

## City of Washington Public Safety Committee Meeting February 19, 2018

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Voting Members present:**

Brian Butler-Chairman, Carol Moss-Alderman, Brett Adams-Alderman,

**Other Officials present:** City Administrator-Jim Culotta, Chief of Police-Mike McCoy, Deputy Chief-Jeff Stevens, Washington Fire Chief-Roger Traver and Administrative Assistant-Linda Storer

**Residents:** Liliya Stevens

1. **Aldermen wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item:** None
2. **Citizens wishing to be heard on non-agenda items:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes** –January 16, 2018, Regular Meeting Motion by Alderman Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Moss.
4. **Business Items**
  - **Monthly Report** – Chief McCoy advised the Committee and those present that the details in this month's report had some irregularities. The recent burglary to motor vehicles and motor vehicle thefts were up due to the recent activity. This is definitely not the norm here in Washington. Another rise in certain areas was code enforcement issues.

Chief McCoy advised the Committee that officers will be conducting a detail in the foreseeable future to address cell phone usage and texting while driving. A detail was performed recently where warning citations were issued to drivers coming through the Square. This upcoming detail will be the same only actual citations will be issued. Committee felt that it was a proper response. The public will be warned on Facebook, the newspaper and any other media the police department finds helpful in getting out the word that this detail will be happening.
  - **Departmental Strengths** - Chief McCoy presented to the Committee a concept for the need for community policing which would require the hiring of an additional officer. The current DARE Officer teaches only the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He would like to elevate the program to incorporate the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students too. Eventually this officer could teach security measures to our churches and businesses. Chief McCoy & Deputy Chief Stevens met with the area pastors and on March 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a basic presentation on some of these measures. In the future, the community police officer could host such programs. Additionally, this particular officer could also work for the High School Resources Officer when he isn't there.

The other topic presented to the Committee was the idea of Washington participating in MEG. The Chief gave a full explanation of how MEG actually works. (Drug Operations). Discussed the benefit to the City of having an embedded full time officer vs. a part time assignment.

The Public Safety Committee understands the needs and suggested that Chief McCoy take it before the Finance & Personnel Committee. In order to budget for this personnel, it would have to be brought before them. Chief McCoy fully understands and will make a presentation to Finance & Personnel. He wanted to inform the Public Safety Committee of his ideas before taking it anywhere.

## **5. Other Business**

- Code Red Project – the Mayor will be creating the initial messages. Residents will be encouraged to sign up to receive these reverse calls from the police department or city by requesting calls, emails texts or cell phones. When an area is affected by something important, that area will be notified if enrolled. An example would be a water main break in a particular area. May other types of messages will be created as the need arises.
- Speed Sign on Dallas Rd – yearly report will be captured. All in attendance thought it would be interesting to see if it has been helpful. If it has, it would a tool that perhaps would be used in other areas.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Motion made by Alderman Adams and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Moss.