

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, September 11, 2017

7:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Maria Jones, Councilwoman Marie Carrubba, Councilwoman Vickye James

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: City Council President Gregory Rabb, Councilman Brent Sheldon , Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Harry Snellings, Deputy Fire Chief Chester Harvey.

Councilwoman Jones called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting were approved.

Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

No one appeared to speak.

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the New York Local Government Records Law was signed into law by Governor Mario M. Cuomo as Chapter 737 of the laws of 1987 in order to pave the way for the efficient and economical management of local government records in New York State; and

WHEREAS, according to the New York Local Government Records Law the Chief Executive Officer of each local government unit must designate a Records Management Officer subject to the approval of the governing body; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Administrative Services/City Clerk be and he hereby is designated as Records Management Officer for the City of Jamestown to coordinate and oversee the Records Management Program for the City of Jamestown.

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the September 25, 2017 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance amending Chapter 193-6 of the Jamestown City Code relative to remote controlled air devices in the Public Parks.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Emmanuel Baptist Church – Tent Revival (Park Event) – August 26, 2017. Reviewed and Approved via e-mail.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Reg Lenna Center for the Arts – Black Violin Pre-Event Street Party October 20, 2017.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Renaissance Corporation – Market to Table Dinner - - September 14, 2017.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Chanda Germain – Rally to Recover Jamestown – September 23, 2017 (Park Event).

Ms. Jones: There are some issues. There are some real issues here with the park event. It has on there that it's supposed to be - the location is in the park; Allen Park. It has 500 people, it's after dark; some of this proceeding is going on after dark which is - there's no lights. There is a public safety issue here because of the lighting. It says there's 500 people. The parks close at 9:00 and there's a request here for going on until 11:00, or 10:00 or 11:00, which is after the city ordinance for that. That's number two. There's no bathroom facilities and whatnot for 500 people. There was a checked box for no extra police. No additional police be required, additional police officers be required for traffic control. There's no way 500 people are going to park up there and you're not going to need some extra police. This particular one has got public issues, public safety issues here.

Mr. Rabb: Can I say something? I have a lot of the same concerns that the chairperson just outlined. My recommendation, and the committee is free to make up its own mind, I'm not a member; I would recommend that an event of this size for this duration with the potential of this many people doesn't really fit into the bandshell. I would suggest that the sponsors move it to the Allen Park Ice Rink.

Ms. Carrubba: Maria, they want to - you can come up and you can speak to...

Ms. Germain: Chanda Germain, 601 Washington Street, Jamestown. You said the lighting - I had talked to Matt Hanley, I believe, and I told him we could cut it off at 9:00 if we could keep it at the bandshell, but we have a sound and lighting company that is going to provide light for it. We have port-a-potties. We have volunteers that are going to help direct traffic and make sure everything's consolidated. We want to make it safe and I told him that we will contact the police if we need to hire police. Whatever it takes to make it happen.

Ms. Jones: You're going to need to do that. You've got 500 people.

Ms. Germain: That's estimated.

Ms. Madden. Adrian Madden. 3749 Cowing Road, Lakewood. The 500; she had to have to have an estimate and that's what she put down. Even if all of those people did come, it would be over the course of the whole day. It's an in-and-out thing. They're not going to all be there at the same time.

Ms. Jones: You will need to explain that to the police and the fire because they are the ones who have to approve. We have 500 people being in this one area in the parks, so that is part of their approval process. So, we would have to hold getting the approval on this contingent on you making arrangements and making sure that...

Ms. Germain: For the police to be there? Okay.

Ms. Jones: It's a public safety issue really. The fire as well. The Fire Chief as well has to approve these things. And given that the shell like that, I think that if it were in a building, it'd be more contained and more controlled. So, I would recommend that we just hold the approval to this contingent on you getting approval from the fire and police.

Ms. Germain: May I ask what the difference in price is between the Bandshell and the...

Ms. Jones: I don't know. The Parks Department -

Ms. Carrubba: Julia, could you come up? You need to come up because we can't record it.

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: Julia Ciesla-Hanley, Recreation Coordinator, City of Jamestown. The lease of the Allen Park Ice Rink, which is a three-day lease is \$650.00 and requires a \$500.00 security deposit and any other - if there was overtime cost or supplies cost.

Ms. Jones: The security deposit - you get that back? If everything is in order?

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: Yes. They have to actually - if there's any extra cost like the overtime or supplies, they can have that taken out of the security deposit before that's refunded or they can have the security deposit refunded and pay for the supplies and overtime separately. We've done that with other organizations.

Ms. James: Julia, did you say a three-day lease?

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: Yes. The roller derby as an example; their event is on a Saturday, so they have Friday for setup, Sunday for cleanup.

Ms. James: Is there a one-day lease?

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: No, we have an hourly, but it usually works out price-wise to do it as a three-day.

Mr. Sheldon: Julia, can you tell me how many people we've averaged at the Bandshell concerts this year?

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: Our largest crowd was 300.

Ms. Germain: We just don't anticipate that there's going to be that many people all at once.

Ms. Carrubba: The problem isn't not anticipating it. If they actually turn up or more people turn up to a free event, then you've got a problem because you've got a residential neighborhood. You've got people parking illegally. I get calls all the time around the schools from people and the Chief knows as well because I've called him about people getting blocked in driveways and then they're very angry. When it becomes a problem, then it's harder to address and deal with it before it becomes an issue because it's hard to get people in. the Chief can't plan for three or four more officers to come in when now we've got all these cars and people complaining or people needing to be towed.

Ms. Jones: Unless we're prepared for it. If we're prepared for it and they're prepared for it.

Ms. Germain: We asked if they could park up behind Allen Park where the whole – I used to play football on that big field, and there's all of the parking. If we had signs directing and volunteers. At the end of the day, the whole purpose of this event is to help people who are addicted to get treatment. We're running off of donations and I understand, but to be able to rent out the ice arena is impossible because we ran off of Go Fund Me and everything that we have. We've paid for the port-a-potties down there, the sound and lighting; to make sure it's well lit. I took that into consideration. We thought about the people there and wanted to make sure. I tried to do everything the way I was asked.

Ms. Jones: Our responsibility is to the public; to the general public and that's why we go through this process and that's why we do this so everybody is covered. The city has a huge responsibility to make sure citizens are covered and things are done properly. So, your 500 is the problematic issue and you're going to need some support to make that happen. You tell people – it'd be great if they did what you asked them to do and what they're supposed to do, but that seldom happens. You always get those people that are doing their own rules and this process just doesn't allow for that. You'll need approval. You'll need support.

Mr. Rabb: I want to make it clear, I guess I can speak for my councilmembers here; if I can't they'll be happy to tell me. I think we support what you're trying to do; that's not the issue. But, as several of us have mentioned, there are some concerns with doing it in the bandshell; including the fact that the parks are closed at 9:00. And if you look out the window, it gets darker earlier and it might be dark by 7:00 so you need to end it and clean up and to have a lot of bright lights in the park, especially when it's closed, is going to cause problems for the neighbors as well as sound from the music. Personally, I think that a lot of these issues could be resolved if you went in the ice rink. I know there's added expense, but I don't – and I certainly can't speak for the Chief, but I don't – maybe Chief you can address this if you want, but this idea of volunteers up on public streets controlling traffic...

Ms. Jones: What if they don't show up. What if you get ten and only five show up?

Mr. Rabb: When we did the races downtown on Community Day, I was with an officer. I didn't do it alone because that's not what I do, but with him there, I felt very comfortable because he could direct me, but there's an expense.

Chief Snellings: Directing traffic you mean, we are responsible for it.

Mr. Rabb: So, that would potentially require police officers there.

Ms. Germain: Well, we need an idea of what expenses we're looking at and how many officers would be required and what is the cost of that.

Mr. Rabb: I think by the time you start figuring that out, you would be better off going to the ice arena because it's hard to say because we don't know that the traffic throng is going to be; we're estimating.

Chief Snellings: We'd have to start looking at what intersections we're going to be in; how many officers. We use a general overtime rate for an estimate; minimum of two hours. But, if the event is going from 1:00 - 9:00, you need an officer there for eight hours and that's way more than what the ice arena is going to cost you.

Mr. Rabb: I think cost-wise, you're better off with the ice arena, control-wise, you're better off with the ice arena. I think a lot of our concerns; again, I can't speak for everybody here, but I would strongly urge you to do that, but I defer to my councilmembers on the committee.

Ms. Jones: I agree. Again, remind me, what was the cost for them if they go to the arena? What would the total cost be? Additional cost to them?

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: Well, they've already paid the \$80.00 for the bandshell, so that would be applied. It's \$650.00, for the lease. So, it'd be \$570.00, plus the \$500.00 deposit, so that would be...

Mr. Thomas: \$1070.00.

Ms. Germain: The only thing I ask is there any way to waive the deposit? Since we're trying to do this for our community.

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: I can't.

Ms. Jones: It's not just you guys. It's not just this event.

Ms. Ciesla-Hanley: There would still be overtime cost for having a staff person onsite and supplies.

Ms. Jones: I guess I have an issue with waiving it too. It's this event, but every event would probably be helped if we could do that for everybody, but that's why we've got in place. Because it's needed to cover those things and make sure everything gets done properly.

Mr. Rabb: The deposit is there to cover any of your unanticipated costs. The city can't incur any cost from this event.

Ms. Jones: We can't. that's right.

Ms. Germain: We understand that.

Mr. Rabb: that' part of the reason for the deposit. And if we do it for you, then where do we stop with other groups that have equally good things that they want to accomplish?

Ms. Carrubba: I agree with everything you said, Greg and Maria, but I was thinking; have you looked at - and I know it may sound like a steep price, but working with any of the other groups who are doing similar kinds of things with the mental health program?

Ms. Germain: They're actually joining us.

Ms. Carrubba: Okay. Because I'm wondering whether they could co-sponsor the event and then in that case, I know you're talking about Go Fund Me, but they help with sponsoring the activity?

Ms. Germain: We've sent letters out and given letters and flyers out all over town; asking people to sponsor or to help us. And we've had very few responses. It's frustrating to us because it's our community. It's the community for everybody in this town and the problem touches everybody in this town one way or another. And nobody's willing to step up.

Ms. Carrubba: I understand that, but I think when these kinds of things - there are places in Lakewood as well. Jamestown seems to end up being...

Ms. Germain: We've hit Lakewood.

Ms. Carrubba: No, but I mean in terms of an event being held in Lakewood. You've got Hartley Park, there are other venues outside of the city that may not require incurring these costs, but as we pointed out, the city does not have the means to pay for the overtime, the staffing and everything else.

Ms. Jones: As I see it - and I'm going to cut you off - we've got a council meeting.

Ms. James: I would suggest that you go to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and talk to June Diethrick or Lisa..... They have small grants that they give, \$2000.00 that they give to different people. I would suggest that you talk to them so that you could get everything paid for. It's the last Friday of the month, but if you talk to them, they may help you.

Ms. Jones: It's either this or you'll have to work out the accounting.

Ms. Germain: would we need police coverage if we did it at the ice arena?

Ms. Jones: I think not. You're contained. You've got everything in there.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Todd M. Thomas
Director of Administrative Services/City Clerk