



CITY OF PARK RIDGE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Mayor's Conference Room

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Approved

- Members Present:** Chairman F. Wsol & Ald. D. Bach, & Ald. J. Allegretti
- Staff Present:** Police Acting Chief T. Swoboda, Fire Chief E. Dubowski, & S. Patras
- Others Present:** Ald. D. Schmidt, J. Johnson, M. Langan, P. Livensparger, M. Covoal, M. Kiemel, A. Cozzin, D. Usher, M. Cohen, T. Morrissey, U. Spatz, K. Grant, D. Grant & P. Chevlin

Chairman F. Wsol called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ald. Bach made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2008 meeting. The motion carried.

II. NON-COMMITTEE ALDERMAN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

III. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

None.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Red Light Camera Study

Acting Chief Swoboda discussed the results of the study on the top ten intersections from Red Speed and Ref Flex. Red Speed conducted their study on five intersections with one approach, and two out of five intersections were not recommended for cameras. A video accompanied their results, and Acting Chief Swoboda has viewed the video and has reservations on some of the alleged violations, believing the violation numbers could be even lower. Of the three intersections that cameras were recommended, only one camera was recommended for each intersection.

Red Flex completed their study of five intersections, with two approaches, and does not recommend any cameras because the data does not indicate enough violations. Questions were asked and answered of the survey, with Acting Chief Swoboda stating that this study reflects certain areas that should be watched closely. Pat Livensparger, a resident, discussed the dangerous crossing at Summit and Touhy. Further discussion ensued, with Ald. Bach suggesting as an action item for the August meeting, the installation of one Red Light Camera at Dee and Oakton, and would like to have Mr. Mike Lebert of Red Speed attend the meeting to answer any questions. The committee members concurred. Ald. Bach added that after some time, the city could possibly have as many as five to seven cameras throughout town. Acting Chief Swoboda noted that Chicago, where the cameras seem to be very successful, has shorter yellow lights. And lastly, Acting Chief Swoboda mentioned he is unsure if the company will come out and install just one or two cameras, with Ald. Bach curious if Red Speed would come out and look at other possible intersections.



VI. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. SPC Shelter Security

Chairman Wsol stated he had asked Acting Chief Swoboda for a copy of a linkage agreement with PADS, with Acting Chief Swoboda explaining that a linkage agreement is a memorandum of understanding as to what the police will do, and what is expected of the people working with PADS; thereby both parties are aware of the expectations of each other. Ald. D. Schmidt would like to see a sample copy of this agreement that other towns may already have in place.

Residents in attendance were asking for an explanation of exactly what the police involvement with PADS would be, i.e. in the event someone is turned away from PADS, and additionally, what type of security would be given throughout the evening. Acting Chief Swoboda explained there are five beats and when there are all night gatherings, or some special event, the beat officer drives by, especially during opening and closing hours. Chairman Wsol directed Acting Chief Swoboda to contact PADS and obtain a draft/sample of the agreement they believe they will be sending to Park Ridge.

Further questions ensued, with Ald. Schmidt advising those in attendance to attend the next Planning & Zoning Committee meeting, and went on to say that PADS should be a co applicant on the linkage agreement which should become part of an ordinance.

A few residents along with Ald. Schmidt mentioned that they had heard that if there is an overflow or people come in the middle of the night to the PADS site and have to be turned away, the police will supply a taxi service to take them to another shelter. Acting Chief Swoboda answered that he has not heard of this, but will follow up. Acting Chief Swoboda believed taking any people to another site would be the responsibility of PADS.

One resident questioned what happens to people not qualified to be admitted to the PADS site, and Acting Chief Swoboda answered this may happen on occasion, but should not be a reoccurring problem. Different scenarios were discussed; with Ald. Allegritti stating that everything should be spelled out in the linkage agreement, and it would be best to wait until that comes out instead of speculating. Ald. Bach added that a copy of the linkage agreement should be presented at the next Public Safety meeting. One resident suggested fingerprints of guests should be supplied; with Acting Chief Swoboda answering he would check with legal on that issue. Chairman Wsol advised everyone to wait with questions/issues until the linkage agreement has been reviewed. Acting Chief Swoboda concluded by stating that after checking with surrounding communities, he has been told there have only been minor issues at PADS sites.

B. After Action Report/Fireworks/Fire

Fire Chief Ed Dubowski distributed the Fireworks After Action Report and noted there were only minor incidents at the event. Chief Dubowski reviewed the report and added that the department attended the fireworks display at the County Club the next day, noting the department receives a check to help defer the costs.

C. After Action Report/Taste of Park Ridge

Fire Chief E. Dubowski stated just over \$7,000 in overtime was spent, with relatively few incidents. Chief Dubowski reviewed the report and concluded by saying the event went off fairly well in terms of the amount of people that attended and problems that could have occurred. At this time, Pat Livensparger applauded the police and fire department for a great job at both events.

D. Fireworks Incident Action Plan

Chief Dubowski mentioned that the police and fire department along with Public Works department had put an Incident Action Plan together. This is approximately a thirty to forty page document, which would help in the event of a major disaster.

E. After Action Report/Fireworks/Police

Acting Chief Swoboda discussed the police after action report, noting the department tries to reallocate manpower for the date to hold off costs. Rosemont auxiliary assisted in the event, and Acting Chief Swoboda believes it was a very successful event.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Ambulance Fee Fuel Surcharge

Chief Dubowski began by informing committee members Ald. Bach had asked him to research this issue, with Ald. Bach giving a brief explanation, stating he believes there is a fuel crisis and is looking for ways to hold costs down.

Chief Dubowski reminded members that the fire department routinely indexes their rate according to published rates by Medicare. This has been the city's policy, and although any amount of money could be charged, Medicare patients will only get reimbursed what Medicare publishes in their rates. Additionally, most insurance companies will only pay what is usual and customary, and the overage would then come out of the citizens' pockets. Ald. Bach voiced his concern because the city is already \$75,000 over budget, and does not know how this will be reconciled for next year. Ald. Allegretti believes some people already think they pay for an ambulance, believing it is part of their tax bill, and is concerned how they would feel having this added increase. Chairman Wsol announced that over the last three years, the city has averaged collecting over \$500,000 a year for ambulance fees alone, and thanked Chief Dubowski for this information, noting he does not believe the committee wants to make any changes. Pat Livensparger does not believe the use of an ambulance should be singled out for an increase in rates. If an increase is necessary, she suggested raising the property tax. Ald. Bach understands, but does not believe everyone would want an increase in taxes.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Police Facility

Chairman F. Wsol announced he would be meeting with Mr. Jim Hock to bring him current with the work that has been done towards building a new police facility and hopes to have some steps in place by August in order to move forward with a plan.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.