

DRAFT OF MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT

CITY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Alderman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Voting Members Present: Brian Butler, Mike Brownfield, Tyler Gee

Other City officials present: Aldermen Dave Dingledine and Jim Gee, Jim Culotta, Ed Andrews, Ted Miller, Jeff Stevens

Residents: Steve Hullcraz, Paul Speizio, Mike Ingold, Lilija Stevens

1. ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM: None.

2. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

Paul Speizio asked about a proposed budget spreadsheet that indicates a change in police department staffing for sworn officers. Jim Culotta answered that there is no change in full-time sworn overall strength and there may be a formula error in the spreadsheet.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 17, 2017 MEETING: MOTION BY Mr. T. Gee, second by Mr. Brownfield. Minutes unanimously approved as drafted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. MONTHLY REPORT: Chief Miller presented the monthly activity report for the police department. The report showed 1.5 shifts without a sergeant working, but those shifts were supervised by acting sergeants. Butler asked which officers can presently act as sergeants and Miller replied those officers are Patterson and Senior Detective Steven Smith.
- b. Restructure Staffing Implications: Butler said his main interest in restructuring is coverage by a supervisor – that someone is definitely in charge. Butler asked how the floating sergeant (who works 2nd and 3rd shifts in a week) was working and Miller said the concept is working well. Miller also noted that the minimal number of sergeants will cause overtime. Butler asked to be kept up to date on minimum staffing-caused overtime.
- c. Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs: Miller presented a memo and asked the Committee for guidance on placement of an additional in-street crosswalk sign at the Dallas/Royal and Dallas/Kingsbury intersections. The Committee felt the additional sign placement from current stock on Dallas at Kingsbury to be reasonable. Butler asked about an enforcement detail mentioned in the memo and Miller explained he was not advocating

the detail specifically but explaining how to provide for efficient enforcement in a fairly low-volume intersection and that a detail would provide opportunities to contact and educate the public.

- d. 911 Consolidation Update: Miller referred to his memo dated February 16 and mentioned that lower than anticipated costs may be due to the possibility of constructing a center at Morton PD as opposed to a free-standing building. Butler asked if the Morton PD location for a consolidated dispatch center was fait accompli and Miller replied it is not. Miller noted that WPD will make decisions about window/walk-in service and use of the current dispatch space for property storage or other work. Brownfield said he does not want Morton or other consolidating entities to dictate what Washington will spend or do.

Culotta asked if there had been discussion regarding an operation agreement. Miller and J. Stevens noted there were not conclusive discussions.

Miller noted we want to treat current dispatch employees well. For example, although employees would have to apply for positions in a consolidated agency, we want to set up the agency so that dispatchers hired do not lose seniority, for example.

Culotta said he would meet East Peoria City Administrator Jeffrey Eder February 21, 2017 and they will talk about how to share costs.

Brownfield noted he did not want just one entity hiring for all of the communities, but wants each community to have a say in hiring for fairness. Dingleline agreed that seniority will be a big issue. Jim Gee noted that knowledge of the community is helpful for a dispatcher. Dingleline asked about staffing levels in a consolidated center and Miller replied that has not been decided. Miller also noted some employees may not transfer. Butler asked if dispatching stations would be consistent so the same dispatchers work with certain entities or if assignments would be random. Miller said Tazewell/ Pekin Consolidated Communications Center has dispatchers that focus on certain areas but they can move as needed. Miller said the dispatchers learn these things quickly.

Brownfield asked if consolidation was plugged in to the budget plans. Culotta said it would be helpful to get questions in advance. Culotta noted the city has over \$1 million as telecom funding available.

Butler asked if the city must sign on to the Morton PD building option. Butler did not see a need to bring that option specifically to the Committee, but said such a matter could go directly to the Council. Brownfield agreed and T. Gee said he had no objection.

Brownfield noted that now we have a tangible figure to consider. J. Gee noted that Miller and J. Stevens are aware of the need to move forward.

- e. Wilmor/Jefferson Traffic Signal (Joint Public Safety / Public Works Discussion): Culotta noted that the city had positive feedback concerning the temporary traffic control lights during the viaduct closure but that has decreased since the road reopened and the Mayor asked for this discussion.

J. Gee said this has been discussed previously and he has talked with Dr. Freeman at WCHS, who does not see a traffic problem now. J. Gee said he does not see a real problem there and the Public Works Committee is not interested in pursuing the signals. Brownfield said he only hears support from people who do not live here. Butler said that current traffic volume does not warrant the signals. T. Gee asked if the intersection stood out as a problem for crashes and J. Stevens said it does not. Butler said alternating signals can back up traffic. Public Works Director Ed Andrews said signals at the intersection would have to be interconnected to the Bus. 24 signals. Andrews said vehicle volume there does not warrant signals but other warrants may exist for pedestrians or other needs, but that would not be apparent without study. Andrews also said there would be needs to examine setback and the need for a turn lane. Butler summarized that there was no compelling need for a study and Brownfield agreed.

- 5. OTHER BUSINESS: Liliya Stevens commented that in-road crosswalk signs - especially on the corner of Wilmore and Jefferson - have helped with traffic/pedestrians after school gets out.
- 6. Mr. Brownfield motioned for adjournment, seconded by Mr. J. Gee. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 P.M.