that due to his health the heat was very hard on him. He informed the committee that the people he had lined up to help with the repairs have been working long hours at their jobs and not able to help him. He also told the committee that the Chillicothe Christian Church was willing to help however he does not have the materials for them to work with.

Mr. Swanson's daughter, Suzanne attended the meeting via ZOOM. Alderman Sharp asked if she would like to speak. She replied that she attended to be able to listen and find out what was really going on. She informed the committee that it was very hard to hear the discussion via ZOOM.

Mr. Swanson asked the committee for an extension.

Alderman Sharp stated he feels that a Notice to Appear should be issued. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Alderman Hughes spoke in favor of giving an extension and monitoring the improvements weekly.

Alderman Connor informed the committee that she has seen a little improvement.

Mr. Swanson's daughter stated she was in the process of contacting people to help put a window in and has contacted the pastor of Chillicothe Christian Church in regards to helping. She asked the committee if she could get a list of what needs to be done.

Alderman Jenkins spoke in favor of giving a 30 day extension and monitor weekly.

The consensus of the committee was to give a 30 day extension monitoring weekly and if no weekly progress is made then issue a notice to appear.

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BUDGET REVIEW:

Chief Mettille reported that all budgeted items are within guidelines.

TRAILER STICKERS:

Chief Mettille informed the committee that Alderman Hughes asked for this to be an agenda item. He stated it was brought to his attention that individuals would like to have a city issued sticker for trailers that are only used within the city due to the increase in the state fees. Alderman Hughes informed the committee that he likes the idea.

Alderman Connor gave an example that she personally has a trailer that is used only to haul yard waste to the city dump.

Chief Mettille informed the committee that he feels it is a legal question. He informed the committee that he could check with the Secretary of State and the City Attorney.

The consensus of the committee was to have Chief Mettille look into the legality.

PROPOSAL FOR REPAIR – AWING - POLICE STATION:

Chief Mettille informed the committee that he contacted Millbrook Homes and they did not do that type of work. He also contacted Plum Creek who informed him that his company generally does not do that type of work but would be willing to give an estimate for the job. Chief Mettille informed the committee that the estimate came in at \$14,892.00.

Office Manager told the committee that the damages have been turned into the insurance but with depreciation there will not be much money given.

A lengthy discussion was held and the consensus of the committee was to have Chief Mettille get additional estimates knowing that he may have to go with an out of town contractor.

POLICE UPDATE:

Chief Mettille informed the committee that Officer Kitts has resigned as of last Tuesday. He was out of his comfort zone. The replacement of Officer Kitts will be discussed at the Human Resource Committee to be held following this meeting.

Chief Mettille reported that Officer Dustina Stevens is on her own and is doing very well. He gave monthly reports.

Alderman Hughes questioned why it (hiring police officer) was not on tonight's meeting agenda. He stated that he thinks it should be put on the Public Safety agenda next month he feels there is no urgency. Chief Mettille respectfully disagreed, He informed Alderman Hughes that it is on the Human Resource Committee agenda for discussion. He stated that that is how it was done last time. He then stated that he feels there is a sense of urgency when they are down a police officer.

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Alderman Hughes disagreed that the city is down an officer because an officer had been added to do property maintenance zones. Alderman Hughes asked that it be placed on the next Public Safety agenda for discussion and then Public Safety will refer it to Human Resource Committee. He questioned the legality of the way it is being done. Alderman Hughes questioned how he was to inform his constituents. Chairman Sharp invited Alderman Hughes to attend the Human Resource meeting to be held after this meeting. Alderman Hughes said the prior hiring's of an officer was discussed at the public safety committee and then referred to human resource committee. Chief Mettille disagreed and informed him that it went through Human Resource Committee. Alderman Hughes stated that anything having to do with the Police Department has to go through Public Safety first and does not feel it is legal to go directly to HR.

Alderman Jenkins stated he felt that the council had already decided to hire an officer and the officer hired did not work out therefore a replacement needs to be hired.

Chief Mettille informed the committee that this topic should really be discussed at the next meeting which is Human Resource.

Alderman Hughes informed the committee that he is not on the HR Committee therefor he does not have a vote and would have liked to have discussed it at Public Safety where he could state his case and vote NO.

Alderman Sharp stated he did not want to spend much time discussing this and asked Alderman Hughes to attend the HR meeting.

Alderman Hughes stated that last time scare tactics were used saying that an antifa was coming into town and officers were working overtime therefore an officer needed to be hired. Alderman Hughes stated that never happened, they never came to town and that it was a scare tactic to hire the officer.

Chief Mettille then asked Alderman Hughes if he was accusing somebody of using a scare tactic of making something up to get an officer hired. Alderman Hughes responded yes and that he (Chief Mettille) had accused him of the same. Chief Mettille then asked that it be noted in the minutes that Alderman Hughes was accusing him of making up a situation in order to get an officer hired.

NEW/OLD PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

Assistant Chief Hurd then reviewed the property maintenance inspection list. He informed the committee that people have been working on the 1449 North Fourth St property.

Chief Mettille informed the committee that a Notice to appear was issued to Bryce Lauber 1403 N Second Street and he should have a court date in October or November.

Chief Mettille informed the committee that the court date is Sept 17th for the 817 North 6th street property.

224 BEECH – PORCH

Chairman Sharp directed Assistant Chief Hurd to do an inspection on the property for the October meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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None

AGENDA ITEMS

None

CHAIRMAN ACTIONS

None

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Gary Sharp