

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 18, 2021

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

II. Roll Call

Councilmember Tom DeCampi, Ward IV, Chairperson, Councilmember Barbara McGuiness, Ward I. Councilmember Aaron Wahl, Ward II, Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III. Also, in attendance were Chief Ray Johnson, Captain Michael Thompson, Captain Dan Dunn.

III. Approval of Minutes

The Committee members reviewed the minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting. Councilmember DeCampi motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to approve the minutes. Regarding actions taken since the last meeting, Councilmember Moore asked if signs had been placed in the area near Rivers Edge Park. Chief Johnson responded that the signs have been ordered. Councilmember Moore also voiced concern regarding securing signatures from property owners contiguous to common ground area. Councilmember DeCampi noted this item was not on the agenda for this meeting but will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the February 24th meeting carried 4-0.

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

Councilmember McGuiness motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to nominate Councilmember Wahl for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Public Health & Safety Committee. The motion was approved 4-0.

Councilmember McGuiness motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to nominate Councilmember Moore to the position of Liaison to the Police Personnel Board. The motion approved 4-0.

V. City of Chesterfield – Title VI Plan

Chief Johnson introduced a Resolution approving the policy covered under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Executive Order 13166. The City has had a Title VI Plan and Policy Statement but there were “housekeeping” changes that need to be made: specifically changing the contact for the City from a named specific person to City Clerk. The Policy Statement deals with assurances of no discrimination in City activities and operation and the procedure to file complaints dealing with the above. Chief Johnson also noted that the Title VI Policy Statement is a requirement for entering into the agreement to assign a Chesterfield Police Officer to the St. Louis County Fusion Center (next agenda item). Councilmember McGuiness

motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to move this item on to City Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried 4-0.

VI. Assignment of an Officer to the St. Louis County Fusion Center

Chief Johnson informed the Committee members that the St. Louis County Fusion Center has requested a Chesterfield Police Officer be assigned as an Intelligence Analyst with all salary and benefit expenses to be covered by the agreement. The Fusion Center is federally funded and coordinates information of nefarious groups/persons that may be operating in the St. Louis County area. The City would benefit from all intelligence gathered by all members of the Fusion Center. This is a two-year assignment and an officer has already been chosen from within the Department. The participation in this group requires that the City enter into an agreement with the St. Louis County Fusion Center. This agreement has been vetted by the City Attorney and the City Administrator.

Councilmember McGuiness motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to pass this item on to City Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried 4-0.

VII. Parkway School District SRO Agreement

Chief Johnson informed the Committee that the Parkway School District has requested a modification in their School Resource Officer Agreement which is up for renewal July, 2021. The modification would add a "liability disclaimer" in the event of certain occurrences (acts of God or the public enemy, riots, strikes, fires, explosions, accidents, pandemics, governmental action of any kind or other causes of similar character beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the City or the District). This wording is the same as is currently in place in the Rockwood School District Agreement. Councilmember McGuiness voiced concern that this clause would allow the Parkway School District to opt in and out of the agreement and also who decides exactly what is a "pandemic". The financial obligations were further discussed. It was noted that this past year, School Resource Officers were kept employed by the school districts during the pandemic. However, if they had been dismissed it would have resulted in a financial burden to the City budget.

Councilmember McGuiness motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to oppose the requested wordage and to maintain the status quo with the Parkway School District Contract keeping the wording the same as in the past. There was further discussion regarding the actual cost of the program to the City noting that the School Resource Officers are funded for 75% of each year and they then are funded for the additional part of the year directly by the City. Chief Johnson noted that the officers revert to patrol duties during the summer assisting with the coverage of vacation time by other officers and also assist with Safety Town. After discussion, the motion carried 3-1 with Councilmember Wahl voting "no".

VIII. Quarterly Update – Crime Reduction/Prevention Strategy

As required by City Council, a Crime Reduction/Prevention Strategy Plan was implemented. Chief Johnson proceeded to report the current status of response to those strategies. He noted that all twelve of the strategies are currently in progress. He noted that the Automatic License Plate Recognition system has been purchased and is in the

process of being linked to fixed cameras. He also noted that the partnering with neighboring municipalities for the sharing of resources, information, and staffing has worked very well. The work on each of the strategies will continue with additional quarterly updates.

Councilmember DeCampi noted that action items from this meeting will not be included on the agenda for the May 19, 2021 Council meeting due to time and notice constraints, but they will be included on the June 7, 2021 City Council meeting agenda.

Having no further business. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.