

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 8, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Police Training Room, Fourth Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brent Sheldon, Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Jeff Russell

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer R. Williams, Chief Jackson, Deputy Fire Chief Matt Coon

Councilman Sheldon called the meeting to order and noted that Councilman Russell was unable to attend the meeting.

Public Comment

Ms. Paterniti: 346 Falconer Street, Melissa Paterniti. I know you have a lot on this agenda, I won't take a long time. But you know, the noise is still loud at 7-11. That was it and just kind of stuff that I talked about with Crystal, I was going to bring up again; that house on the corner of Falconer and you know I mean, it's just, it's scary being in that neighborhood sometimes now.

Councilman Sheldon: Apparently there was an unintended death at 339 Falconer Street last week.

Chief Jackson: A couple weeks ago.

Councilman Sheldon: Two weeks now.

Ms. Paterniti: But the thing is, I left my house yesterday, I drove by and the door was wide open so I called the non-emergency, they said they would send a zone car over and today I left and I see that the door is cracked, it looked like someone busted in the door. I don't know who is living there. I know there is a guy that comes and goes, the black guy that lives in that house or with the girl, I don't know, I don't know who he is, I just know it was a drug overdose and its scary when the garbageman finds a dead person on the porch across the street from your house. I've lived here for 46 years, minus four and that's never happened to me before. When it hits that close to home, it really hits home. But I appreciate everything you guys do, you guys are always there, always answer the phone, always take the complaint.

Chief Jackson: Thank you.

Councilman Sheldon: Anybody else like to address the committee?

Resolutions

Councilman Sheldon: We do have three resolutions; they all appear on the Finance agenda.

1. Resolution authorizing the City Comptroller to make the following amendment to the 2021 General Fund Budget for the purpose of paying the NYS PFRS annual invoice in full, as follows:

INCREASE:	Appropriations	\$185,000.00
	Police & Fire Retirement System	
	A.9015.0800	
INCREASE	Revenues	\$185,000.00
	State Aid Per Capita	
	A.0000.3001	

* This resolution also appears on the Finance agenda.

* The committee agreed to place the resolution on the agenda for the November 29, 2021 voting session.

2. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order #3 to the Ladder 1 Refurbishment Agreement, with Pierce Manufacturing, Inc., 816 Commercial Avenue, Weyauwega, WI 54983 to include changes as follows:

ADD		
Additional Refurbishment Costs		\$7,477.00

Councilman Sheldon: Chief Coon is not here. I believe he was going to be traveling there to take a look at that.

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: They did, to inspect it.

Councilman Sheldon: Oh, ok. Is that where they came up with the additional refurbishment required?

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: That, I'm not sure.

Councilman Sheldon: Ok, it would make sense if they did. Ok. It's not a large amount, but it would be nice to get the ladder truck back.

* This resolution also appears on the Finance agenda.

* The committee agreed to place the resolution on the agenda for the November 29, 2021 voting session.

3. Resolution authorizing the City Comptroller to make the following amendment to the 2021 General Fund Budget for the purpose of funding additional repairs to Ladder 1, as follows:

INCREASE:	Appropriations Fire Department Equipment A.3410.0200	\$7,477.00
DECREASE	Appropriations Contingent Account A.1990.0400	\$7,477.00

Councilman Sheldon: We can check with the Comptroller how much is left in the contingency because we've been spending quite a bit of it this year.

* This resolution also appears on the Finance agenda.

* The committee agreed to place the resolution on the agenda for the November 29, 2021 voting session.

Informational Report

Councilman Sheldon: We do have informational reports on three items, the first is the Special Event for the annual Veterans Day Service that will be held this Thursday, November 11 at the corner of 3rd and Main Street at 11:00 a.m. This was actually approved electronically by the committee members. This is just the annual event and it will take about ten minutes is all, but it's a nice thing that we do for our veterans in our community here.

The next item is a discussion on the Holiday Parade which we do have a representative here from the group that is going to be sponsoring it. I just ask you to identify yourself and your address.

Mr. Smeraldo: Yes sir, Patrick Smeraldo, 5 Westwood Drive, Jamestown, New York, also with the Collaborative Children's Solutions. Submitting the event permit application to you, Jennifer. So, contacted by the mayor some time ago about collaborating to host a parade. We agreed to, met with all the city department heads last week which was great. Putting a plan together because we're in a crunch right now it looks. We're incorporating it

with a program to be done all weekend. I also represent Toys for Tots here in Chautauqua County. There is an event on Friday night at Southern Tier Distillery, we have a craft fair that day out at Fluvanna Community Church and then we come into the city for a fun run at 4:00, starting at Veterans Park, coming down to City Hall. It's a one-mile fun run, Mistletoe Mile. We are collaborating with a company called Trackqua so we are all set with them. Then line up for the parade at 5:00. The parade begins at 6:00 down at Farm Fresh, down on 3rd. Typical Holiday Parade starting with bringing it down 3rd Street. Collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce right now to take applications for the parade and to register; today is the first day it was up and there is already 15 floats or people registered for the parade, working with downtown businesses and that. working with WNN News Now. They have agreed to be the media sponsor and stream the parade and things like that from Tracy Plaza. When we got into this, I went back to 2019 to get the file from Frank at JRC and just following that format we're finalizing the permit for fireworks to be used in the ramp, at the top of the ramp, same company from 2019, Young Explosives in Rochester; they're heavily bonded. The city has worked with them before. He is preparing his paperwork now to get it to me within the next day or so. Within that meeting, with the city leaders, Chief Jackson and Captain Forster and I spoke about street closures, working with them now to get that solidified and met with Dan Stone who was there also and talked about protecting the ramp and did clear today; the question was going to be if was going to be sealed or not and would the fireworks damage it. We're able to use plywood to cover the surface to there will be no damage to the ramp. Then, other than putting some details together within the next week I hope with downtown businesses; I'd like to offer them the chance and meet with them to be open that Saturday evening to be able to do some business in the city before we even talk to vendors about outside vendors coming in. I'm not a big outside of the 14701 on vendors, meaning, I've already had some called from Ashtabula, Ohio about people coming in to do business for \$60 per permit. I'm really not a fan of that, I'd rather have a kids group or a business owner downtown have that opportunity first, so that's what we're trying to work out in the next week or so. I don't think I'm missing anything, other than that, that's what we're going. The same thing, parade at 6:00, ceremonial tree lighting at 8:00, fireworks show to follow and then the Christmas season is upon us. The Holiday season.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: So, is there a budget for this? How are you covering the cost of this?

Mr. Smeraldo: For the fireworks especially, which was awesome, John Felton from Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, there is a conglomerate of five credit unions, they stepped right up to pay for the fireworks. As far as the fund goes, I talked to Crystal about the downtown fund, if possible, for a small amount to bring to cover different costs that we have. The Resource Center and Chautauqua Connections Inc.; it's a member corporation of the Resource Center will come back on as sponsors so we're so new into this, the fee to get into the parade, there is no fee to be able to march, it used to be \$25. We're not charging anybody, but from vendor sales or collaborations with business and things like that we hope to generate the money and with the small downtown funds, it shouldn't be an issue at all. Other than that, when we looked at it, there was some, for example, there was a stage that the

rented in their budget before, there was a stage and they had a band, they had sound. It was pricey compared to having a DJ who doesn't take breaks and he is there from 4:00 until 8:00 at night with his own speakers, things like that.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Does the downtown fund cover officers? It will have officers?

Mr. Smeraldo: No, the city is collaborating on this and all of the department heads that I met with last Tuesday, we all met on the 3rd Floor Conference Room have built this into their budgets, which the only thing I am paying for is the fire crew to stand onsite for the fireworks to make sure we are bonded for that.

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: The Fire Department was the only department that didn't have room left in their overtime budget.

Mr. Smeraldo: We talked about working out, it's literally, since last Tuesday, we have been together for a week. We met with city leaders, everything pretty much is coming together, I would expect from the response today from the online portal and the phone calls I've been fielding from last Tuesday, this a huge event, I don't realize how huge it is, its great. People want to have it and you folks are in the position sometimes that if you want something where you have to play by these rules so we have that going for us. It is what it is. If you want to do it, you have to do it this way. Its going to be the right way too.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: We would need everything like this week so we can bring it to the work session next Monday.

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: We still have to send this to the departments.

Mr. Smeraldo: Yes, absolutely, I'll get a hold of Officer Forster tomorrow. Literally, when I say we're not changing anything, it's, Jennifer already had too the plan that 2019 had closed the streets to the parade route, it's the same route, just pull that map out and use that. The same thing. He, the only question he had to ask me today was who am I collaborating with, and it's the city. When he called me to say, who should be also insured, it's CCS and the city.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Ok.

Mr. Smeraldo: Actually, he came with rave reviews by former JRC people, Zack Agate and Kristie Kathman. They said, if you can get this guy to be the best, he was available, he was awesome and he has been awesome. It looks like we're getting close to a parade.

Councilman Sheldon: Good. I want to thank you and your group and all of your collaborators. It's another step back toward normalcy, I think, in Jamestown.

Mr. Smeraldo: I think when, to be honest with you, I said this before and I'll say this again, last week when we met with the city leaders, I was stunned at the department heads you have. Not stunned but I thought reverse parade, no fireworks, we'll be careful and they were like no, we don't want to do this. I work for the school system and I told the story today, we came out of a meeting last Tuesday with ok, how can we fix it. There were no problems to fix because they were so open. Every department was just awesome.

Councilman Sheldon: It's the biggest parade we have in Jamestown. I personally am not a fan of parades after Labor Day.

Mr. Smeraldo: I'm not a cold weather guy.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: I'll watch it on streaming.

Ms. Paterniti: A lot of times they broadcast parades; people rent out spaces to be warm. One of the things too I was going to say is because there is food as part of Third Street, maybe have vendors on the other side of 3rd street.

Mr. Smeraldo: Absolutely, that was a person, there is a bunch of action going on downtown which is great and that's the reason, hopefully Saturday too, that happened by accident that we did that, but our goal is to create some sort of a vibe downtown for Saturday. I've told business owners, if you want to give me a dinner special, I'll advertise it for you. Maybe come down before the parade to eat, get some business in your doors. That's the goal.

Councilman Sheldon: Good.

Mr. Smeraldo: The city's been awesome too.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Thanks. This sounds like a lot of fun.

Councilman Sheldon: We will review the application at our meeting next week.

Mr. Smeraldo: I'll have the fireworks permit to you hopefully by tomorrow.

Councilman Sheldon: Thank you. The last item is the update on the Police Reform Commission. I'll turn that over to Tamu.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Yes, so it's taken us a little while to get it off the ground. I think we're going to be able to have regular meetings. We decided to meet the first Wednesday of the month from 5:00 to 6:00. We decided to do it via Zoom just because so many people re coming back form work and its starting to get dark and asking people time back

out I just thought it was better to do it via Zoom. It's been a little bit since we did the first meeting, but we had an update from Officer Reinhardt our Community Relations Officer so he has been kind of busy. As part of the collaborative that we wrote together we did talk about a mentoring program and so six or eight kids I think were in the mentoring program, however it's taken a little bit of a hit because of fall sports so we anticipate an uptick to go back to the same number of kids after their fall sports are done. He says it's been going very well. Neighborhood Watch which was something we talked about as we were developing the collaborative, I think people's attitudes and customs are changing. We don't interact with our neighbors as much as we used to, I think. I know on my street, there is a lot of streets that have little Facebook groups that they kind of keep track of each other and so that's been helpful. Some neighborhood watch groups are still going but not too many. I think most of the groups has a little Crossman Street, private Facebook group going on. He did say that the ring app that is, is that a city one, Chief?

Ms. Paterniti:

It's called Neighbors by Ring.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Neighbors by Ring. Ok. Thank you. I'm going to have to talk to you when its time to write my minutes up. There is an app from ring which allows people to, its free, it allows people to kind of access the cameras so its even, so maybe not so much the neighborhood watch but people can kind of see what going on around town. In the are of digital and phones and things like that that might be the way we need to go. Not necessarily get rid of neighborhood watch but add that into it. that's been helpful with people interacting with that. They did do some recruitment, they did a press release, they put some information on the police website. Did you do press release too?

Chief Jackson:

Yes; we got 103 people that took the exam to be a police officer which is the highest in a long time.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Ok. good. So, we talked about on the chief's end they are looking for people who already have the 60 credits and things like that. We were talking about to how begin to get students in the district thinking about law enforcement, so we've invited the security officer person for the Jamestown School District to kind of meet with us at the next meeting to kind of talk about some ideas. Really, how can we leverage or SRO's in the schools because they really, especially in the middle schools, they create really great relationships with kids. We're just looking at other ways to get kids thinking about law enforcement. Missy suggested that we even begin to add some electives at the high school; Intro to Law Enforcement, Intro to Firefighting. We're going to talk about that when it comes to creating the schedule. I think at the high school they've cut so many programs that I think teachers can't offer the electives that they'd like to. Hopefully we can begin to expand those at some time. We really kind of batted around a lot of ideas for recruitment and how to get students and young people involved in law enforcement careers. That's going to kind of be ongoing in tandem with what the police department is doing.

Ms. Paterniti: That Ring app is really good. There was a guy in my neighborhood that was on the Ring app and I got a message at like 4:30 in the morning. That's like really cool. It's called Neighbors By Ring. You can download it as just a person without a Ring camera or you can register your Ring camera and the police can use that. So, they can or you connect to it and pull off of that camera. I thought it was really cool. There is so many. I knew the guy on the camera at 4:30 in the morning. Great.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: The last thing we did mention is that for all the people that participated in the focus group sessions; we didn't have a lot of people who ended up having a lot of people joining the committee, so we are going to try for another rush for that. I'll mention that again when the press is there. We're going to ask Zach to maybe do another press release and I just asked Zach right now to give me the names and emails of people who expressed an interest in the Human Rights Commission that weren't selected so I'm going to go back through some people who expressed an interest in working on one of the commissions and seeing if we can get a few more people. I've also asked everybody on the committee to get one friend to come. Just to expand, not so it's huge, but to expand it to more people. We really want to make sure that this works well and support law enforcement. I did ask Chief Jackson just a couple of days ago, I know one of the big things that we wanted to put into the police collaborative was the diversity and cultural competence training and we told him to go ahead with it and then I just forgot. But he went ahead and did the work and they went to procedural justice training in April of this year so he really got on it right way. It was about understanding police legitimacy and procedural justice and it was really talking to them about the relationship between the community and the police and the role history has played in maybe hindering the legitimacy of those relationships; things that have happened over the past why there are communities that may view law enforcement in a different light. That gave them some understanding about that now. It's kind of like, maybe I'll talk to chief about where do we go from there. They understand why there's some animosity but we have to figure out how to get past that so those are the next conversations well have to have.

Councilman Sheldon: I just have to say one committee is about to appoint you in January as a committee member.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: I think once we get into a groove, its going to be slow because we want to make sure we do it the right way and so its not going to happen overnight but I think we're off to a good start.

Ms. Paterniti: I think it was a good meeting, a lot of info.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. Williams
City Clerk/Treasurer