

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:30 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair
Council Member Molly Leight, Vice Chair
Council Member Nelson L. Malloy, Jr. (in at 5:37 p.m.)
Council Member Wanda Merschel

OTHERS PRESENT: Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and stated that, without objection, the Committee would now consider the Consent Agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-122 (f) OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMITS - *Meredith Woods Lane, Mae-Len Drive and Newton Street.*
- C-2. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATED TO A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:
 - a. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE 2007 FIRE ACT GRANT'S FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT FOR PURCHASING A FIRE SAFETY HOUSE. [*\$39,419.*]
 - b. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION AND TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

- c. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

C-3. RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF POLICE EVIDENCE STORAGE, TRAINING AND FORENSIC FACILITY - *Davie Construction Company, Inc. - \$4,801,130 (Estimated Amount).*

GENERAL AGENDA

G-1. RESOLUTIONS COMMENDING TIMOTHY CEDRICK BEECHER AND PATRICK VERNARD WILLIS.

Chair Burke expressed her appreciation to Mr. Patrick V. Willis and asked him to share his thoughts on the experience.

Mr. Willis stated that he saw the accident happen and noticed there were young kids in the car, and as a father, he would want someone to stop and help his children if the same thing happened to them.

Chair Burke presented Mr. Willis with a certificate and introduced him to City staff. She asked Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, if the fence would be prepared as she has always felt that it was too short.

Council Member Johnson noted that the accident could not have been prevented by a fence.

Mr. Turner stated that staff is considering a guardrail or other protective device to be placed in that area.

Council Member Malloy in at 5:37 p.m.

Chair Burke recognized Mr. Timothy C. Beecher, commended him for his efforts and asked him to share his thoughts on the accident.

Mr. Beecher stated that there was no time to think, rather just take action and that he was very nervous after the fact.

Chair Burke noted that she was pleased that citizens took action in the situation. She presented Mr. Beecher with a certificate, introduced him to City staff and asked him to introduce his family that was in attendance.

G-2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUMMER 2008 YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

Mrs. Martha Wheelock, Assistant City Manager, stated that staff has a proposed schedule of activities for summer youth programs and continues to solicit information from youth groups. She also stated that staff would like to be proactive rather than reactive to the needs of the youth. She further stated that there has been limited success in soliciting information from local high schools

and staff is now seeking information from middle schools as well as public libraries. Mrs. Wheelock noted that staff is reviewing a variety of venues to stimulate interest but a permanent site may be the best option, and the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center has been chosen as the location. She noted the site is gang-neutral, will hold several hundred youth, and staff will have a variety of options for entertainment at this location. She further noted that events will begin June 6, 2008, focused on middle and high school aged youth, and will be held from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Fridays. Mrs. Wheelock stated that staff will work closely with the Winston-Salem Police Department for security staffing at the location and as the venue is enclosed, it will be a safer, more secure environment for the crowd. She also stated that staff will solidify the schedule of events and continue to solicit input and support for chaperones.

Mr. Ed McNeal, Marketing Director, stated that an advertisement will be placed in Triad Sports Weekly, along with direct mail to specified areas, fliers in recreation centers and information distributed to schools.

Mr. Tim Grant, Recreation and Parks Director, noted that input will be solicited from the Youth Task Force in hopes of drawing individuals to give motivational speeches to youth at the events. In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Grant noted that the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center is located off Akron Drive at Reynolds Boulevard.

Mrs. Wheelock noted that alternative programs at other recreation centers are being considered, but there will be ten events held at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center, beginning in June and ending in August.

In response to Chair Burke's question, Mr. Grant stated that some recreation centers with active youth programs are Reynolds Park, Rupert Bell, Sims, Sedge Garden, Polo, Old Town and Miller Park. He also stated that recreation centers currently close at 6 p.m. on Fridays but youth activities on Friday nights at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center will provide an entertainment outlet. He further stated that staff met with the teen coordinator of the public library and discussed ideas for a gaming room, karaoke, or DJs. In response to Chair Burke's question, Mr. Grant noted that Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center provides 28,000 square feet indoors, along with a computer lab, meeting rooms, game rooms and a softball field.

In response to Council Member Malloy's inquiry, Mr. Grant stated that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center is utilized by summer youth camps.

Council Member Malloy expressed concern that the age range of 12 to 17 year olds may be too broad and may concern parents.

Mrs. Wheelock noted that staff is paying close attention to the type of activities being scheduled for the events and noted that many youth within that age range were coming together already. In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Mrs. Wheelock noted that the initial survey sent to certain schools was not intended to limit the diversity of the group and all local schools have been solicited for information. She also noted that staff will immediately begin formulating a schedule of events and activities.

Council Member Malloy expressed concern that one performing group last year was inappropriate for the age group.

Mr. Lee Garrity, City Manager, stated that there are a set of criteria that all entertainment groups must follow and that specific group was removed from the stage immediately for not following the rules.

Council Member Malloy requested that local youth be allowed to display their talents as well as bringing in entertainment.

In response to Council Member Johnson's question, Mr. Grant stated that youth participating in summer youth programs at recreation centers are taken swimming for free.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mrs. Wheelock noted that last summer's events hosted up to 1400 youth. She also noted as Friday Night Jazz started this past week that there were some citizens looking for the Drop or a similar event for the youth. She further noted that as the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center will only accommodate a certain number of youth, it will be easier to identify those youth coming for a safe and secure time, rather than some who may be coming to cause trouble. In that case, some youth may be turned away.

Council Member Merschel noted that during a recent visit to Mt. Tabor High School, students expressed to her that they disliked the quality of music at the Drop last summer and would like something more age appropriate.

Chair Burke stated that due to heavy security at the Drop, some youth may have felt like they did not have the freedom to interact with the music as they would have liked to.

Mrs. Wheelock noted that with pre-planning, staff will be able to improve the quality and variety of entertainment for youth this summer.

Council Member Johnson requested that staff attend the Minister's Conference held on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, and take fliers advertising the event, and solicit their input for the program.

Chair Burke noted that many churches have youth groups and youth outreach groups, so it would be helpful to solicit any recommendations on entertainment or facilities.

Mrs. Wheelock stated that staff will provide periodic updates and feedback on the program.

G-3. UPDATE REGARDING THE SILK PLANT FOREST CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Mr. Derwick Paige, Deputy City Manager, stated that the Silk Plant Forest Review Committee was scheduled to meet once per month and have had a few additional meetings. He also stated that Lieutenant Joe Ferrelli and Sergeant Chuck Byrum have been selected to serve as investigators for the review. He noted that neither officer had any contact with Calvin Michael Smith or the initial investigation, but Lieutenant Ferrelli was working with Detective Williams when Mr. Smith was

brought in for questioning. He noted that Lieutenant Ferrelli shared based on his perception of Detective Williams bringing in Mr. Smith, he made the statement "He's going down, whether he did it or not," in regards to Mr. Smith. Mr. Paige further noted that staff will provide periodic updates on the status of the review.

Council Member Malloy expressed concern that this was the first time Detective Ferrelli's statement had been exposed.

In response to Chair Burke's question, Mr. Paige stated Lieutenant Ferrelli's comment was an observation of Detective Williams' perception and should have no effect on the outcome of the review.

Mr. Garrity noted that there is a lot of work to be done in the review and Lieutenant Ferrelli is very straight-forward and will ensure that nothing is covered up.

Chair Burke stated that she was glad to have a Police Chief who will make sure that nothing is covered up and wants citizens to be confident in the abilities of the City.

In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Mr. Garrity noted that Detective Ferrelli comment was not brought forward until recently.

In response to Council Member Johnson's question, Mrs. Patricia D. Norris, Chief of Police, stated that typically, officers do not withhold information and are very forthcoming. She also stated that she was unaware of Detective Ferrelli's comment until recently.

Mr. Paige noted that there are measures in place, such as peer reviews, to look at cases and ensure there is sound reason and probable cause for arrest and identifying suspects.

Mr. Garrity stated that hopefully, the peer review will be completed by someone outside the Police Department who is not a part of that culture.

Chair Burke noted that there should be an open door policy so police officers feel free to express themselves without fear of retaliation. She also noted that the City Council will stand up for citizen's participation.

G-4. PRESENTATION BY FORSYTH FUTURES.

Chief Norris stated that Forsyth Futures is a collaborative effort of community agencies to solve critical issues within the community and to focus on results that will be beneficial to all in the community. She stated that there are five initiatives within the program: economic self-sufficiency, lifelong learning, mental and physical health, public safety, and community engagement. She also stated that there are indicators for each of the initiatives to help identify areas of need. She further stated that Forsyth Futures is bringing in partners to help with the effort and periodic updates will be provided to the City Council.

Mr. Garrity noted that the first benchmark report was presented to the Community

Development/Housing/General Government Committee and that critical points are measured to coordinate efforts between all those involved to provide more efficient responses.

Chair Burke noted that citizens cannot become self-sufficient if they are untrained or high school dropouts.

Mr. Garrity noted that those initiatives are very inter-related as Chair Burke pointed out.

Chief Norris noted that within the safety indicators, response time for County law enforcement is not as efficient as City law enforcement, so the goal would be to get both groups to the same or near the same response time.

Chair Burke noted there is a need for additional jobs in the area because those who are unemployed impact the safety of others in the community and once indicators are met, she would like to see those measurements.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

Council Member Johnson requested that staff review initiating curfews within the City as there are many young children on the streets late at night, unsupervised.

Chair Burke questioned who is responsible for these children when their parents are not, where they will be taken and whether or not there is enough manpower to enforce a curfew.

Chief Norris noted that staff reviewed a curfew last year but it would be hard to manage once the curfew hour has passed.

Mr. Garrity noted that staff could bring a report back citing what is being done in regards to curfews in comparable cities.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Council Member Malloy noted that there are enough children on the street that it is worth reviewing.

Chair Burke noted that these children also miss school regularly because they are unsupervised and she also questioned how the effort would be funded.

Council Member Johnson suggested that staff could work with Child Protective Services as well as the Department of Social Services.

Chair Burke suggested the effort be coordinated with the County.

Council Member Merschel requested staff review a sign at the Grand Theatre that states Winston-Salem currently has a curfew.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:29 p.m.