

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, January 22, 2018

7:15 P.M.

**Police Training Room 4th Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Maria Jones, Councilwoman Vanessa Weinert, Councilwoman Vickye James

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Snellings, Deputy Fire Chief Chet Harvey, Councilman Brent Sheldon

Councilwoman Jones called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting were approved.

Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

No one appeared to speak.

RESOLUTIONS

1. WHEREAS, On January 22, 2002 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200201C03 that effective immediately and until further notice instituted a hiring freeze for the City of Jamestown, and

WHEREAS, On November 20, 2006 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200611B17 to extend the freeze to any change in employment from Part-Time to Full-Time status, and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that within the Jamestown Police Department an effort to effectively manage the city's day-to-day responsibilities in a cost-efficient manner, it is in the City of Jamestown's best interest to lift the hiring freeze for a certain position, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective immediately the Jamestown City Council hereby suspends the hiring freeze instituted by resolution number 200201C03 and resolution number 200611B17 and authorized the filling of the following positions due to the essential nature of the position.

- Two (2) Police Officers in the Jamestown Police Department (One Resignation and one retirement funded in the 2018 General Fund Budget). Note: This item appears on the Finance Committee Agenda

Councilwoman Weinert moved to accept the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman James.

2. RESOLVED, That Deputy Fire Chief Chester Harvey be and he hereby is authorized to attend the New York State Career Fire Chiefs Meeting in Batavia, New York, January 17, 2018, with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Law. Note: This item appears on the Finance Committee Agenda

Councilwoman James moved to accept the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Weinert.

3. Local Law No. 1 of 2018: Local Waterfront Revitalization Consistency Review Law

A Local Law providing a framework for the agencies of the City of Jamestown (City) to incorporate the policies and purposes contained in the City of Jamestown Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) when reviewing applications for actions or direct agency actions located within the waterfront area; and to ensure that such actions and direct actions undertaken by City agencies are consistent with the LWRP policies and purposes.

Councilwoman James moved to accept the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Weinert.

4. Ordinance amending the zoning code to incorporate a new Section 300-402, Waterfront Development Overlay District, and related renumbering consistent with Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Councilwoman Weinert moved to accept the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman James.

Mr. Thomas: Madame Chairwoman, if I may, those last two, the council had approved this local waterfront plan some time ago and the Department of State came back to us that they needed things arrayed in a different format. So, that's why this is returning, broken into these pieces.

Councilwoman Jones: Okay. Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tower Rate Card Request - Williams Garage & Wrecker Service.
- Tower Rate Card Request - TCP Towing
- Tower Rate Card Request - Midnite Towing
- Rate Card Request - Adams Towing Service
- Taxi Rate Card Request - Rainbow Cab of Chautauqua Co.

Ms. James: I have a question. Because Adams doesn't have his tow rate card included, does that make a difference?

Ms. Jones: That would be contingent on if we - have we received the Adams tow rate card?

Mr. Thomas: That is the tow rate card.

Ms. Jones: So, the application is good?

Mr. Thomas: It's complete. We included his application in the packet that went to you, but not the rate card, so I've brought the rate card.

Ms. Jones: So, we've got the application and the rate card so he's good to go.

Councilwoman James moved to accept the rate card requests. Seconded by Councilwoman Weinert.

OLD BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Snellings: I'm giving you two things. It's kind of a 2017 snapshot here with our Part I Index Crimes. It's usually how we look at what crime rates are. These are our numbers as of today that we've gotten from the state. They could change a little bit, but they probably won't. In fact, we actually found something that they left off, but a couple numbers that I'll quickly throw at you. For our Part 1, Violent Crimes; 2017 compared to '16, we're down 10.4% and for our five-year average from '12 to '16, we're down 7.7%. Property crimes from '16 to '17, we're down 17.5% and we're down 22.9% over our five-year average. Of course, 2014 was kind of an anomaly. We had significant property crimes, so that number has skyrocketed if you look at it. Our problem line index total, that's the combination of our violent and our property crimes, 2017 over 2016, we're down 16.4% and our five-year average, we're down 20.6%. Our total index crime rate per thousand; you can see it in two different ways; if you get on the FBI's UCR website, you'll see per 100,000. We do it by 1,000. There are only 31,000 people here so it's more of an accurate number. If you want it to 100,000, just add the decimal point. We're at 33.9%. If you look at our 2016 annual report, which is online, last year was the first year we did it. We took a 25-year snapshot. You can look at the five-year average and then you can look at our crime over 25 years. That's the lowest it's been in the 25-year span. So, despite some of the high-profile incidents that we had last year, our numbers went significantly down. We anticipate our annual report for 2017 probably being done and posted maybe late February. All of that is due by February 2nd and then we'll start finalizing it and putting it all together.

The last piece that I gave you was our 2017 GIVE Briefing. We do a monthly GIVE meeting. This is our 2017 snapshot. Some of the stuff you'll see on our annual report, it breaks it down even further. You've already got a copy of the managed crimes, or calls for service by week, from January to December. Our calls for service for 2017 were actually up about 9%. A lot of that is to increase some of the proactivity. We wrote 1200 more traffic tickets this year than we did with the previous year so we were pretty busy.

The next slide, our crime analyst put these maps together, so you can kind of see where some of these crimes are. I have the maps broken down by ward, so you can see how the wards were affected. If you remember, when I came out with the targeted enforcement details, we had specific wards. We actually have four now. They kind of coincide with some of the hotspots.

The next page, you'll see just the topics and locations. Nothing specific, but the number of times we were there throughout 2017, some of the addresses there. Not what some people believe and again, they vary for reasons why we were there. Obviously, 207 Foote Avenue is WCA. We're there for a lot of reasons; mental health pick-ups, mental health drop offs. It could be for disorderly patients. There is a variety of reasons why we're down there, but we were down there 238 times last year. And then, you can see the rest of the locations.

The next slide is just arrests. We averaged 82 arrests a month throughout the year. Arrests per quarter; our second quarter was the busiest. The page after that, obviously, I whited out the names on your copies for a reason, but if you take a look at it, it's our top ten arrestees for the year. We had ten individuals that account for 15 incidents and 157 charges.

Ms. Weinert: How many of those are domestic violence?

Chief Snellings: I don't know. I can dig in some more. The next page just shows the top ten arrest charges. If you have any questions on what they are, I can tell you what they are. CPCS is possession of a controlled substance. The aggravated family offences, which is down toward the bottom, is relatively a new domestic violence offense, but we do charge that quite a bit. It's an E felony. Again, our top arrest locations, broken down to where a majority of our arrests occurred by address, no names. The next slide, because the way it runs, those numbers are only July through December, so you'll see six confirmed shots fired incidents. There was actually eight for the entire year, but because of the way that GIVE sets those, that's how we have to report it. No homicides due to shooting. The next slide you'll see again, where the drug and weapon arrests were concentrated. Again, if you put an overlay over our target enforcement corridors are, they kind of coincide. Same thing with the assaults in the back.

Project Crossroads, that's our domestic violence unit, for 2017 DIR is a Domestic Incident Report. We generally run about 1200, the previous year is 1249 and you can see the breakdown by month. The next page is for our domestic violence calls and I think you can see a pattern here. It's pretty much - just change the topic. And again, there are domestic violence incidents all over the city, but you see heavy concentration in the targeted area. The last slide is just the information from our target enforcement details. It's actually the target enforcement crime deterrent details. That was from May to December and those are the numbers. They usually run 3 details a week and 97 details for the entire year and you can see the number of arrests, number of traffic stops. We actually did one DOD detail last year during the timeframe and I think off the top of my head, there were 13 citations - don't quote me on that - but I think roughly around 13 citations. I'll let you know when the report comes out, but again, '16 is online, when they did the transfer of the new website, '14 and '15 went away for some reason. We're working with John to get it back up. All the numbers for the previous years are in '16. Any questions on that?

Ms. James: Could you just tell me what GIVE means again?

Chief Snellings: It is Gun Violence Elimination initiative...

Ms. Weinert: Gun Involved Violence Elimination initiative.

Chief Snellings: We're one of 17 sites. Also, you can see our numbers compared to other GIVE sites throughout New York State and a list of populations. And so, you can see comparatively, where we're at with some of the cities.

Ms. Weinert: I have a question on the hotspots. Forgive me, since I'm new, I'll have a lot of questions to begin with. The hotspots, when you do your annual report, could you kind of give a description of – obviously they're targeted because you have high density calls and things along those lines. Has your crime analyst overlaid any other data looking at why those areas are the hotspots? We can talk about superficial things, but especially since you have a crime analyst on staff, he or she should be easily available to overlay some statistical data on those areas to try to get...

Chief Snellings: Some of those sweeps – you look at the maps and they're broken down by specific types of crimes.

Ms. Weinert: Yes, so I think it'd be really interesting to see those hotspots and try to poll some different information into that.

Chief Snellings: What are you looking for specifically?

Ms. Weinert: I think, what is the housing market in that area; we can all see superficially what's going on; income, job status, things along those lines give a bigger sense of – as the Public Safety Committee and I think on City Council – I think about here is the result of these hotspots. What can we do then to better understand these hotspots to try to improve them on that side? That's not saying that you don't do that as well.

Chief Snellings: Sure. That's one reason why we include DOD in our target enforcement. Because housing is an issue. Part of having them with us on some of those details, how we're addressing specific crimes or quality of life issues or whatever the focus is for that day, if we have DOD with us, we can do walkthroughs and we can address some of the housing issues which takes care of some of the dilapidated houses and the housing conditions for the people that live there and put landlords on notice. That's part of our strategy too. We've also incorporated DOD on our drug search warrants because we're inside houses. If they meet that threshold where, and I hate to say this - we kind of triage that decision making and my level of what's acceptable may be different than yours. If there are kids involved, we're automatically charge with endangering and get CPS involved. We try to get those other resources and other entities involved in those situations. So, those kinds of things are in there, but to find the hard data on why certain things happen, that's not something we really monitor and that's more for probably would have to do a study and interview some of these people. Project Crossroads would be a great resource for that. But, anything else I can get you. Just tell me what you want to do.

Ms. Weinert: Is it a full-time crime analyst?

Chief Snellings: Yes. She's on grant. We're very fortunate to have her. She has a PhD, she's a former crime analyst for the FBI, she's got law enforcement experience. She taught the program at Mercyhurst College. So, we're working on upping her salary through the grant so I can keep her. She's been an incredible resource.

Ms. Weinert: What's her name?

Chief Snellings: Dawn Wozneak.

Ms. James: Is there a way that she could come sometime to do a presentation for us on some of the things that she's doing?

Chief Snellings: Whatever you want. Some of the things that she's doing, we can't talk about. If there's something that you want, specifically, let me know.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLVED, That Battalion Chief Andrew Finson and Lieutenant Shawn Shilling be and they hereby are hereby authorized to attend the Fire Department Safety Officers Association's Annual Safety Forum to be held in Scottsdale, Arizona on January 15 - 19, 2018, with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Law.

Reimbursement for flight, lodging and class fees are expected through the Fire Service Organizational Culture of Safety survey made possible through an AFG Grant to Drexel University

Councilwoman James made a motion to accept the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Weinert.

RESOLVED, That Police Sergeant Rob Ward and Police Sergeant Rob Bender be and they hereby are authorized to attend the New York Tactical Training to be held April 24 - 27, 2018 in Verona, New York with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Laws of the State of New York.

Councilwoman James made a motion to accept the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Weinert.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Todd M. Thomas
Director of Administrative Services/City Clerk

