

# Minutes

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, August 6, 2012**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**Police Training Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Paul Whitford, Councilwoman Maria Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Steve Szwejbka

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Harry Snellings, Matt Hanson

Councilman Whitford called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the July 16, 2012 meeting were approved.

### Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

Wayne "Skip" Dean, 830 Cherry Street stated that his neighborhood (Cherry Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Valley Street) has a concern with cockroaches. We have gone through channels to get it resolved but nothing has been done yet. Steve Szwejbka asked him to attend the meeting. 46 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street is infested with cockroaches. The people have now moved. During the time they started to move it was brought to his attention. On July 17<sup>th</sup> he looked at the house. They were all over the sidewalks, on the poles, streets and at the two houses next door. The DOD was called on July 18<sup>th</sup> and no call was received from them. He called again and explained the problem. No call was received back again. Residents from 10<sup>th</sup> Street called the DOD and reported the problem two days before that, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Calls were made to New York State and Chautauqua County to see what could be done. George Spitale and Steve Szwejbka also were called. Bill Jones came down and met with us. His first statement was there is nothing we can do about this. They can receive a letter and give them two weeks to get rid of the problem. We asked him if he understood how bad the problem was. He said he had seen worse. When a garbage can was moved approximately 30 came from under it. A few days went by and more calls were made. Bill Jones did not like it that the new calls were made. He came to his house and asked why he was calling the councilmen and what was he trying to do. We are only looking for help. This is a bad problem. People cannot use their grills, cannot sit outside without a can of Raid. You have to stand in the street; that is how bad it is. He did not like that and basically said "you people are stupid". The people listening to this basically took it as degrading. He called Steve Szwejbka again and Steve invited him to the meeting. He felt it should be brought into the open. He decided to let the Post-Journal know about it. we have to

find a solution to the problem versus buck the system. Throughout Jamestown there are unfortunate people who do not have a job and can't afford to do anything about this. Some do everything they can to buy to put around their house to take care of this. Others cannot. They are living in their houses and the problem is growing.

Councilman Whitford asked if the house is vacated now.

Mr. Dean stated yes.

Councilman Whitford asked if it was a rental property.

Mr. Dean stated yes. A Dusty Jones who lives in Cassadaga is the owner. Another concern is 44 West 9th Street. It has been vacant for a long time. We believe it was sold in the tax auction. We understand they can't go in there until the deed is complete. The garage is full of junk. We do not know what the house is like but there are roaches there as well. Is this another place for them to grow? I am here for suggestions, ideas, anything you can give to me. Is there a way for the city of come into help?

Councilman Whitford stated that between the DOD and the County Health Department we should be able to resolve this. There is no purpose served to throw barbs at each other. There are always two sides to the story. Somewhere in between lies the truth. We will follow-up on the issue of 46 and we will find out with 44. There are a lot of condemned properties. The DOD with their funding limitation find it hard to demolish properties. It used to cost a minimal amount. The city budget is tight. We could demo 150 units. We have to pick the ones that cause the biggest public safety concerns. We will be in contact with you.

Mr. Dean stated that if the house is torn down will the problem go away? No. Two families are moving and they are taking them with them. A tree is growing and we need to stop it. The city has other areas as well that are a problem.

Councilman Whitford stated he was not aware of other areas this serious.

The members will be updated by the DOD and other staff on the progress of the problem.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Request to hold a Block Party on Ellis Avenue.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena – Amendment to Summer Concert Series, August 3 and 17.

Matt Hanson stated that about 550 people attended. It was nice to have the additional space. We did not have to be concerned with people going outside the boundaries with alcohol. It was contained and proper security was in place.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Love in the Name of Christ – Family Fun-Summers End BBQ.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Friends of Lillian Dickson Park – National Night Out.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Area Soap Box Derby/City of Jamestown – Jamestown Area Soap Box Derby Rally.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Chautauqua Striders – 2012 Daniel Feather Memorial 5K Race.

The members approved the request.

Request to install Children at Play signs on Hallock Street.

The members reviewed a memo from the Department of Public Works regarding the request. It was determined it is a speeding concern at the location. Further enforcement will be completed versus installing signs in the area.

The members accepted the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and no signs will be installed.

Skate Chautauqua

Matt Hanson from the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena requested that parking on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street going toward the Sprague Street Bridge be allowed during Skate Chautauqua on August 17<sup>th</sup> based on the fact that the bridge is currently closed. Parking will be for judges and others who will be attending the event.

He also asked if the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Clinton Street metered lot could be rented out.

Mr. Olson stated it would be \$4.00 per day per meter. Allpro Parking will contact them to let them know.

Mr. Hanson stated that it is a competition versus a show so the crowds are lower.

The members asked that the request be tabled until a review by the departments is completed.

### National Night Out

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Snellings stated National Night Out will be held on Tuesday at five different locations, 25 Pearl Ave, Lillian Dickson Park, East Cowden and Myers, 42 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, and 94 Forest Ave.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. RESOLVED, That Officer Rob Bender be and he hereby is authorized to attend the F.B.I. Basic Sniper/Observer Course to be held in Alden, New York, August 6-10, 2012 with expenses paid with federal seizure funds.

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the August 27, 2012 meeting.

2. RESOLVED, That Lieutenant Greg Wozneak and Police Officer Scott Forster be and they hereby are authorized to attend the Advanced Active Shooters Scenario: Tactics and Operations Course at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, New York, August 28-29, 2012 with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Laws of the State of New York.

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the August 27, 2012 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk