

# Minutes

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 4, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Police Training Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Michael Taylor, Council Member Stephen Szwejbka, Council Member Maria Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Rex Rater

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order and welcomed the JCC students in attendance.

The minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting were approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Morgante, 134 Euclid Ave. asked what happened to the parking meeting scheduled for tonight? When will it be held?

Chairman Taylor stated that the businesses could not attend this evening. The meeting will be held when they can attend. Some of their issues will be discussed this evening.

Mr. Morgante asked if comments could be made then.

Chairman Taylor stated yes.

James Slagle, 110 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street stated that after the council meeting last week, he went up to the Ramp Manager and put his application in for a security position. He has not heard anything back. Captain Swanson told him he might need to take a test if he did security work. It is getting worse up there so something needs to be done.

Councilman Szwejbka stated that before we can say what has to be done, we need to quantify what is going on. We got your perspective last week now we need to have a legitimate body to verify that before we can say what we need.

Mr. Slagle stated that Captain Swanson said more patrols are going through the ramp.

Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Rater stated that was correct. Any terms of being hired are totally separate. There are no openings for that type of work. In a meeting with Rebecca Moore from Allpro Parking and discussed with her the concerns. Additional lighting in the stairwells has been made he believed, incident reports are also filed with him. It amounts to one per month out of 1296 spaces. It is sporadic. Cherry Street has more concerns. Your assistance is appreciated. It is not out of hand. The vandalism that occurred to your car may be a result of your trying to assist with the problem.

Mr. Slagle stated he is concerned about all of the ramps. There is a lot of congestion on West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in front of the hotel. People are using handicapped spaces that do not have tags. People are parking there for longer periods of time.

Chairman Taylor asked if this could be monitored.

Mr. Slagle stated that it is always busy around the Hotel. People need to unload and get out of the space.

Mr. Morgante asked if more load and un-load spaces can be put downtown so trucks would not double park. The whole downtown needs these spaces. They should be ticketed. Handicap Parking should also be free.

Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Rater stated he attended a public meeting last week regarding traffic issues and what works best in the downtown.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ordinance amending Section 5-7 B of the City Code relative to the Youth Services Board of Directors.

Chairman Taylor asked for the reason for the reduction.

Mr. Olson stated she might be having trouble getting people to serve.

The members approved the request and an ordinance will be presented at the February 25, 2008 meeting.

Special Event Application - Downtown Rail Jam.

The members approved the request contingent on the receipt of an insurance certificate and the approvals from the various departments.

Request to hold the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jamestown Area Soap Box Derby.

The members approved the request contingent on the receipt of an insurance certificate.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Downtown Parking Issues

Chairman Taylor stated that businesses asked to meet with the committee but they could not attend this evening. He met with them and some were angry when their names or the names of their employees were in the paper. He understood some have come in and paid.

Mr. Olson stated that some have made payment arrangements with the Judge.

Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Rater stated some have been picked up on warrants.

Chairman Taylor stated some have complained why the City Council passes legislation like they did. He asked what should we do? How fair is it to the people who pay? He stated they said the parking "sucks" so all of the tickets should be dismissed. He encouraged them to come in to discuss their ideas.

Councilman Szwejbka stated some of us may not agree with the government but we still pay our bills.

Joshua Price - asked about the parking on Pine Street. Many of the YMCA employees get tickets because they cannot run out to feed the meter. What can they do?

Mr. Olson stated that he would have maps of the parking meter locations brought up to the YMCA. Other suggestions are the Cherry Street Ramp where hourly parking and coupon books can be purchased and long-term meters on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Joshua Price - this happens everyday so it would be helpful. He also questioned the grade of the parking area.

Mr. Olson stated that the street would be worked on this summer. Questions can be directed to Jeff Lehman.

Councilwoman Jones stated that in the public meeting last week parking issues were and will continue to be discussed.

Chairman Taylor stated that other businesses have expressed concern regarding parking issues. Possibly businesses can purchase spots in the ramps.

Mr. Morgante stated that there are 142 un-metered spaces downtown. Why is it limited to this area only? The meters are also not the same. Handicap parking should not be metered. The City of Jamestown is losing money each year. Why not make the whole downtown un-metered?

Chairman Taylor said we need the parking revenue. There would be a mutiny if meters were put back in. We do not need meters in all of the spots.

Mr. Slagle asked why parking meters are located at the Prendergast Library?

Chairman Taylor stated it is a city parking lot.

Mr. Morgante stated he does not feel that people will come downtown to shop if there are no meters. They fear they will get a ticket.

Chairman Taylor stated he feels the best idea is to re-evaluate the placement of meters in the downtown area.

Mr. Morgante questioned why that would not go to the full council.

Chairman Taylor stated all matters go to the full council.

#### Street Conditions - Various Locations

Mr. Slagle questioned the condition of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Chairman Taylor stated we have discussed this at each meeting. They are both New York State roads. They are responsible for the major maintenance and the City of Jamestown general maintenance. We have been in discussion with our NYS representatives and will go back to them regarding this matter. Regarding the condition of the roadway. County Legislator Hallquist also asked for a listing of all NYS roads so we can determine the condition of all of the roads. A petition is also being considered that can be given to NYS showing how many people are concerned about the roadway.

Councilman Szejbka asked if the NYS representatives could come in and assist us in getting more money to maintain the road.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Viaduct Lighting

Councilman Szwejbka asked if staff could look into the underpass lighting on Winsor and Chandler Street.

Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Rater stated that he has spoken to a representative of the NY/PA Railroad and was referred to a Carl Belke. He will contact him because no one is responding to our questions.

### Street Lighting

Mr. Morgante questioned the type of streetlights that are placed on the streets. He stated the city is dark.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/  
City Clerk