

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

5:44 P.M., MONDAY, JULY 13, 2009

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

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*MEMBERS PRESENT:* Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair (out at 5:58 p.m.)  
Council Member Molly Leight, Vice Chair  
Council Member Wanda Merschel (in at 6:08 p.m.)

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

*OTHERS PRESENT:* Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson  
Council Member Evelyn A. Terry

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and introduced City staff in attendance.

**G-1. COMMENDATIONS OF MS. DIONNA BARKSDALE AND MS. FRANKIE PATTERSON.**

Fire Chief, Antony R. Farmer explained that early in the morning on May 29, 2009, the Fire Department responded to a fire at an apartment complex and when meeting with management and residents, he noted that Ms. Dionna Barksdale and Ms. Frankie Patterson were mentioned several times as being key in helping to get many of the residents out of their apartments.

Chair Burke presented a commendation to Ms. Patterson and Council Member Leight presented a commendation to Ms. Barksdale.

Chair Burke asked Chief Farmer to ensure Ms. Barksdale and Ms. Patterson are present at the City Council meeting on Monday night to receive formal Resolutions.

On behalf of herself and Ms. Patterson, Ms. Barksdale thanked Chair Burke and the Public Safety Committee for their recognition.

At this time, Chief Farmer introduced his staff members present at the meeting, Assistant Chief Bob Owens, Fire Marshal; Assistant Chief Joseph Carter, Logistics; Assistant Chief Freddie Broome, Operations; and Assistant Chief Steve Williams, Training.

Chair Burke noted that there is no longer a Deputy Fire Chief and she asked Chief Farmer to comment on that matter.

Chief Farmer explained that the Assistant Fire Chiefs all serve as his assistants to back him up in his efforts.

Chair Burke noted that several of the staff members grew up in Winston-Salem and she noted that it is wonderful to see individuals stay in the city in which they were raised and go on to contribute to that city through public service.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEM – GANG COORDINATOR

At this time, Chair Burke recognized Police Chief Scott Cunningham for a special presentation.

Chief Cunningham explained that the process of selecting a Gang Coordinator had recently been completed and Mr. Solomon Quick had been chosen to work with the Winston-Salem Police Department in that capacity. He noted that Mr. Quick will be coordinating efforts with other local agencies to address gang issues.

Mr. Quick thanked Chief Cunningham, Assistant Chief Barry Rountree, and Sergeant Mike Weaver for the opportunity to serve the City. He stated that he looks forward to getting a strong handle on this situation and noted that with the help of everyone, the situation will be turned around and we will be able to provide more positive and productive efforts for the youth of this community.

Chair Burke noted that Mr. Quick is the son of Reverend Quick who was previously the Pastor of Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church. She indicated to Assistant Chief Rountree that now that a Gang Coordinator has been appointed, results will be expected and efforts with the schools should be coordinated as well.

#### G-2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO SHARE FUNDS WITH FORSYTH COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF KERNERSVILLE UNDER THE 2009 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AWARD.

*(Council Member Burke exited the meeting at 5:58 p.m.)*

Chief Cunningham explained that this item is for a second part of the utilization of Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds. The Town of Kernersville will use part of the money for its own needs, but the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department and the Winston-Salem Police Department have agreed to combine their funds and use for the purchase of a tactical rescue vehicle which is an armored vehicle that allows protection and flexibility to move officers into a situation and victims out of a situation in a safe manner. The vehicle would be titled to the City and made available so that anyone in the immediate City and greater County community could have availability of its services and resources if needed.

Vice Chair Leight made a motion and voted to approve the item.

- G-3. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:
- a. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT WITH THE WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AT FOUR SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - b. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION AND TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010.

Chief Cunningham presented a brief overview of the staff report, noting that this action will allow the Police Department to put four officers into two middle schools and two high schools as Resource Officers, which the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System paying the entire cost of the program. He noted that this is a pilot program to gain increased interaction with students and parents, increased knowledge, increased role modeling and provide better services to the citizens.

Council Member Terry inquired if any research had been done on the feasibility of a “metropolitan” public safety enforcement agency for the Winston-Salem area, similar to Charlotte.

Mr. Garrity indicated that staff has studied the Charlotte model and he explained that for years they had separate County Police and County Sheriff’s Departments, but the County and City Police Departments merged in the 1990’s, creating the Charlotte-Mecklenberg Police Department. He noted that they have realized more efficient service levels, a reduction in safety issues and more customer-friendly approach for citizens. He noted that as communities become more urban, it is a more metropolitan approach.

Council Member Terry noted that she feels the City should consider a move in that direction.

*(Council Member Merschel in at 6:08 p.m.)*

Chief Cunningham noted that staff is already reviewing similar services provided by both the Police Department and the Sheriff’s Department that could be coordinated to save time and money, such as booking process at the County Jail Facility, evidence handling, and crime lab services. He noted that joint committees are reviewing these efforts and ways in which to provide better services to the citizens of the city and in the county. Chief Cunningham noted that many communities have moved in that direction due to growth and in many ways there may not be a direct cost savings involved, but cost duplications can be avoided. It also involves a higher level of customer service.

Vice Chair Leight inquired about how School System justified the pay discrepancy between the City's Resource Officers and those from the Sheriff's Department.

Chief Cunningham indicated that it costs more for the Police Officers to deliver the service because of the value of the service in that they already provide services to the schools by way of patrolling the entire perimeter of the schools, a familiarity with the neighborhoods in which the children live, and the ability to handle traffic crashes on or near the school property in a timely and seamless manner.

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

#### G-4. DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS ON SHALIMAR DRIVE.

Council Member Terry indicated that she had requested this item come before the Public Safety Committee for consideration. She explained that Shalimar Drive is a densely populated street with a large hill and blind spots and only one access into the neighborhood. The residents along the street frequently complain about the traffic speeding through the neighborhood. Approximately two weeks ago, there was a near miss when some children were playing ball on a cul-de-sac and a child was nearly hit by a car. Council Member Terry stated that something needs to be done to slow down the traffic and she pointed out that there are no sidewalks in that neighborhood at all.

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager, explained that long-term, a traffic calming device could be installed along Shalimar Drive, and he noted that in the interim, he will work with the community on a short-term solution.

Council Member Johnson asked that staff investigate the feasibility of another access road to the community from the other end of Shalimar Drive on to Salem Lake Road.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Leight indicated that the Committee would now consider the Consent Agenda. No items were pulled for discussion.

Council Member Merschel made a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Leight and was unanimously carried.

#### 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 - *Bretton Street, Dacian Street, and Gyro Drive.*

C-2. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *June 8, 2009.*

ADDITIONAL ITEM – LOADING ZONE PARKING ON FOURTH STREET

Council Member Johnson inquired if an action had been prepared to address the issues with Fourth Street parking for loading zones.

Mr. Garrity stated that one is forthcoming but not today.

Mr. Turner explained that staff has, in the past, said that the City will be accommodating and reasonable in its enforcement of parking codes so that if a truck needs to pull over in a moving lane order to load or unload, that it would be allowed so long as it is not causing traffic congestion problems. He noted that there is a protocol designed to address loading and unloading of trucks on Fourth Street and the particular incident that was reported will have be investigated to see if that procedure was followed.

Vice Chair Leight requested that staff inform the Committee of the incident.

Mr. Turner explained that a complaint was received from a company that it was having difficulty with unreasonable enforcement of parking along Fourth Street. He noted that when Fourth Street was converted to two-way traffic, an allowance was made for businesses on Fourth Street, a loading zone was created in the block between Cherry and Trade Streets on the south side. However, there are some businesses that say they cannot get into that area because of the time of day or if the zone is located. Recently, due to that complaint, we began to allow, through coordination of Parking Enforcement Officers and the Police Department, loading and unloading of commercial vehicles in a moving lane so long as cars can drive around the vehicle without creating a traffic hazard.

Council Member Merschel stated that the property owner who complained about the truck was likely one of her constituents and she was told that the truck that created the hazard may have been parked at an angle, which cut off both the east and west flow, and the truck was a very large, 18-wheel type of truck, and the driver could not be found.

In response to Council Member Johnson's question, Chief Cunningham stated that the City does not have a "no tolerance" policy about the parking issue. He indicated that business owners became concerned that occasionally customers need to park in loading zones to load their purchases and we agreed to let them do that if we are made aware that the situation is taking place. The problem happens when someone parks in that loading zone and the officers are not aware of whether or not the person truly is loading or unloading since the policy was truly created for commercial vehicles.

Council Member Merschel noted that the retail space adjoining this particular business will be complete soon and there will be more truck traffic. She noted, however, that this is a symptom of success and that is a good thing for Fourth Street.

Council Member Merschel thanked City Secretary staff for arranging for the pruning of the vegetation in the park area along the City Hall North Parking Lot, and noted the line of sight is more clear and safer for pedestrians travelling through that area. She also thanked the City Secretary staff for the new binding being used for the City Council Agenda books.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:29 p.m.