

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 28, 2018
TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson 
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Public Health and Safety (PH&S) Committee met on Thursday, September 27, 2018. Those in attendance included Chairperson Ben Keathley Councilmember - Ward II, Councilmember Michelle Ohley, Ward IV, Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer, Chief Ray Johnson, and Captain Michael Thompson. Also in attendance were two members of the CAPY Committee, Aaron Wahl and Charlie Foxman.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Chairperson Ben Keathley.

I. Approval of Minutes – June 4, 2018

Councilman Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting. The motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to suspend the rules to change the order of the agenda. The motion carried 3-0.

V. Update – Municipal Court Electronic Notice/Filing System

City of Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer addressed the Committee members with an update on the status of the municipal court's electronic filing system. He noted that the State system: "Show Me Courts" (a software system) is being initiated throughout the Office of State Court Administrators (OSCA) for all municipal court systems on a four tiered basis. Chesterfield is in group four so it will be Spring, 2019 before the system is on line for Chesterfield. The computerized system will make all cases available on the Missouri Casenet program. Training has started and Chesterfield City Court personnel attended their first session of training in May, 2018 and there is a second training session in November, 2019. Mr. Engelmeyer noted this will be a great improvement in reporting cases and the access for public.

Councilmember Flachsbart requested that this item be placed on the Public Health & Safety Committee Agenda after the November training.

VI. Opioid Crisis

City of Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer informed the Committee members of an alarming increase in the number of Municipal Court cases related to offenders that are addicted to opioids. In addition, he noted the increasing number of overdoses and deaths due to heroin/opioids. He requested that the Committee consider

actions to develop a public forum to address the drug crisis. He reiterated the addiction to drugs causes collateral damage in a community with crimes like shoplifting and vehicle break-ins. Mr. Engelmeyer suggested that the School Resource Officer could speak about what is going on in schools. Parents of children affected by drug abuse and also professionals who work in drug prevention programs to discuss signs of drug abuse should also be included.

Councilmember Keathley strongly supported this suggestion and also suggested that the Court develop actions to help those who are addicted to opioids by having diversionary referrals available.

Chief Johnson agreed and proposed that the Police Department work with CAPY to develop a program for presentation.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember DeCampi motioned to request that the Police Department work in coordination with CAPY and the Prosecutor's Office on a plan for a community forum on the opioid crisis. Discussion included the Court's process involving drug related cases. The motion carried 3-0.

II. Deer Survey

The Committee reviewed the January, 2018 report (Deer Distance Sampling) that was done in January, 2018. Councilmember Flachsbart indicated that this data is just a starting point and a second count is needed for comparison to ascertain if additional measures are needed to control the deer population. During discussion, it was noted that Erin Shank of the Missouri Department of Conservation had addressed the Committee at an earlier meeting and concluded that the number of deer represented in the report did not indicate that any additional measures should be taken at this time and the current bow hunting is sufficient to keep the number of deer in the area to an acceptable number. Councilmember DeCampi and Councilmember Flachsbart disagreed with Ms. Shank's opinion. However, without additional data there is no rebuttal to indicate an increasing deer population.

Chief Johnson noted that letters had been sent to trustees to encourage hunting on common ground area in subdivisions. He also reported that the White Buffalo report had indicated several larger properties where bow hunting would be successful and staff had reached out to those property owners to encourage bow hunting on those properties. These efforts have been relatively successful with a larger number of properties (51) signing up to bow hunt this hunting season compared to (37) previous seasons.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Keathley seconded to recommend to City Council to contract for a second Deer Distance Sampling during winter 2018/2019. There was discussion regarding the effectiveness of another count in relationship to solving the deer population problem within the City of Chesterfield. Councilmember DeCampi encouraged a more aggressive action to address the deer population. The motion failed 1-2.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and DeCampi seconded to request staff to again send letters to trustees and those heavily deer populated property owners cited by White Buffalo encouraging bow hunting and also to publish an article in the Chesterfield Citizen Newsletter encouraging bow hunting. The motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to suspend the rules to change the order of the agenda. The motion carried 3-0

IV. Firearms Replacement Purchase

Captain Thompson informed the Committee that the current firearms utilized by the Police Department are getting older and requiring more costly repairs. Replacements are needed at this time. Chief Johnson and Captain Thompson related the practicality of replacing the current duty weapon with a Glock Model G-17 which is smaller and easier to handle and the ammunition is less expensive. The total cost of replacing the weapons is \$32,000.00. There was discussion regarding the funding for this purchase.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Keathley seconded to recommend the purchase of new weapons by utilizing fund reserves. Discussion followed concerning the use of fund reserves or the possibility of utilizing asset forfeiture funds and/or Proposition P money. It was noted that this purchase is not a reoccurring line item so it may not be a suitable line item for Proposition P. After additional discussion regarding where the money should be appropriated, the motion carried 3-0. This will be forwarded to the Finance & Administration Committee for placement in the 2019 budget.

III. Golf Carts/Small Motor Vehicles

The Committee discussed the current restrictions of the use of golf carts and other small motor vehicles on City roadways. The current City Ordinance outlaws those motor vehicles without State license plates on city streets. Chief Johnson informed the Committee members that the Police Department does not actively seek violations but acts upon complaints and gives warnings to those in violation and making them aware of the regulations. The Committee recommended no changes at this time to the City Ordinance. No further action was taken.

VII. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.