

**City of Washington  
Public Safety Committee Meeting  
November 16, 2020**

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM via Zoom Online Meeting 85781682226

**Voting Members present on Zoom Meeting:**

Chairman Brian Butler, Alderman Todd Yoder and Alderman John Blundy

**Other Officials present on Zoom Meeting:** City Administrator-Ray Forsythe; Chief Michael McCoy, Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens, Aldermen Cobb, Alderman Stevens, and WPD Admin Assistant, Linda Storer

**Residents:** Mr. & Mrs. Amdall

**1. Non-Member Alderman wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item**

Alderman Stevens asked about the status of EMA and who calls them out?

Chief McCoy advised that due to COVID concerns recent meetings with EMA members were canceled. They have been given updated radios, ID cards and shirts. When they are needed the EMA Coordinator notifies them of incident.

Alderman Stevens asked who activates the tornado sirens.

TC3 activates sirens for Washington. WPD also has the capability of setting them off from the upper and lower floors at the PD.

**2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2020**

A motion for approval by Chairman Butler; Motion to approve by Alderman Yoder and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Blundy.

**4. Business Items**

**A. Discussion Regarding Reducing Waiting Period for Gaming License**

The police department is asking what direction the Committee would like to go as it relates to reducing the gaming license wait from two years for an unlicensed business to one year. (Attachment of explanation in Agenda)

Currently, there is an interested party wanting to buy a shuttered business that used to hold a liquor license in conjunction with the restaurant that would like an exception to the waiting period.

Discussion between all voting members included some background on the original reason for the ordinance:

- \*2012 City voted to allow gaming.

- \*2017 City created an ordinance instituting a two-year waiting period for unlicensed business to bring in gaming. This was done to eliminate creating mini casinos.

- \*Concerns about opening a restaurant now with COVID shutdowns.

- \*Is there a summary of a business plan available to this potential buyer?

After the discussion concluded the Committee has asked to see what a one year waiting period would like in an ordinance for a business that used to have a Class A license but is no longer open. Once finished, the PD could present it at a Public Safety Committee Meeting for further discussion.

#### **B. License Plate Reader Consideration**

The memo included in agenda captures the explanation of these. Deputy Chief Stevens pointed out that nobody in Central Illinois has these yet. This reader is on the leading edge and would assist in efficiency regarding crimes that happen within the City. There is even the possibility of partnering with private businesses to help offset the cost.

Committee questioned where the funds would come from within the budget? Do we really need this?

Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens have been invited by a couple of northern cities in Illinois to view the product. They will be going to gather more data.

Committee has no problem researching this further but is not in a hurry to OK spending at this time.

#### **C. Washington Fire Department Contract Update**

City Administrator Forsythe gave an overview of the current negotiations. An explanation is included in agenda.

#### **D. Public Safety Committee Meeting 2021 Calendar**

The meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month beginning at 5:00pm. Due to so many items and the time it takes by each committee, it was suggested that Public Safety move from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.

Chairman Butler asked for a motion to change the meeting dates in 2021; Alderman Yoder and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Blundy.

#### **E. Police Department Update**

3 department members have COVID 19.

One officer has resigned effective November 30, 2020 to take another position to be closer to their family.

Police test will be given on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

#### **5. Other Business**

None

#### **6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Chairman Butler; Alderman Yoder made the motion and Alderman Blundy 2<sup>nd</sup>

Adjourned at 6:28 pm.