



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meets

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the City of Clarksville Public Safety Committee was called to order by Councilman Ron Erb on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was conducted via Zoom Meets.

ATTENDANCE:

The following members responded to roll call and were connected to the meeting. It was noted there was a quorum.

Councilman Ron Erb; Councilman Vondell Richmond; Councilwoman Wanda Smith

Others Participating: Chief of Staff James Halford, Building & Codes Interim Director David Smith, Fire & Rescue Chief Freddie Montgomery, Chief of Police David Crockarell, Internal Auditor Stephanie Fox, Kathy Gray

Absent: Chairman Jeff Henley, Councilman Travis Holleman

APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC MEETING:

In order to comply with the technical aspects of the Governor's Executive Order regarding holding open meetings in a forum other than in the open and in public, the Public Safety Committee determines that meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Councilman Richmond made a motion to approve the electronic meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Erb. The vote for the motion to conduct this meeting by electronic means was approved unanimously by the Committee.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved by the committee after a motion was made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Richmond.

BUILDING & CODES DEPARTMENT REPORT:

David Smith gave a brief overview of the department report. Among his comments, he stated that single-family permit totals are up. He said they have not added any new inspectors since 2018. If the permits continue or increase they will need to add a new employee in the budget.

He said they are catching up with the grass cutting. So far they have cut around 80 different properties. He thanked everyone for supporting on the code adoption from last month.

He stated he would answer any questions.

Councilwoman Smith asked how many commercial permits were given out this year. Councilman Erb said it was 47 million worth of improvements. Councilwoman Smith asked David Smith, how we relinquish on them not paying for grass cutting. He said that we bill them and put a lien on their property taxes. Then they will pay when taxes are due. He said Lauri Matta in Finance could probably answer better to that question. Councilwoman Smith asked the cost of cutting the yard. David Smith said it depends on the size of the yard along with how many hours spent cutting. He stated the majority of liens are around one hundred and fifty dollars. David Smith said he will follow up with Lauri in Finance on the process and give the information to Councilwoman Smith.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Crockarell presented the monthly report and asked for questions.

He stated that the District 3 precinct is moving along. He talked about the progress of the construction for the building.

He said CPD sent about 19 officers to help in the search for the little boy in Joelton. He stated they did locate the little boy. CPD played a vital role in the search for him. He said in these types of instances surrounding counties need help that CPD can provide. He said the Sheriff called and requested assistance and in about twelve hours we were able to help. Councilwoman Smith thanked Chief Crockarell for the hard work in helping find the child.

Chief Crockarell said they have hired seven more officers. They are waiting on background checks and should have them sworn in by next month. He said the Donelson Academy may be full so we might send them to Walter State in east Tennessee. He said we might not get these officers in the Academy until late January. He said this does not get us in the federal government grant for nine officers yet. He said we can start that grant program when we get past the allocation which was 312 at the time the grant was approved. He stated a few officer have left and he terminated one.

He said hiring seven will put us back at 310. He said we probably won't hire from the grant until March. He stated due to Covid-19, applications are down but they are doing ok. He stated he passed on hiring a female due to the interview.

He said no African Americans applied but we did hire a bilingual officer and Pacific Islander from Hawaii. He said not as diverse as he liked it to have been but they had a good year otherwise for diversity. He said this will be the last hiring group this year.

Chief Crockarell said they will step up patrol around the Mall & Wilma Rudolph area and also Walmart Fort Campbell Blvd & Quin Lane during the holidays coming up.

He stated he would answer any questions.

Councilman Erb said there were over a thousand attempts to serve warrants on the report. He asked Chief Crockarell what is the percentage on what you actually serve. Chief Crockarell said a good portion of them are unsuccessful but we take a lot of on view warrants like a DUI. He stated for one person it may take several attempts. Councilwoman Smith asked if the warrants are non criminal or drug warrants. Chief Crockarell said these are all criminal warrants. Councilwoman Smith thanked Chief Crockarell.

Councilman Richmond said as a part of this year's Leadership Clarksville Class, Chief Crockarell and the department did an outstanding demonstration. He said he was so thoroughly proud as a Public Safety Committee Member and Member of City Council. He said Leadership of Clarksville had a Public Safety Day at Wilma Rudolph Event Center. He said we have amazing men and women on the force. He said this also involved the county. He thanked Chief Crockarell for representing the City of Clarksville very well. Chief Crockarell said traditionally that and the CPA program are the two most important outreach programs to get involved in the community. Councilman Richmond said the only thing he would add is to share with the community on this event. He said we could address the concerns of the community and continue to train and hire more high caliber of officers. Chief Crockarell said it is always good for Council Members with the Public Safety Committee to be there.

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMEN REPORT:

Chief Montgomery said there was an updated report given to replace the original one sent. He gave a review of the monthly reports and ask were there any question's. He said the Training Division Successfully passed the monthly audit. He said thirty three classes were hosted and two were State Certification Events. He said a total of ninety seven attendees and three hundred seventy three hours total of training. Chief Montgomery said the ground breaking on the new maintenance building started. He said it should be about a six month build time. He said there were no big changes to report. He said we have received a few things in from our grants.

Councilwoman Smith had a concern to address with Chief Montgomery. She received a complete regarding one of the inspectors from Fire Prevention. She said the inspector was very disrespectful to the business owner. She said she instructed the person to call either Chief Montgomery or Mayor Pitts. Chief Montgomery said he had not received a call but asked for her to encourage the business owner to reach him. Councilwoman Smith thanked Chief Montgomery for taking care of that and for his reports.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

1. RESOLUTION 36-2020-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE AND AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY FOR POLICE SERVICES
2. RESOLUTION 35-2020-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE AND TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO THE MOBILE IDENTIFICATION DEVICE POLICY

Chief Crockarell stated there were two items on the list. He said one is the Mutual Aid Agreement between Austin Peay campus Police and CPD. He said this has basically come up again because he replaced Chief Ansley. He said that the signatures need to be updated. He said this is so they can help each other if needed. There were no questions. A motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Wanda Smith, seconded by Councilman Richmond, Approved by all and passed. It will now go to City Council.

Chief Crockarell stated the next one was a budget item purchase an in the field finger print identification. He said this can be used to identify someone during a search warrant or a deceased person. He said it is a mobile device they can take in the field and it will run through the AFIS system with the TBI to check a finger print. He said if there is a hit on the finger print the person can be identified. He said it was being purchased exclusively for the homicide division. Chief Crockarell asked were there any questions. Councilwoman Smith asked if the device would be used only for homicides or would they also use it for regular deaths. Chief Crockarell said they would use it for that but there were some legality's around that. He said for some instances there might be a search warrant required or consent from someone that is alive. He said for someone alive they can consent to run their print but for someone deceased there would be legality's around that. He said they could use it for anything if the person gives consent. He said if they will not give consent then a search warrant will need to be retrieved. He said it's a good opportunity to expedite things faster. Councilwoman Smith asked if a citizens was pulled over would it be used on them. Chief Crockarell said it wouldn't be used every time someone was pulled over. He said this is something that the homicide division will use. He said with overdoses and homeless on the rise the device will help to identify people so families can be notified quickly. He said this device could help assist in identifying someone in the first forty eight hours. Councilwoman Smith asked was the device mainly for homicides and not to be used as traffic stops. Chief Crockarell said it is an investigagating tool not for just regular traffic stops. Councilman Erb asked how many devices were going to be purchased. Chief Crockarell said we will be purchasing one. He said maybe there may be a need for two but for now only one would be purchased. Councilwoman Smith asked the cost of the device. Chief Crockarell was unsure of the cost but thought it might be under two thousand. He said he could look it up and email it to Councilwoman Smith. .

Councilwoman Smith asked if there would be a policy put in place for the device. Chief Crockarell said at this time there will be no policy but they would work around the legalities for it. He said it will only be checked out by a few members of the department. He said it will be monitored on how it is used. Councilwoman Smith said she was concerned about a lot of law suits coming in for using the device. There were no further questions. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Richmond, seconded by Councilman Erb. Councilwoman Smith was undecided. Approved by two Committee Members and passed. It will now go before the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ron Erb asked for any public comments. There were none and he adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by:
Gina Johnson
Clarksville Fire Rescue Department

Adopted: January 20, 2021