

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2020

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairperson Councilmember Ben Keathley.

- II. Roll Call:

Councilmember Ben Keathley, Ward II, Chairperson, Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I. Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III, Councilmember Tom DeCampi, Ward IV, Mayor Bob Nation, Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II, Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III, City Administrator Mike Geisel, Chief Ray Johnson, Captain Michael Thompson, Captain Cheryl Funkhouser, Captain Dan Dunn.

- III. Approval of Minutes

The Committee members reviewed the minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting. Councilmember Monachella motioned and Councilmember Keathley seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried 3-0 with Councilmember Hurt abstaining because he was not in attendance at the December 12th meeting.

- IV. Election of Vice-Chairperson of the Public Health & Safety Committee and Liaison to the Police Personnel Board.

Councilmember Keathley asked for a nomination or a volunteer for the position of Vice-Chairman. Councilmember DeCampi volunteered and this was approved 4-0.

Councilmember Keathley asked for a nomination or a volunteer for the position of Liaison to the Police Personnel Board. Councilmember Keathley volunteered and was approved 4-0.

- V. Crime Prevention/Reduction Strategy

Chief Johnson presented a proposed Crime Prevention/Reduction Strategy for Committee consideration and possible forwarding to the full City Council for adoption. Chief Johnson noted that this proposal was in response to a goal established for City Administrator Geisel during his annual performance review, and was prepared in concert with Mr. Geisel and Prosecuting Attorney Tom Engelmeyer. There were twelve specific strategies presented. Chief Johnson did note that the Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) referenced in the strategies was an integral part of this proposal and would require the \$21,000.00 for this item previously cut from budget requests for 2020 be re-authorized to cover the cost of purchase. City Administrator Geisel assured the Committee members that this expense is feasible at this time.

Councilmember DeCampi motioned to restore the previously budgeted amount to purchase an ALPR. Councilmember Monachella seconded. Councilmember Keathley voiced his approval noting that it is a positive action to give the police the resources to do their job. The motion carried 4-0.

Committee members discussed police staffing focusing particularly on the officers that work in the schools and their status for the upcoming year considering that the schools will be operating virtually. Chief Johnson indicated that the Rockwood School District have indicated they will continue their funding and will utilize the School Resource Officers with alternate activities. The Parkway School District is still in discussion with the Police Department as to the funding and work activities of their SRO's. Chief Johnson also stated that the School Resource Officers are not part of the crime prevention strategy.

The Committee members reviewed additional items with Councilmember Keathley questioning the implementation of seizure and specific concerns about asset forfeiture. Chief Johnson noted this usually is applied in felony cases and, most often happens through the County or Federal Drug Unit. The process of seizing vehicles is proposed to apply to the professional shoplifters that target the businesses in the Valley shopping area. These strategies are both a proposed strategy but neither have happened in Chesterfield within the past year.

Councilmember Monachella asked for clarification between a full custodial arrest and a "regular" arrest. Chief Johnson explained many arrests for minor offenses simply result in the person arrested being issued a summons and released from the scene. While a full custodial arrest involves the person being taken in to physical custody, conveyed and then booked and processed at the Police Department, and held for warrant application.

Councilmembers questioned the practice of requiring officers to conduct a minimum of 30 self-initiated activities per month. Chief Johnson stressed that there are no quotas for officers and any actions that an officer does to interact with the public is considered as an activity for this purpose. The major benefit of the requirement for self-initiated activities is that many of the "activities", or contacts, often lead to discovery of other crimes or police actions.

Councilmember Hurt motioned and Councilmember Monachella seconded to recommend adoption of the Crime Prevention/Reduction Strategy. The motion carried 4-0.

VI. Maryville University Housing of Students in Chesterfield

Chief Johnson noted that Maryville University is opening soon. Although the university is not in the City of Chesterfield, Maryville University will be restricting their housing on campus by 50% and will be housing 200 students at the Drury Inn because of the limited on-campus housing. A memorandum of understanding is required by the University which would provide for the sharing of crime statistics with the university. This memo of understanding requires no further impositions on the Police Department or City.

Councilmember Hurt motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried 4-0.

VII. Lafayette Area Police Agency Memorandum of Understanding

Chief Johnson presented a Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the law enforcement agencies of neighboring communities (Ballwin, Ellisville, Manchester, Town

& Country) and Chesterfield for the sharing of resources, manpower, canine officer, etc. This is formalization of current mutual aid practices.

After review Councilmember Hurt motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to approve this agreement. The motion carried 4-0.

- VIII. Proposal to Repeal City Ordinance 50 (1988), Headgear Required-Motorcycles
Chief Johnson informed the Committee members that the State of Missouri has enacted legislation which repeals the former restrictions/requirements for protective headgear for operators and passengers of motorcycles and/motor-tricycles. Further, the state legislation prohibits any political subdivision from imposing a protective headgear requirement. Since the City of Chesterfield currently has an ordinance that does require headgear (Ordinance 50 (1988)) it must, therefore, be repealed to be in line with the new State Statute. An ordinance repealing the current City ordinance is required.

Councilmember Keathley motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to recommend a new ordinance repealing Ordinance 50 be forwarded to City Council for approval. The motion passed 4-0.

Having no further business and no new meeting date set. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.