

MINUTES

CITY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 17, 2017

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

Voting Members Present: Brian Butler, Mike Brownfield

Other City officials present: Ed Andrews, Jeff Stevens

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

1. ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM:

Mr. Brownfield asked for information regarding a shooting call that occurred January 14. MSgt Stevens gave a synopsis of the investigation, including that officers concluded the shooting, which killed a dog, was a lawful use of force. As is normal for such a case, it was referred to the Tazewell County State's Attorney's Office for review.

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

DALLAS ROAD: Paul Speizio said that speeding on Dallas Road is still an issue. Speizio reported he received requested information from the City and determined that many roads classified as major collectors are also posted with 25 M.P.H. speed limits and many of those routes received federal funding. Speizio noted that the addition of pedestrian crosswalk signs on Dallas did not significantly affect vehicle speeds as measured by City placement of NuMetrics traffic analyzers. Mr. Speizio welcomed the addition of electronic speed signs and reiterated his requests to have the speed limit changed to 25 M.P.H and for stop signs on Dallas at Mitchell and Westminster. Speizio said there has been no increased speed enforcement on Dallas in that he counted only 5 written warnings and 5 citations for speeding on Dallas over the past 7 weeks. He noted that none of those were issued for speeds less than 10 M.P.H. over the limit and he would like to see drivers traveling at 10 or more over the limit cited rather than warned.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE December 19, 2016 MEETING: MOTION BY Mr. Brownfield second by Mr. Butler. Minutes unanimously approved as drafted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. MONTHLY REPORT: MSgt Stevens presented the monthly activity report for the police department. The report included, inter alia, that there were no patrol shifts without a supervisor and that 13 supervisory shifts were hired back to fill for benefit or training time. Stevens said the comparisons of year-to-date numbers in various categories do not show differences that are statistically significant this early in the year. Stevens also noted that there will be significant expense going forward to provide for required supervision on all shifts and that will be addressed in budget preparations for FY 2017-18.

- b. Dallas Road Radar Speed Signs: Public Works Director Ed Andrews provided a synopsis and commentary about choices outlined in his packet memo on this topic. He noted that one vendor, Radar Sign, is a stateside manufacturer and that both systems would work. In response to an earlier inquiry, he noted the systems are not portable and if the sign itself is moved, the manufacturers recommend moving only the display and providing for redundant support architecture, making the cost differential limited and the option therefore impractical. Andrews noted that he can obtain additional quotes if the Committee wants to push the overall consideration into the next fiscal year. Butler asked for clarification of what parts would move if the sign was ported, which Andrews provided, noting that there is not a significant savings when duplication of support structures is considered. Butler noted that the use of data loggers in the sign package will allow police to use pattern data to focus on the problem times. Butler asked about installation time limits and Andrews said it would be best to avoid times of extended frozen conditions, but he does not expect significant time pressures for installation. Answering Butler's request, Andrews said his recommended package is the Radar Sign "Safety-in-a-Box" package outlined in the memo, based on its lower initial cost and features, with a shorter warranty offset by comparatively low cost repair potential by the manufacturer. Butler noted the southbound sample location provided as an example site was close to Westminster, which would limit its effectiveness in that traffic turning from that street would not reach its expected terminal speed before meeting the sign coverage area. Brownfield moved to recommend that the Council consider approval of the Radar Sign package, seconded by Butler. Motion passed, to be presented to the full Council as a staff report at the February 1 meeting.

- c. Wilmor/Jefferson Traffic Signal Discussion: This was a discussion item for the Committee to explore interest in recommending allocation of funds to study the need for traffic signals at the intersection of Wilmor and Jefferson Streets. The Committee recommended such allocation and will work through City Administrator Culotta for a joint discussion among the Public Works and Public Safety Committees on this topic.

5. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

6. Mr. Brownfield motioned for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Butler. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 P.M.