



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 12, 2022
7:00 P.M.
700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

MINUTES

Call to Order: Vice President C. Soltysiak called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Council Members Present: President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor A. Khalil, Councilor J. Marlowe, Councilor J. Bruno

Council Members Absent:

Others Present: Manager G. Locke, Chief R. Smeal, Fire Chief K. Lynch, Fire Marshal K. Lynch, Engineer K. Hassan

Public Comment: None at this time.

REPORTS

- 1. Police Department:** Chief R. Smeal explained the breakdown of the total 420 calls for service in the month of December 2021. Councilor A. Khalil asked if the time of day of each could be included in the reporting going forward.
- 2. Pioneer Fire Company:** Fire Chief K. Lynch said there are no updates except the year end 2021 report was completed. Vice President C. Soltysiak added of all the 265 calls for service, 195 were in Jenkintown, so to see the amount of mutual aid is great.
- 3. Independent Fire Company:** No updates at this time.
- 4. Fire Police:** Report added to Drop Box per Chief K. Lynch.
- 5. Second Alarmers:** (00:07:40) Councilor A. Khalil, Fire Chief K. Lynch and Council K. McGlenn discussed ways to help reduce the number of devastating fires that lead to death by having a presentation done for the full Council as well as the school students K-12. (00:14:56) Councilor J. Marlowe mentioned a flier, drawn up by Fire Chief K. Lynch, handed out to each resident at Beaver Hill that included procedures on how to respond to a fire, fire alarm, etc. Additional comments made by Councilor A. Khalil and K. McGlenn about public awareness. Fire Marshal K. Lynch reiterated Fire Prevention Week is a great time for involvement and awareness.

NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Fire Commission Meeting
 - The Fire Commission meeting was held prior to this meeting. The next Fire Commission meeting will be held on February 9th.
2. Retirement of Chief DiValentino / Interim Police Chiefs
 - Chief DiValentino retired on December 31st, 2021.
 - The Borough has hired W.R. Smeal as Interim Police Chiefs and to perform the search for a new Borough Police Chief. Chief Smeal and Chief Bentzel arrived mid-December for a transition period with Chief DiValentino prior to his formal retirement.
 - Currently, Chief Smeal or Chief Bentzel are in the PD office each day working with the Police Department on day to day operations.
3. Fire Commission Membership
 - As per Borough Code each Fire House is required to nominate four members for the Fire Commission. These four members represent each house on the Fire Commission.
 - Both Firehouses have put forward the following members for Councils consideration of appointment at this month's Council meeting. Pioneer – Nick Pettinati, Gary Bachman, Gerry West and Robert Zigmund. Independent – Kevin Lyons, Kenny Lynch, Bill Pross and Chris O'Neill.
 - (00:20:57) Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by D. Pancoe to move to forward these eight names to Full Council for appointment to the Fire Commission.
4. Emergency Management Coordination
 - Required to Appoint Emergency Management Coordinator #6. (00:23:48) Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to move to full Council appointing Kevin Lynch as our Interim Emergency Management Coordinator for Jenkintown Borough. Councilor D. Pancoe thanked K. Lynch for all of his work to date.
 - Emergency Management meeting held _____ (not known at time of agenda)
 - These meetings are being held due to the OMICRON variant and frequency of storms.
 - CDC, State and County guidelines are being followed as the Borough has throughout the pandemic.
 - Official description - The Borough Administration along with the Police Department, Fire Companies, Public Works Department, Fire Marshal, Mayor and Council Representatives meet to review the current Borough State of Affairs as it pertains to all Emergency Management and the COVID-19 crisis.
5. COVID 19 Policy Update
 - Policy update / changes given by Fire Marshal Lynch.
 - Policy adoption to full Council
 - (00:39:47) Mgr. Locke said updates to our policy are made upon receiving new updates from the CDC and then passed along to our Labor Attorney. Included with the policy is a form for employees to fill out in the event they are exposed or test positive.
6. Emergency Management Coordinator
 - Due to the retirement of Chief DiValentino, the Borough needs to appoint a new Emergency Management Coordinator.
 - Fire Marshal Kevin Lynch has worked to obtain the certifications required to hold this position.

7. School Zone Extension – Walnut Street

- The PennDOT permit plan has been approved for the extension of the School Zone on Walnut Street from West Avenue to Hillside Avenue.
- The approval of this permit plan was a huge success for this unconventional project and it should improve the safety of pedestrians traveling to and from the school.
- This is the 1st of the 3 phases of the project. The 2nd phase will be to obtain funding for the project and the 3rd phase will follow which is the construction of the proposed project.

8. Police Commission – work group update

- (00:26:53) Councilor K. McGlonn stated this group has been meeting weekly with Chief R. Smeal to work on a timeline and eventually begin the hiring process for a new Chief of Police.

9. Magisterial District Court 38-1-02

- (00:28:52) Vice President C. Soltysiak added this item during the meeting. The location currently in Abington is closing and combining with our Court at 117 Old York Road. She shared several of her concerns. (00:32:03) Councilor K. McGlonn stated she shared a lot of the same concerns. Additional discussion between Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor D. Pancoe and President J. Connors saying more information would be helpful before deciding our stance on the topic.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. York Road Speed Reduction / Safety Plan

- Council has authorized the Borough Traffic Engineer to develop an Engineered plan of York Road.
- The plan will implement approximately five (5) speed reduction / safety features discussed with PennDOT.
- Currently the speed reduction/safety features PennDOT favors are: speed zone reduction signage, larger speed signage, rumble strips at cross walks, street painting and real-time/digital responsive signage.
- The latest version of the plan that has been submitted to PennDOT has been placed in your packets. This plan was also shared with Melissa Hager, owner of the herb/tea shop on Yorkway Place who has worked with other Business owners, the Borough and PennDOT to help bring this plan to fruition.
- The plan has been submitted to PennDOT for approval. Once approved, it will then be used to seek funding sources to implement the public safety measures.
- (00:43:38) Councilor D. Pancoe asked about traffic cameras at York/West and York/Greenwood. Engineer K. Hassan explained despite not meeting PennDot's criteria, we can certainly challenge it.

2. Washington Lane Safety Concerns Raised by Residents

- State Senator Haywood and State Representative Nelson's Office have held meetings with Officials from Penn Dot, Montco and Abington Township and Jenkintown Borough
- Permits to install updated No Truck (except local delivery) signage at York Road and Washington Lane and Reduced Speed Ahead signage at Route 73 crossing over

Township Line Road and entering Washington Lane from Cheltenham Township have been submitted.

- The permits were submitted 10/11/21 and PennDOT has agreed to expedite the approval process so signage can be installed without delay.
- Pavement markings showing the speed limit are under consideration. These 25 MPH pavement markings have been installed on Homestead Road and the specification sheet for them are in this evening's packets.
- The permits have been approved. The NO Trucks and Reduced Speed Limit signage have been installed.

3. 2019 FEMA SAFER Grant

- The Borough Fire Department recruitment website is active, and we have had inquiries from many volunteers.
- There are also support/recruitment yard signs available to residents and the first mailer has been sent to residents as the program continues to be rolled out to assist in the recruitment and retention of the Jenkintown Fire Department Volunteers.
- Recruitment inquiries continue, retention payments have been disbursed, grant authority issued payment to the Borough and consultant was issued payment.

4. Ford Explorer 33K1 – Returning former K9 Vehicle to Service

- The car has been cleaned, rebadged.
- The Borough is having amber lights installed in the lightbar unit.
- Once installed, the vehicle will be utilized for parking and code enforcement.

5. Fire Department Training

- Update will be provided through Fire Commission.
- Both Fire Companies have met and organized the Borough Training Log.
- Further training continues to be discussed at the Fire Commission.

6. 2017 CFA Multimodal Grant – Washington Lane & Greenwood Avenue

No new updates tonight.

- This grant was awarded in conjunction with Abington Township.
- During the January Council meeting, a resolution was approved to complete improvements including the signal pole on the northeast corner to be replaced/relocated and the controller cabinet to be relocated to facilitate the stormwater and trail improvements at this location.
- Due to COVID-19, the Green Light Go funds have been withdrawn from the project which postponed improvements to three of the four corners of the intersection.
- These three (3) corners of that intersection improvement will be addressed when the Green Light Go funding is released.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice President C. Soltysiak adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM.