

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **Monday, June 1, 2015** **7:00 P.M.** **Police Training Room 4th Floor** **Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Maria Jones, Councilman Brent Sheldon, Councilwoman Marie Carrubba

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief Harry Snellings, Deputy Fire Chief Chet Harvey, Director of Development Vince DeJoy

Chairwoman Jones called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May 11, 2015 meeting were approved.

Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

No one appeared to speak.

RESOLUTIONS

1. WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, is administering the 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, and

WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown and County of Chautauqua are eligible to receive funding under the 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program through a joint application process, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Mayor and Police Chief/Director of Public Safety be and they hereby are authorized and directed to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Chautauqua to receive grant funds to be utilized by the Jamestown Police Department and the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$14,156.00. The Jamestown Police Department will receive \$7,078.00 of these funds. These proceeds will be used by the Jamestown Police Department to fund the purchase

of special holsters and tactical lights for patrol firearms. Note: This item appears on the Finance Committee Agenda.

The members approved the request.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Event Application - (Park Event) Jamestown NOW/Jamestown Renaissance Corporation - The Great Jamestown River Walk Fest - June 28, 2015.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application - Southern Tier Kidney Association - Kidney Walk - June 14, 2015.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application - Jamestown Area Soap Box Derby/City of Jamestown - Soap Box Derby - June 13 - 14, 2015.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application (Park Event) - Debby Holland - Wedding Reception - June 20, 2015.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application - City of Jamestown/Chautauqua Lake Region HACA - World Series of Cars - July 26, 2015.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application - Jamestown Jammers Fireworks

Ms. Jones: I understand there might have been some issues with firework locations. Did we get that cleared up?

Deputy Fire Chief Harvey: Yes we had quite a few conversations. We left it that the first one would be put at the old location with setbacks. Late Thursday we got information from the Department of Labor that even though they're using consumer fireworks, the setbacks have to be approved. I notified the vendor and he got called in

late to do this. He was coming in from Chicago to meet Saturday with him for alternate locations. They cancelled him so I never got to meet the gentleman or discuss anything.

Ms. Carrubba: Did he cancel? The gentleman from Chicago cancelled?

Deputy Fire Chief Harvey: I don't believe so. He was going to give me a call when he was about - we expected to meet at 3:00 Saturday down at the Jammers Stadium. He said he'd give me a call when he knew he was going to arrive. I kind of waited around, waited around, waited around. I drove by and I didn't see anything. I called up here around 4:00 and they said that they called dispatch at 11:00 to say that they were going to cancel the fireworks. The idea was for Shawn Tibbetts and myself to view the new fireworks, if they could have answered some of our concerns, we have the power and the law to shorten the setbacks even though FDA sets them. We never got that demonstration. The location where they want to set them off was on JCC property because it was outside the fence. I talked to Dave Johnson from Building and Grounds. He didn't want to do, he was pretty sure they didn't want to do it and they were somewhat upset because they leave a mess that has to be cleaned up. They weren't interested in the locations and the liability. He's not the final say so I'm not quite sure where it's going to be. If they're still interested, they have to fire one off from the old location and then we can duplicate it.

Ms. Jones: So there's still time if they get ahold of you so we would simply say that it's approval contingent on your approving the location for them. Again, it's up to them whether they really cancel it or not.

Mr. Olson: I'll have Chet review the letter before we send it to them.

The members approved the request with the condition that the Deputy Fire Chief approve the location, etc. prior to the event taking place.

Saint James Parish Festival - July 11-12, 2015

The members approved the request.

Salary Review Commission recommendations discussion.

Mr. Olson: Brent had brought this up last time. I made a small packet of a portion of the information that I had put together. The other recommendations he spoke about last time and just some supplemental information that they were looking at. So this is some of the stuff that was handed out; the cover letter that was sent and then the supplemental information that were handed out to the members.

Ms. Jones: I did get a note from, and I talked with Greg Rabb about this, the salary recommendations anyway, really, he wants the discussion to start off in

the Finance Committee where it belongs so Public Safety is really not the place to start this discussion anyway which I think is a good discussion.

Mr. Olson: Brent brought it up so that's why I wanted to start it here and then he can talk to – that's why it started here.

Mr. Sheldon: The ordinance amendment has gone through Public Safety.

Mr. Olson: The ordinance amendment did start, but once it goes to the finance end of it, then it will hit that side as well.

Ms. Jones: I think it's one of those things where we all should sit down and the Finance Committee should take a look at it, just to look at the data, in my mind and see where we're going with the budget and that ought to be the first discussion that we have and then we all sit down and really kind of nail this out and see what we think should happen with it. This is just the Salary Review Commission information. Thank you, Jim for this background information. That will help. Tony, I'm sure will set up something so that we can all sit down and discuss this. This background information is pretty handy. Did they have any data in here on national averages or anything?

Mr. Olson: No I don't have anything for national averages. I have information regarding New York communities, our history here and things like that.

Ms. Jones: So the Finance Committee has some things to go with.

Ms. Carrubba: He does have a couple in here; Niagara Falls and Olean.

Mr. Olson: Hornell; I spoke to Shawn Hogan. The other things that Brent talked about regarding length of terms and things that would initiate here. If you were going to do that, that would be initiated at Council.

Ms. Jones: Greg wants this information to go to the Finance Committee first and then we'll all get a chance to look at it. In this review, there wasn't any mention of the terms I don't think, was there?

Mr. Olson: No that was brought up – Dick Kimball brought that up in the memo that's attached here, partway through the thing. It's on the second page of the memo that he provided.

Ms. Carrubba: That was attempted a very long time ago when the Mayor's term was two years and the Council was two years and it was separated and they accepted the four year term for the Mayor, but they turned down –

Mr. Olson: They turned the Council down in 1994.

Ms. Carrubba: I know it was a while ago. Lillian Ney and I were both on that committee with a number of people.

Ms. Jones: Is there a recommendation then about the terms being changed?

Mr. Olson: Brent I don't know if you want to mention – you're the one that brought that up.

Mr. Sheldon: Just looking at this, I don't know that we're going to be able to do this. The Charter changes for the Council-At-Large for 2016, I think it's too late to do that because that's going to have to go to almost a permissive referendum.

Mr. Olson: A mandatory referendum. It would have to go on the ballot this fall.

Ms. Jones: In order to make 2016.

Mr. Sheldon: Right, but the people running this year would not be for a four year terms, they would be two year terms.

Mr. Olson: That's correct.

Mr. Sheldon: So it's too late to do that for 2016.

Mr. Olson: Yes if they had done this earlier in the year then you would have been able to.

Mr. Sheldon: We could do it for 2018 for all the Council people.

Ms. Carrubba: It looks like they staggered it for the At Large and the Council.

Mr. Sheldon: I think they're trying to put the At Large and the Mayor both on the same cycle for four years and then two years later, they could do the ward Council people. The time has passed at this point to do this. We would have had to have this on the ballot last year I think to have this take effect in 2016.

Mr. Olson: Correct. You would have to do it next year in order for it to go on for the 2017 election.

Ms. Jones: Is there some thought process around why things need to change or is it something wrong with it, or is this just the conversation or suggestion?

Mr. Olson: Just a suggestion yes.

Mr. Sheldon: I think it's because there have been discussions on the County legislative level too and increasing their term to four years and I think that's ...

Ms. Jones: The last time this went to vote, though, it didn't fly.

Ms. Carrubba: We spent a lot of time on it on the City Charter. Actually it was Dan Bratton was involved. I remember Lillian, myself and we brought the mayor of Olean in at the time, Jimmy Griffin to come in and talk about what they did over there. I think that committee went on for a year or maybe longer and when we proposed it, they bifurcated so that the Mayor was considered separately from the Council and the general consensus of the public was, if we don't like who is representing us, we want two year terms so we can vote them out. That was the opinion. It was the opinion on the radio and it was voted down pretty soundly. I've heard talk that the County is looking at changing it and I don't know if it'll be the same kind of reception as we got with the City, but if you can figure out how much it costs every time they run an election, if there's a significant cost savings, maybe there would be some - if you could get it on the four year for everybody, but that's the only thing that I think would sell the public on the idea of switching to four years, but beyond that, I think the opinion was that we want to have the right to vote people out if we don't like them. There was no question back then about how much it costs to run the elections because I know that they've reduced the number of polling places, they've done a lot of things to try to save some of the costs, but again every time you run the election or a primary it costs the City money.

Ms. Jones: That's true and the candidates too.

Mr. Sheldon: I think some of the arguments for is that it is hard to get candidates, but I think that's a copout too. Let's increase the terms because we can't find qualified candidates and people that want to run.

Ms. Carrubba: That was the issue with the Mayor because they felt they could not get people to run with the idea that it was every two years. It was too much to assume if you expected people to give up a job where they were working to run for mayor and then be done in two years. That was a significant position.

Mr. Sheldon: It gave a bit more continuity too.

Ms. Carrubba: And everybody said it takes at least a year to learn the job. I don't care if it's Mayor, Council, legislature, it takes a while to learn what you're doing and so you don't really get enough of a feel for how to run the government or run the office until you've been in for a year.

Ms. Jones: Public offices are different than private sector. Most of us come from some sort of private sector and that would be pretty seamless, but this whole public thing is very different.

Ms. Carrubba: It's very different. Even from not for profit corporations to the way the City Council runs, it's a very different arena.

Ms. Jones: Yes I think it's a real learning curve.

Ms. Carrubba: It is. It's a learning curve, you're right.

Ms. Jones: What are we going to do with this then? Anything or nothing for now or wait until...

Ms. Carrubba: I concur with you that it's going to be a budget issue given what we've got.

Ms. Jones: Let's go with the salary review to Finance and then see what comes out of that. I'm looking forward to that discussion to see what we can get out of that.

Mr. Olson: You'll bring that up tonight and I'll hand the information out?

Ms. Jones: That'll be great.

Mr. Sheldon: General discussion on the length of terms too.

Mr. Olson: Okay. I'll hand this out to the rest of them.

The members recommended that the recommendations of the Salary Review Commission be forwarded to the Finance Committee for review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk