



CITY OF PARK RIDGE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Mayor's Conference Room

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Approved

- Members Present:** Chairman F. Wsol & Ald. D. Bach, & Ald. J. Allegretti
- Staff Present:** Police Acting Chief T. Swoboda, Deputy Fire Chief C. Gjelsten, & S. Patras
- Others Present:** Mayor H. Frimark, Ald. D. Schmidt, City Manger J. Hock, L. O'Connor, J. Butler, P. Livensparger, H. Cruz, R. Cruz, B. Christopher, M. Cavalla, S. Kiss, E. Portugal, M. Lebert, & J. Johnson

Chairman F. Wsol called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and introduced the new City Manager, Mr. Jim Hock.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ald. Bach made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 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

A. New Squad Purchase (4)

Acting Chief Swoboda explained the police department was scheduled to replace these four vehicles last year, but delayed the purchase, and believes it is in the best interest of the City to replace them at this time. Additionally, if the city orders these vehicles under the present 2008 state contract, which expires soon, the city will be guaranteed 2008 prices but will be receiving the 2009 vehicles. There being no questions, Ald. Bach made the following motion: **“MOVE THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) NEW 2009 FORD CROWN VICTORIA POLICE INTERCEPTOR 4-DOOR SEDANS, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$88,340.00 FROM MORROW BROTHERS FORD, INC., RR2, BOX 120, GREENFIELD, IL 62044 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DISPOSE OF THE CURRENT VEHICLES BY TRADE-IN, AUCTION, OR OTHER METHOD DETERMINED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY OF PARK RIDGE.”** The motion carried.

B. Red Light Camera Proposal

Chairman Wsol announced the committee members wanted to address the study results, and introduced Mr. Mike Lebert/Red Speed to share his findings. Mr. Lebert explained how Red Speed's study was done, and noted there are no problems at the Busse Hwy. & Oakton intersection or at Dempster & Luther. The study recommends one camera at Oakton & Dee, Summit & Touhy, and Cumberland & Devon, but Mr. Lebert explained that once cameras are installed, driver behavior should change, and is therefore suggesting the city initially install only two cameras. Ald. Allegretti inquired about the warning period; with Mr. Lebert answering typically there is a fifteen to thirty day warning period.

Discussion on the law regarding right turns on red, and the violations going straight through on a red ensued. Mr. Lebert explained how his system allows the person to go online and view their actions.



Additionally, Mr. Lebert discussed the process of viewing the violations (which his company does before sending the information to the police department), noting that an officer would view the pictures before a ticket is actually sent to the individual. Red Speed only charges for those tickets the police department deems enforceable. Mr. Lebert explained cost neutrality is guaranteed by contract. If cameras stop producing numbers sufficient to pay for them, generally the intersection is fairly safe, and Red Speed would suggest moving the camera to another location.

The question was asked if there is any charge during the warning period, and Mr. Lebert answered there is not. Ald. Bach inquired whether or not the warning period could be extended to sixty days, with Mr. Lebert answering he is not aware of the warning period going beyond thirty days, but will research this question. Chairman Wsol inquired about what would happen if after five or six months, the city feels the cameras are not effective, with Mr. Lebert stating contracts are normally for six years and explained the termination clause, noting that if Red Speed is not living up to their part, they would leave after sixty days. If the city wants to terminate without cause, installation costs would have to be reimbursed.

Ald. Bach stated if the city sees a dramatic decline in tickets, then the intersection is considered to be safer. Would Red Speed return and conduct another study on other intersections, asked Ald. Bach? Mr. Lebert stated that a traffic study before cameras are installed and one six months later to check other intersections could be conducted.

The question was asked as to what type of ticket would be issued; with Acting Chief Swoboda answering the citation is a non-moving violation since the ticket is targeting the vehicle and not the driver. If an officer observes the violation it would be considered a moving violation. Discussion on the timing of yellow lights was discussed, and Acting Chief Swoboda answered the timing of yellow lights is regulated by IDOT, and the city would not be changing the timing.

Further discussion ensued, with a question raised as to whether or not stop signs could have cameras, and Mr. Lebert answered he is hoping this, along with cameras at railroad crossings, will come to Illinois through upcoming legislation. One resident inquired about "walk" and "don't walk" count down signs for Park Ridge, with Acting Chief Swoboda answering there are some of these signs in town, and it was noted that this question should be forwarded to the Public Works committee.

The question of whether or not there would be a need for additional manpower was raised, with Acting Chief Swoboda answering the department would have to wait and see about the amount of time & manpower needed to work with this system. Mr. Lebert explained the process, adding that the system is user friendly, staff could be trained in fifteen seconds, and it should only take approximately twenty seconds to review each ticket. Red Speed gets owner information as well for the police department, and sends a laptop for the department's use.

The tickets would probably be handled through the city's adjudication process which is held once a month, noted Acting Chief Swoboda. The question was asked if the cameras could go "live" with Mr. Lebert explaining the two options available through their company.

Chairman Wsol stated there is a possibility we may have to go out for bid on this item. Mr. Lebert informed committee members that typically the threshold for an RFP is \$10,000, and with this system, the city does not have to spend any money. At this time, Acting Chief Swoboda asked if there is technology that records speeds, and Mr. Lebert answered that currently IDOT will not allow this technology. Mr. Lebert went on to explain that the system is cost neutral; you cannot charge by the ticket, charges are for service and equipment only.

Chairman Wsol recapped by stating the committee would like one camera at Oakton & Dee for a trial period and if the city can get a contract written, the motion would be to enter into an agreement with Red Speed of Illinois for one camera at the intersection of Oakton & Dee, with the caveat for

interpretations on right turns, with another caveat that if the city is dissatisfied after six months, the city would be able to terminate the contract. Ald. Bach would like this to be discussed at Council, with Ald. Bach asking Acting Chief Swoboda to check with the city attorney to be sure this is the correct action. This item would return as an Action Item at the September meeting, noted Chairman Wsol.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Police Testing

Acting Chief Swoboda announced police testing took place about two weeks ago, and after the physical and written tests, there are 173 candidates. The department is currently looking to hire three officers.

B. Car Burglars Update

Acting Chief Swoboda gave a brief update on three separate car burglaries, and the cases are ongoing.

C. NNO Event

Acting Chief Swoboda thanked the planning committee that worked the event, commenting on what a great job they did, and with the weather cooperating, Acting Chief Swoboda stated the event was highly successful.

VI. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Linkage Agreement with PADS

Chairman Wsol began by stating he asked Acting Chief Swoboda to obtain a copy of this agreement, and would now like to pass this along to the city attorney for his review, and then to the Planning & Zoning committee. Ald. Allegretti expressed some concern regarding the insurance segment and would like the city attorney to review.

Pat Livensparger believes no agreement should be signed unless there is complete city council approval. Some residents questioned why the city needs this agreement, and would like to know the benefits, with Chairman Wsol answering that these are questions for the city attorney. Pat Livensparger asked whether or not this program will become linked with other PADS programs and would it follow those same procedures. It was mentioned that Planning & Zoning should have the PADS rulebook that explains their policies & procedures. Chairman Wsol informed Acting Chief Swoboda this agreement should be forwarded to the city attorney and the Planning & Zoning committee simultaneously, and once there is an opinion, it should be shared with this committee.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Ambulance Fees

Deputy Fire Chief C. Gjelsten began by stating this item had been researched at the request of Ald. Allegretti. Staff put together the background memo outlining resident and non-resident ambulance fees. Comparisons were made with surrounding communities, and normally charges are based on what is allowable by Medicare, stated Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten.

Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten noted that the city usually charges less than the average fee, but could charge more, but in so doing, could reduce the collection rate. Chairman Wsol noted there could be costs to the individual if there is a deductible or co-pay. Ald. Allegretti suggested making this an action item at the next meeting and to conform with surrounding suburbs. Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten discussed possible fees and monies taken in; noting roughly an additional \$21,915 of income could have been taken in for the first six months of 2008 by raising this fee for non-residents.

Chairman Wsol suggested an action item raising the ambulance fees for non-residents for the September meeting. If, after six months or so this becomes a negative, this could be changed, noted Chairman Wsol.

B. Police Facility

Chairman Wsol began by suggesting the committee spend time tonight evaluating other sites the city has looked into and discuss whether or not the city should buy new property or use what we have, and to adopt a fixed budget. Ald. Bach mentioned he likes the Busse property, with Ald. Allegretti stating

he was always in favor of doing something at the current site if possible. Chairman Wsol reiterated that his suggestion was not to raise this building, but to eliminate and replace Council Chambers. Discussion took place as to whether or not it would be possible to build at the current site, taking into consideration moving the police department, finding a location for prisoners, where would council meetings be held, etc. Ald. Bach does not think the amount of money projected is realistic to do this project at the current location.

Chairman Wsol stated he does not remember this exact plan ever being discussed over the last three years and believes this is possible. Chairman Wsol believes that this would be affordable, will make staff make the toughest decisions on what really needs to be done and what really is a priority. If we buy Busse, for three or four million dollars, we would definitely be over 20 million dollars. We would be over budget and need to raise taxes or cut services, or both, added Chairman Wsol. We own the land at this site, and we tell the architects – *'if you are interested, this is the deal, if you can't deliver or can't deliver a quality product, we don't have to accept them, but at least we get them to come to us and have them tell us they can't do it,'* stated Chairman Wsol.

City Manager J. Hock explained the financial information is not ready at this time, due to the auditors working in the Finance department over the past week. City Mgr. J. Hock was asked if there was a comprehensive plan that states where a new police facility should be located, and there is not. There was just a broad statement noting that public facilities, if at all possible, should be located central to the downtown area. Additionally, Mr. Ray Lee of Sente Rubel was asked if it was possible to build a facility in the current space, with Acting Chief Swoboda referring to a document which included 15 different site options, as well as three different options at the current site.

Discussion ensued as to other options, with Ald. Bach concluding that he could go with option B, building on the current site, as long as we can get the best for our money, with Chairman Wsol adding he believes most residents would agree. Chairman Wsol stated the intention of the evening is to discuss sites, the next meeting - amortization, and afterwards engaging architectural firms.

Ald. Schmidt inquired about Chairman Wsol's memo that addressed the long term needs in terms of spending, with Chairman Wsol stating that the point of the second section of his memorandum, was to have the City Manger evaluate his proposal to adopt a 16.5 million dollar fixed budget, amortize the bond over approximately 22 years, and what that would mean from the city manager's analysis, looking forward to services and potential property tax changes. Ald. Schmidt would like to know the city's long term infrastructure needs, adding he knows the police department is in bad shape, but priorities should be set; possibly postpone building a facility while the city fixes infrastructure.

Further discussion ensued as to site location, the possibility of eminent domain, which would be the last choice, and not one the committee would likely choose, and the possibility of grant money. Chairman Wsol noted that grant money is usually for a limited time only, and almost never for mortar and bricks, but added staff would look into any and all available grants.

Mayor Frimark concluded by thanking Ald. Wsol for moving forward and implores staff to do some soul searching and to consider what options are available. Mayor Frimark mentioned there are some things to be looked into, such as the cost to move the various departments for fifteen to eighteen months and the inconvenience for meetings. Short-term challenges will be many, noted Chairman Wsol, and hopefully the department could house prisoners by working out a reciprocal agreement with neighboring communities.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

-Ald. Bach stated he would like to request the committee, by way of consensus, that the Mayor and City Manager Hock agree to appoint Deputy Fire Chief Craig Gjelsten as Acting Chief upon the impending retirement of Chief Dubowski. Chairman Wsol whole-heartedly supports this, as does Ald. Allegretti, with Ald. Allegretti stating he does not believe it is the position of the committee to tell the city manager whom to appoint. Chairman Wsol added they are not, just that they are very comfortable with Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten filling the position.

-There is a resolution from 2006, noted Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten, which authorizes the city's membership in the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA), and on page 2, refers specifically to Chief Caudill and Chief Dubowski. Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten would like to request the wording changed to the position - "Police Chief" and "Fire Chief," rather than names. Committee members agreed, with Deputy Fire Chief Gjelsten adding this item will be on the city council's agenda.

-City Manager Hock referred to a new LED low profile bar which he has asked purchasing to research. The new LED bars increase the fuel efficiency of the vehicle, and do not have the electrical draw on the vehicle the others have. These are safer and there is a stealth quality as well. As vehicles need to be replaced, City Mgr. Hock would like to purchase these new LED bars instead of the old ones.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.