

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:30 P.M., MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

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*MEMBERS PRESENT:* Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair (out at 5:40 p.m.)  
Council Member Molly Leight, Vice Chair  
Council Member Nelson L. Malloy, Jr.  
Council Member Wanda Merschel

*OTHERS PRESENT:* Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and indicated she would have to leave at 5:45 p.m.

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-122(f) OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMITS ON CITY STREETS – *Cliffdale Drive*.

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

At this time, Mr. Lee Garrity, City Manager, requested consideration of Item 2 be delayed until reporting staff arrives to the meeting.

3. SILK PLANT FOREST UPDATE. [*Continued from September Committee meeting pending changes.*]

Mr. Garrity commented that staff has suggested the need for a citizen review committee and an outside legal consultant, rather than an independent legal review. He further commented that staff requests the citizen committee be chaired by someone with legal experience and that Mr. Derwick Paige, Deputy City Manager, will be coordinating these efforts.

In response to Chair Burke's question, Mr. Garrity stated that the Committee will review the documents and steps taken in the investigation. If any new information is discovered, it will be turned over to the appropriate authorities.

In response the Council Member Leight's inquiry, Mr. Garrity noted that staff will advertise for volunteers for the committee as well as work with the Mayor and Council Members for any suggested members. He further noted that all members of the committee will undergo a thorough criminal background check, and for any members that may travel from outside the area, mileage reimbursement will be provided. Mr. Garrity also noted that once the committee is formed, they will set the schedule for meeting times and dates.

In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Mr. Garrity indicated that staff met with a professor from Wake Forest University Law School who declined being part of the committee due to a potential conflict of interest, but offered the school's assistance with the committee's review. Mr. Paige will make contact with the North Carolina Central University Law School as well.

Chair Burke requested that the chair of the committee be qualified for the scope of the review and City Council should review the appointments before they are final.

Council Member Malloy expressed concern that a five-member committee might be too small and suggested that seven members might be better.

Mr. Garrity stated that the Sykes Review Committee contained seven members and that staff had suggested a five-member committee for this review because it might be easier to coordinate a schedule with fewer members.

Chair Burke commented that if there were any further concerns, that they be shared with Mr. Paige or Mr. Garrity.

Council Member Malloy made a motion to approve the item with the recommendation that the committee be composed of seven members. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Merschel and carried unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR A POLICE FIRING RANGE - *Lots 001B, 001D and 001E of Block 4723 located off Snyder Farm Road and Rolling Hill Drive in the Tobaccoville Area of Northwest Forsyth County.*

*(Chair Burke out at 5:40 p.m.)*

Mr. Garrity stated that staff could brief Council Member Malloy on this item privately as it was previously discussed in the Finance Committee Meeting during a Closed Session.

5. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 42 OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED "MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC". *[Continued from September Committee meeting.]*

Police Chief Patricia D. Norris presented the item and stated that this ordinance will provide more clarity than exists in the current ordinance.

In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Chief Norris stated that permission would need to be given from a property owner for someone to be able to ride their moped or All Terrain Vehicle through their yard.

Council Member Johnson requested that staff substitute the word "pedestrians" with "others" in the last sentence of the additional paragraph in the amendment.

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve the item with suggested changes. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Malloy and carried unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (PSN) COMMITTEE TO FUND A COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPECIALIST POSITION TO HELP COORDINATE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES IN THE CITY.

Mr. Ritchie Brooks, Director, Neighborhood Services, stated that a local committee oversees the Project Safe Neighborhoods organization and that funding is available to hire a Community Resource Specialist (CRS) to coordinate initiatives within the City. He further stated that \$80,000 has been made available to create a grant-funded position for 19 months. The CRS would work with several projects within the City, including re-entry programs, youth initiatives, and the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). He also stated that the CRS would be housed in the Neighborhood Services Department.

In response to Council Member Johnson's question, Mr. Garrity commented that the Youth Council is housed under the Recreation Department, and the CRS would not deal solely with youth.

In response to Council Member Johnson's inquiry, Mr. Brooks stated that after the 19 month period, the grant could be extended to provide further funding for the position.

Council Member Malloy requested that the CRS chosen be bilingual.

Council Member Johnson noted that the criteria should specify use of the Spanish language.

Council Member Malloy expressed concern that the CRS will be responsible for several tasks and that it may be difficult for one individual to undertake.

Mr. Brooks commented that staff members are currently dedicated to most of the tasks listed, but the CRS will help to coordinate these tasks and positions to assist in furthering the goals of various projects.

Council Member Merschel questioned if the position should be better housed in the Police Department. Mr. Brooks stated that although the CRS will work closely with the Police Department and other agencies, the NIP is more closely related to Neighborhood Services.

Council Member Johnson noted that between six and ten agencies are currently involved with the NIP and there is a point person for each.

In response to Council Member Merschel's inquiry, Mr. Garrity commented that the CRS will work with all the agencies to coordinate their efforts. He further commented that the CRS will help with the redevelopment of neighborhoods, and while ex-offenders are a piece of that program, the CRS will not work directly with their assimilation efforts.

Council Member Merschel suggested the CRS work with the Neighbors Against Releasing Chronic Offenders program as they will be involved with maintaining safe neighborhoods.

Mr. Brooks provided a scenario in which the CRS would be beneficial. A neighborhood has two groups working with re-entry efforts and ex-offenders, where these individuals will work on the land, but will also need to have a residence on the property. The two groups cannot find a compromise and the CRS would work with them to consolidate their efforts and find a solution that would please both parties.

Council Member Merschel requested that staff provide periodic updates on the CRS position to the Public Safety and Community Development/Housing/General Government Committees. She also suggested that the job be listed as a temporarily funded position.

Council Member Johnson requested staff limit the scope of work involved with the CRS position and find an emphasis that would best be served by the position.

Mr. Garrity stated that the CRS will have specific projects assigned to them.

Mr. Brooks noted that the deadline for grant application submission is December 1, 2007.

Council Member Malloy noted that the CRS position sounded similar to the Weed & Seed Program and requested clarification.

Mr. Ronnie Abernathy, Assistant Chief of Police, noted that funding has been provided for two new Weed & Seed sites within the community, and that there are similar initiatives occurring in the area. Funding was provided to the Center for Community Safety for Weed & Seed sites in the Lakeside and Rolling Hills Communities.

Mr. Brooks commented that there are overlapping strategies and initiatives within the local community.

Chief Norris commented that the New Hope Initiative (NHI) is being revived in the neighborhood where it previously took place and individuals are being notified that their behavior has been reported, and that it will not be tolerated.

In response to Council Member Merschel's question, Chief Norris explained that the NHI was not an extension of the Weed & Seed program but it will help identify resources for future initiatives.

Council Member Merschel expressed concern that funding for these initiatives may have matured, but the problem areas may not have improved.

Mr. Brooks noted that progress has been made in many of the areas mentioned, including parts of Cleveland Avenue. But, he also noted that many areas are still in need of improvement, such as Jackson Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Garrity commented that the NHI was successful, but law enforcement and resources cannot prohibit new elements from moving in to the area.

Chief Norris noted that law enforcement officials are aware of a new population moving into that area, and a plan is in place for notifying residents of the initiative and continuing education.

Mr. Brooks commented that staff is working with new management at the Lakeside Complex in similar efforts.

Council Member Johnson suggested that staff update their notification process when confronting issues in trouble areas, because previous scare tactics did not work.

Chief Norris stated that staff is working with investigative groups and the State Bureau of Investigation for quick turn around and conviction of chronic offenders.

Council Member Malloy made a motion for approval of the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Merschel and carried unanimously.

In response to Council Member Johnson's question, Mr. Brooks stated that the CRS would work alongside Mrs. Vanessa Smith, Community Service Advisor.

6. REPORT ON MOPED EDUCATION PROGRAM. *[Continued from September Committee Meeting.]*

Chief Norris gave a presentation on the Moped Education Program.

In response to Council Member Merschel's question, Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works stated that it would not be legal for mopeds to park on the sidewalk under this definition. He also stated that two mopeds could park in one space if enough space was provided. He further stated that a moped could be parked on a bike rack if the space was large enough, and dependent upon where the rack was placed.

Council Member Johnson requested staff put pictures of each type of vehicle listed and regulations applicable to them in local recreation centers and schools.

7. REVIEW OF EXHIBITION SHOW PERMIT ORDINANCE. *[Continued from September Committee Meeting.]*

Mr. John Allen, Development Director, reviewed the changes made to the ordinance and the application.

In response to Council Member Merschel's inquiry, Mr. Allen stated that the need for an exhibition show permit is triggered by the closing of a public right-of-way, such as a street or sidewalk.

Council Member Merschel requested that vendors and restaurant owners communicate to properly set up vendor locations.

Council Member Leight requested staff remove the colons after each question mark on the

application.

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

8. REPORT ON *PITCH IN TO PREPARE WARTHOGS BASEBALL GAME*.

Mr. Turner presented a brief overview of the event. He noted that a training exercise will be held Sunday, October 21, at Hanes Mall starting at 4:00 a.m. The event will continue throughout the day and volunteers are needed. Updates will be provided on the event closer to the scheduled date.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

On behalf of Chair Burke, Council Member Malloy mentioned the robbery report that was provided and the overall increase in robberies in the community.

Chief Norris noted that the report was done on a comparative time basis, and that many reported robberies, once investigated, are not official robberies, so the numbers will change. She also noted that staff is seeing an increase in robberies occur among young people and there is no consistent motive.

In response to Council Member Merschel's question, Chief Norris stated that the Violence Reduction Training class will be held Thursday, October 11 and she will provide an update on the number of citizens signed up.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:45 p.m.