

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

6:00 P.M., MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair (out at 7:25 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
Council Member Dan Besse
Council Member Evelyn A. Terry

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and recognized staff members in attendance, as well as the new Chief of Police, Mr. Scott Cunningham.

Chair Burke stated that, without objection, the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda.

No items were removed for discussion.

Council Member Malloy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Merschel 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 ON CITY STREETS - *Amesbury Road, Zachary's Keep Court, Duke Street, Crafton Street and Weatherwood Court.*
- C-2. ORDINANCE REDUCING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF JB'S TAXI SERVICE FOR THE OPERATION OF 10 TAXICABS IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
- C-3. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *May 12, 2008.*

GENERAL AGENDA

- G-1. RESOLUTION COMMENDING WINSTON-SALEM POLICE CORPORAL MARK ATWOOD.

Chair Burke presented the award to Corporal Mark Atwood and thanked him for his exceptional courage and for going the extra mile to help another. She recognized his family members in attendance.

G-2. REPORT ON REENTRY GUIDELINES AND PERSONNEL POLICIES RELATED TO BACKGROUND CHECKS AND CREDIT REPORTS.

Mrs. Martha Wheelock, Assistant City Manager, stated that staff is considering options for formal re-entry programs in the City's Personnel policy. These options would allow those who have been convicted of non-violent crimes to participate in apprenticeship programs in construction and training areas. The look-back period for certain convictions may be reduced to allow them to transition back to into the community and workforce. She also stated that staff will partner with the Northwest Piedmont Council of Government (NWPCOG) and will also review any previous City employees who failed a reasonable suspicion or random drug test.

Council Member Malloy noted that in November, 2007, Mayor Joines met with various organizations and formed a coalition of people that work with re-entrants. He requested that these entities be involved in formatting the guidelines for re-entry and also requested an updated report on re-entry statistics from Ms. Althea Hairston, NWPCOG.

Council Member Burke requested that staff develop a list of organizations working with re-entrants and that each of these organizations be used as resources.

Mrs. Wheelock noted that she attended a presentation last summer where she spoke with Mr. Reggie McCaskill, Director, NWPCOG, and Mr. Darryl Hunt and all agreed that a resource network will aid in developing these guidelines.

Chair Burke requested that staff include the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce as well as the Black Chamber of Commerce in their discussions.

Council Member Johnson noted that individuals must have been out of the judicial system for one year prior to being employed, and requested that those participating in work release programs be allowed to consider time worked as a part of time served. She also requested that discussion on this item continue within the Public Safety Committee and that it be discussed at the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee as well.

Council Member Terry noted that there are few private sector employers who will hire re-entrants and that the City should set an example for the community. She requested that staff work with non-profit organizations that prepare ex-offenders and re-entrants for the workforce.

Mrs. Wheelock noted that Mrs. Melissa Hasty Taylor, Human Resources Director, is considering this item along with other personnel items. She also noted that staff will bring the item back in August or September for review.

Council Member Malloy requested to know what the City's personnel guidelines are for hiring ex-offenders and re-entrants.

Chair Burke requested that Mrs. Wheelock work with Mr. McCaskill and the Summer Youth Employment Program on developing options for summer youth activities.

In response to Chair Burke's question, Mr. McCaskill noted that there are 185 involved in the Summer Youth Employment Program.

G-3. COMPARISON STUDY OF WINSTON-SALEM'S VEHICLE FOR HIRE ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 78. FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager, stated that staff is reevaluating the City's role in issuing and revoking certificates for public convenience and necessity. He also compared and contrasted the City's ordinance to Greensboro, High Point, Charlotte, and Durham as they are cities of similar size and situation.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Turner stated that there is a cost associated with each certificate awarded, yet there is no limit on the number of certificates a company can have.

Mr. Turner noted that some cities require drug testing prior to a certificate being issued and background information is sent to the State Bureau of Investigation for a cross-check.

In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Mr. Turner stated that companies are not required to own a vehicle because most drivers will contract individually to a company.

In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Mr. Stan Polanis, Department of Transportation Director, stated that each company is required to provide photo identification for each driver rather than the City providing identification and in previous years, a separate photo identification may have been required in addition to a driver's license.

Council Member Malloy requested that staff provide an update on a past issue with an owner that was not willing to provide a photo identification.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Turner stated that he would recommend a revision to the ordinance that would allow for more frequent review by a committee with revocation power at the time a problem occurs, rather than at the end of the year; keeping better records of problems created for the City, such as overdue fees; request direction from the City Council on dress code and consider issuing certificates to the operator rather than the company.

Council Member Johnson requested that staff review four areas: drug testing, dress code, placing licensure over the visor, and inspections beyond the state required inspection.

In response to Council Member Terry's question, Mrs. Angela Carmon, City Attorney noted that there are North Carolina General Statutes regarding taxicabs.

Council Member Terry requested that staff determine the most effective method to evaluate the services of taxicabs and develop a set of standards to apply.

Chair Burke requested that standards be set for the interior appearance and condition of taxicabs.

Council Member Malloy requested to know if there was a publicized complaint process for citizens to alert staff of a complaint.

Mr. Turner noted that the process is not highly publicized but staff will make an effort to convey the information to citizens.

In response to Chair Burke's question, Mr. Turner stated that staff will bring the item back for review in 60 days.

G-4. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED FY 2008-2009 PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET.

Mrs. Ann Jones, Budget and Evaluation Director, presented an overview of the 2008-2009 Public Safety Budget.

- Chair Burke noted that the two store-front locations for police patrol are warranted because crime is present in areas where it did not exist previously and a visible patrol location will help citizens to feel safe.
- Council Member Merschel requested to know costs associated with transforming the mobile police recruiting bus into a mobile neighborhood patrol unit. She also expressed concern that the public safety career ladder, addition of two bike patrol officers and two store-front patrol locations were unfunded.
- Chair Burke requested to know the price of one in-car camera and whether or not there is a market for manufacturers to donate them.
- Council Member Besse requested information on fixed-location cameras and strategies for patrols focused on robberies and break-ins.
- Council Member Terry requested to know the condition of the 41 pursuit vehicles that are in need of replacement and expressed that that request should take priority.
- Council Member Malloy inquired as to the definition of a pursuit vehicle.
- Council Member Leight questioned whether or not the proposed 3% pay increase applied to police and fire.
- Council Member Malloy noted that store-front patrol locations would be beneficial to trouble spots throughout the City.
- Chair Burke requested that the store-front patrol locations work with a mobile unit to more effectively patrol an area.
- Council Member Johnson inquired as to whether or not the sleeping accommodations were equal

in all fire departments and if not, how soon would those renovations be complete. She also noted that physical fitness equipment is necessary to keep firefighters in peak shape so they may perform their job duties.

- Council Member Besse expressed concern with the number of unfunded requests for Public Safety and that the City is 5% below market standard for the salary of Public Safety employees.
- Chair Burke inquired as to why the Fire Department was completing inspections for fire code enforcement as she thought it was a state policy. She noted that citizens may misunderstand the process if fire officials complete an inspection and she also requested that fire officials notify the state when completing these inspections.
- Council Member Merschel inquired if fire officials were still utilizing the large fire trucks on routine inspections.
- Council Member Leight questioned whether or not large fire trucks are sent on medical calls.
- Council Member Malloy requested statistics on the number of calls and severity of calls that are deemed life-saving. He also requested to know how many years the large fire trucks have been used on routine calls. He further requested to know if construction had begun on Fire Station 20 and what green building methods were used.
- Council Member Terry requested that when statistics are compiled that Forsyth County Emergency Medical Services are also included.
- Council Member Merschel noted that staff cannot be considered separate from equipment when the statistics are compiled.
- Chair Burke requested that this discussion continue within the Public Safety Committee once budget review is over.
- Council Member Johnson inquired as to how the list of unfunded requests for Public Safety would be prioritized.
- Council Member Merschel requested to know the recommendations of the Citizen Budget Advisory Council for the unfunded requests. She also requested to know the progress of Fire Station 8 and whether or not conversations had taken place with Wake Forest University. She further requested that Mr. John Gist, Fire Chief schedule a meeting with her and representatives from the University.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Lee Garrity, City Manager, noted that there was no need for a vote as no changes were made to the budget.

In response to Council Member Malloy's question, Mr. Turner noted that residents living near the new police firing range are concerned with the amount of noise that will be generated and staff will provide them with information regarding the possible noise and alternatives to minimize the noise.

Mr. Garrity noted that an open public meeting had been held with neighboring citizens surrounding the firing range to address questions and concerns.

Council Member Johnson noted that there will be no budget workshop on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 p.m.