



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
February 12th, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to order: Chairperson J. Lugar called the meeting to order.

Attendance:

- **Committee members present:** Chairperson J. Lugar, Councilor C. Soltysiak and Councilor A. Khalil.
- **Committee members absent:** Vice President J. Conners, and Councilor K. McGlonn.
- **Others present:** President D. Pancoe, Councilor A. MacHaffie, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor M. Marlowe, Councilor K. Farrell, Borough Manager G. Locke, Engineer K. Hassan, Public Works Foreman K. Riggins, Mayor A. Dobbs, and Police Chief A. DiValentino.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports

- **Police Department** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the Pennsylvania State Police completed a surprise inspection of the Police Department and all went well during that inspection.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Independent Fire Company**- A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Fire Police** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Second Alarmers** – A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.

New Business

1. **Fire Commission Meeting** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that the February Fire Commission meeting was held last evening. During this meeting, the Commission was able to complete the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's). Chairperson J. Lugar wanted to thank all of those who were involved.
2. **FEMA SAFER Grant** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that the Borough awarded the recruitment portion of the SAFER Grant to The Communications Solutions Group. There was a "Visioning Session" held with both Firehouses on Thursday, February 6th. The session was successful, and Ms. Raffel will now compile all the information received. The next step will be a photo shoot of both Companies and that will take place in the next few weeks. The retention portion of this grant

is moving forward and should be in place next month so members of the Fire Department can begin receiving the benefits of the grant.

3. **Resolution #2020-4: Appointment of Nick Pettinati to Fire Commission** – Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to move Resolution #2020-4, appointing Nick Pettinati to the Fire Commission to full Council. Motion approved unanimously.
4. **2019 Purchase of Fire Apparatus Vehicle** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that the 2019 Spartan Aerial Apparatus was delivered and placed in service. The 94 Pierce aerial apparatus has not been sold to date and is currently being stored at Horsham Fire Company at no cost. There are two outstanding invoices that once submitted will finalize the purchase process. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that Horsham Fire Company will be receiving their new apparatus at the end of March, to which the Borough will need to find a new storage place for the 94 Pierce aerial apparatus. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that Deputy Chief B. Pross is currently looking for a buyer for the 94 Pierce aerial apparatus.
5. **Proposed Closure of Leedom Street During Music Series – Rec Board** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that this agenda item was requested by Pam Lynch, Chair of Rec Board. The Rec Board is looking to close Leedom Street, from Greenwood Avenue to West Avenue, each Tuesday night during the summer from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Mrs. Lynch noted that this will not affect access to the municipal lot adjacent to Town Square as the Greenwood Avenue entrance will still be accessible and that the Rec Board has been touching base with the business owners on Leedom who will be affected by this to make sure we aren't causing too much of an issue and so far the business owners directly affected asked that signage and proper notification be placed, but have no problems with the road closure.
6. **2020 Arts Fest Proposed Re-Location Detour** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that the Arts Fest Committee has proposed closing York Road from Rydal Road to Washington Lane in lieu of Town Square, with the assistance of Fire Marshal K. Lynch. Fire Marshal K. Lynch noted that the event is getting larger and for safety concerns as well as spreading out the vendors moving the fest to York Road. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that there was a preliminary detour plan provided with the packet materials. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the detour is through Abington and Cheltenham which will require a letter of support from Abington and Cheltenham. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that preliminary discussions began with the Borough's Traffic Engineer, Mark Bickerton, and further discussion must be had should the Borough be interested in the proposed idea. Councilor C. Soltysiak asked if this would be an additional burden on the Police Department, Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that it would not be. Melissa Clarke-Pho, on behalf of the JCA, noted that there are other towns in the surrounding area such as Manyunk and Chestnut Hill that hold events on major thoroughfares. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Police Department has cut a significant portion of their overtime budget, which includes coverage for these events. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Police Department would require reimbursement for such overtime should the event need more staff than provided. Additionally, Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the JCA should also look at the costs of Flagger Force, Abington and Cheltenham as well as the Traffic Engineer. All of these costs would be billed to the JCA.
7. **Handicap Sign Walnut Street** – Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that two residents that live at the apartments at 360 Walnut Street would like handicap signs. Police Chief A. DiValentino asked if there was a limit to the amount of handicap signs can be registered to one property. It was the

Committee's feelings that the handicap parking should be approved, as both tenants require such, however would be checking with the solicitor.

8. **Sale of Police Vehicle Former K9 Unit (Expedition)** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that the vehicle was auctioned off on Municibid, high bidder was non-responsive truck was re-listed for auction sale.
9. **Purchase of New Police Vehicle Has Been Initiated** – Chairperson J. Lugar highlighted that the new police vehicle was in stock and has been sent to the outfitter for installation of accessories.
10. **Police Department Canine Policy** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that this agenda item was requested by Mayor A. Dobbs regarding the proposed changes to K9 Policy and compensation for care of dogs. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the policy has been updated due to budgetary concerns and the proposed policy needs to go before Council. President D. Pancoe read the policy and asked if it should be included in the contract, Mayor A. Dobbs noted that it should not be part of the contract however, since there is a monetary tag to it, it should go through Council. Borough Manager G. Locke agreed that it should go through Council but not be a part of the contract. Additionally, Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the original policy went in place in 2017 and is quite substantial. Borough Manager G. Locke has asked the solicitors to weigh in on the policy. Councilor J. Bruno asked if the December 2019 policy was the most recent policy. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that it was, as it appears that the policy has already been put in place and signed. Councilor A. Khalil asked if the compensation listed in the policy is in line with surrounding municipalities, Borough Manager G. Locke noted that is it much greater than surrounding municipalities. Mayor A. Dobbs wanted to applaud the Police Department for changing the policy “immediately” once realizing the budgetary affects.

Councilor A. Khalil asked is there was an update on the speeding on Washington Lane, as well as the truck traffic that has been seen along Washington Lane. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that he has been working with Abington to get a portable speed sign installed, which was installed this week and has asked that Patrol be vigilant in the area of Washington Lane.

Councilor A. Khalil also asked if the School Zone can be extended on Walnut Street to Cheltona or Rodman Avenues. Borough Engineer K. Hassan noted that he would look into and review, and come back before Committee with the answer.

Old Business

1. **Solar Stop Sign – Walnut Street & Hillside Avenue** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that this was continued discussion from last month. Engineer K. Hassan noted that it is approximately \$4,000 per sign and required pedestal. Additionally, Engineer K. Hassan noted that PennDOT does not allow temporary signage to be installed.
2. **Parking Meters along the 100 block of West Avenue** – Chairperson J. Lugar highlighted that the Borough has requested a price quote from the meter manufacturer to rent the calibration tool to recalibrate the meters for installation on West Avenue.
3. **2017 CFA Multi-modal Grant: Washington Lane & Greenwood Avenue** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted there are no new updates at this time. Recently, the Borough has been notified that

Abington Township has begun discussing design and costs. A coordination meeting is being arranged. The grant is to fund the improvement to the intersection of Washington Lane and Greenwood Avenue and includes new traffic controls, HC Accessible curb cuts, storm water inlets/piping, sidewalk and curb.

4. **Permit Parking on the 100 block of Greenwood Avenue** – Chairperson J. Lugar noted that there were two residents have called to receive the process of requesting parking permits. Although residents have called to inquire, Borough Administration has not received any petitions to date.
5. **Pedestrian Crosswalks York Road and West Avenue** - Chairperson J. Lugar noted that in response to concerns raised to the Borough about the operation of the pedestrian crossing and crosswalks throughout the Borough has met with the Borough traffic Engineer. The operation of the pedestrian lights was discussed, and some crossings were inspected. A site inspection of all crossings is being arranged to confirm proper operation and compliance with the traffic light permit plans. The administration is attempting to include residents on the walkthrough inspection so proper operation of the pedestrian crossing signals can be better shared with the public. President D. Pancoe noted that the specific intersections that need to be reviewed are York Road and West Avenue and York Road and Greenwood Avenue. President D. Pancoe noted that she would like signage to inform the pedestrian to push the button if they would like the signal to walk.
6. **Fire Department Training – Update** - Chairperson J. Lugar noted that the training records have been submitted and will be updated asap.

Adjournment: On motion of Chairperson J. Lugar, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.