

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

6:00 P.M., MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair
Council Member Molly Leight, Vice Chair
Council Member Wanda Merschel

MEMBER ABSENT: Council Member Nelson L. Malloy, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and welcomed her new Vice Chair, Council Member Molly Leight.

1. ORDINANCES RENEWING CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF FOUR LIMOUSINE SERVICES AND ONE TAXI SERVICE IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM – *Digitz Limousine, Executive Coach and Travel, Heritage Carriages, Piedmont Executive Transportation, Blue Bird Cab Company.*

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Leight and unanimously carried.

2. ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE OPERATION OF EIGHT LIMOUSINES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM – *Transfer of ownership of Unique Limousines.*

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Leight and unanimously carried.

3. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 78-233 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO TAXI METER RATES – *Remanded to committee by Council on November 21.*

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, stated that concerns regarding average trip price changes and the issue of sealing the cab meters had been addresses as part of the staff report.

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Leight.

The motion carried on a vote of two in favor, none opposed, and one abstaining. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Merschel and Leight, with Council Member Burke abstaining from the vote.

4. BRIEFING ON THE CITY'S WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS – *Emergency Management, Public Works Streets Department, and Duke Power.*

Mr. Turner presented the Public Works staff report and noted that this is the first of several updates to be presented to the Council concerning emergency preparedness.

Council Member Merschel requested a listing identifying the residential collector routes.

Mr. Lee Garrity, Assistant City Manager, mentioned that staff would be reporting back to the Council to discuss spring severe weather preparedness. In response to Council Member Johnson, he stated that staff would be addressing the Committee regarding possible dates for the National Incident Management System (N.I.M.S.) training.

Chair Burke informed Council Member Merschel that the Mayor would be appointing another Council representative for N.I.M.S.

Mr. Melton J. Sadler, Emergency Management Director, presented the Emergency Management staff report. He encouraged the Council and Department Heads to consider obtaining the N.I.M.S. training and noted that there is an introductory course via the Internet or a training session could be scheduled by staff.

Chair Burke requested staff follow-up with scheduling training for members of the Public Safety Committee. She also requested staff educate the public regarding the incidence of differing snow accumulations throughout the City.

Mr. Jimmie Flythe, Duke Power, handed out information regarding Duke Power's protocol for addressing severe winter weather. He introduced Mr. Neil Bowen, Construction and Operations Manager, who is primarily responsible for restoring power to outage areas. Mr. Flythe reviewed his report and noted that Duke Power has a staff meteorologist monitoring the weather around the clock and that information is shared with the City.

Mr. Bowen explained that he is responsible for orchestrating placement of crews and staging is handled from the Fairgrounds. He noted that the City is instrumental in assisting Duke Power by allowing its vehicles to be parked at the Fairgrounds and coordinate a fueling station, in addition to traffic assistance by the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD).

Chair Burke requested that TV-13 videotape the Duke Power operations at the Fairgrounds during the next weather event.

Council Member Merschel suggested that TV-13 also produce a winter weather preparedness program.

In response to Council Member Leight, Mr. Flythe stated that Duke Power communicates mainly via cell phones and is not connected with the Police and Fire radio system.

Council Member Leight stressed the importance of letting our local delegation know the importance of getting all local law enforcement and emergency management officials on the same radio systems to ease communication issues.

Chair Burke requested that TV-13 publicize the City's emergency preparedness plan via the winter weather preparedness programming.

In response to Council Member Merschel, Mr. Sadler stated that he has four other staff members in his office who are prepared for dealing with emergency events.

5. REPORT ON CRIME IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY.

Chair Burke mentioned an incident involving a drowning of a child in a bucket of water and noted the importance of communication with the Hispanic community.

Police Chief Patricia D. Norris reported that more crime is being reported by the Hispanic community and the WSPD has begun translating crime prevention information in Spanish, especially domestic violence information. She noted there had been a peak in domestic violence reporting by Hispanic females. Chief Norris explained that cross-cultural training had been provided to all WSPD sworn and non-sworn personnel, as well as bilingual training for recruits. She stated that there is now a Spanish-speaking Crimestoppers line and the department works with Que Pasa radio on programs for the Hispanic community.

Chair Burke requested geographical demographics relating to Hispanic residents in the City.

Council Member Merschel expressed a concern that Hispanic residents are not being encouraged to learn English.

Chief Norris noted that in order not to jeopardize court cases, the WSPD has to provide an interpreter for victims and suspects. She noted that an information brochure is also provided in English and Spanish.