

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, December 15, 2008

6:45 P.M.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater, Deputy Fire Chief Hedlund, Councilman Spitale

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

No one appeared from the public to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Amendment - Billboard

The members agreed that an ordinance amendment be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Ring School Playground

Councilman Szwejbka requested that Mr. Olson contact the school system to make them aware of the situation. The owner adjacent to the playground states that there is a lot amount of noise coming from the area when the weather is nice.

Towing Rate Card Request - Gary's Car Star

The members approved the request.

Street Light Review - Barrett Avenue

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Ordinance establishing the position and setting the salary schedule of Parks Recreation Coordinator.

The members agreed that an ordinance amendment be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Chestnut Street Handicap Parking Space

Councilman Spitale provided a letter from Mary Prinzi, 63 Chestnut Street requesting that a handicap parking space be placed in front of her home.

The members referred the request to the DPW for review.

Curtis Street sidewalk

Councilman Szwejbka requested that a review be undertaken for the placement of sidewalks on the east side of Curtis Street from the top of the hill to the parking lot adjacent to the Physical Education Building. Many kids have to walk in the street in the winter that makes it dangerous for them.

Mr. Olson will contact Jamestown Community College and the DPW regarding the matter.

Parking Ramps

Chairman Taylor questioned if there has been an increase in the amount of break-ins at the Cherry Street Ramp.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater and Mr. Olson stated that they were not aware of any incidents. Mr. Olson will contact Allpro Parking to see if any incidents have been reported.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution establishing the 2009 Council Meeting Dates

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Resolution designating the official newspaper for 2009

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Resolution granting various organizations a Games of Chance License

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Resolution authorizing Battalion Chief Chester Harvey to attend the New York State Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, March 6 - 8, 2009, with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Law. (note: this item appears on the Finance Agenda)

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT" Grant Program in the amount of \$4,500.00 for the period of October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009. (note: this item appears on the Finance Agenda)

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

Resolution authorizing Mayor Samuel Teresi, on behalf of the City of Jamestown Police Department, to apply with The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department to the New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program for a 21st Century Demonstration Project for 2008-2009 program year, to study and pursue the merging of the City of Jamestown Police Department and the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department. (note: this item appears on the Finance Agenda)

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated the application deadline is January 14, 2009 with the maximum amount applied for at \$700,000. There is a total 10% match by Chautauqua County and the City of Jamestown. Discussions have been taking place since August 13, 2007 with the various organizations to discuss a possible merger of the two departments. This grant will allow for a facilitator to lead the discussion, a staffing study, a legal review of the various contracts, an actuarial review for the retirement system review and determining the two models, one that will allow for an immediate change and the second for a long-term change, an lastly assistance from New York State regarding amendments to the different retirement systems. We need answers to questions that cannot be provided in house. It will be better to have the analysis provided by an outside party. The state is very interested in helping us. The major question is can we do it, is it more economical or can we do it better. We would have one contract versus two. Discussions have never gone this far. The grant will allow it.

Chairman Taylor stated that at first he was pessimistic about this but he is hopeful that the outside entity can look at it to move it forward.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated that it speaks well for the city and county to have these discussions.

Councilman Szwejbka stated that he agrees that an outside entity is best to review this. He was disenchanted with the unions fighting at the table so he did not attend any more meetings. Would a true Public Safety Agency be able to be reviewed if the other option did not work out? They truly would become one. The administration, staff and auxiliary would become one. Officers would be cross-trained. This would cut down on the overtime and save money.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated that New York State is looking for efficiencies and any way to save money.

Councilman Szwejbka stated that it would be difficult for this to work. A true Public Safety Agency would be better. The hurdles can be overcome. They are not insurmountable. The unions are the biggest obstacle. It has been done in other areas and it has worked. Kalamazoo Michigan made it work. This is the way public safety services will be delivered in the future. Maybe it will take 10 years to work but it will work better in the future. Members will be cross-trained. This can control the overtime issue.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated the key would be for the unions to negotiate what the future will look like.

Councilman Szwejbka asked where will you save the most money? Are we just shifting the tax burden?

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated we would find that answer out. The state is willing to put up some money to assist in this as well as with the implementation if it works.

Councilman Szwejbka stated that we should look at this idea and he is very willing to help. It actually works and saves money.

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the December 22, 2008 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Cherry Street and West 2nd Street intersection

The members reviewed the memo from Bob Johnston and agreed that a No Standing Here to Corner sign be placed on 2nd Street.

Review of North Main Street and 1st Street intersection

The members reviewed the memo from Bob Johnston and agreed that no change be made.

Review of Royal Avenue and McDaniel Avenue intersection

The members reviewed the memo from Bob Johnston and agreed that no change be made.

Towner Ave. speed limits

The members tabled the matter until Bob Johnston has reviewed the area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk