



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES**

November 30, 2020
Via Zoom Meets

Attending: Councilman Jeff Henley, Chairman; Councilman Ron Erb, Councilman Vondell Richmand and Councilman Travis Hollman

Absent: Councilwomen Wanda Smith

Others Participating: Mayor Joe Pitts, Building & Codes Director David Smith, Police Chief David Crockarell, Fire Chief Freddie Montgomery, City Attorney Lance Baker, HR Director Will Wyatt, Health and Safety Manager Wes Golden, Internal Audit Director Stephanie Fox, Gina Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Henley and it was noted there was a quorum present.

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

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:

- 1) **Ordinance 49-2020-21** Amending the Official Code pertaining to authority of City Security Officers Will Wyatt/Wes Golden

- Wes Golden, Health and Safety Manager, presented the committee with a copy of the Authority of Security Officers ordinance for the members and department heads to review. Mr. Golden stated this ordinance authorizes City Security Officers to issue citations for violations on City Property. He said the Security Officer are already doing the work. He said the Security Officers are doing health and safety inspections on 355 structures. Mr. Golden said they would be working with the Clarksville Police Department to insure they work together on this issue. He said once this Ordinance is approved they will be writing a policy on how and when to write a citation. He gave examples of what the citations include. Mr. Golden asked were there any questions. Councilman Erb asked Mr. Golden if the policy was being written after approval from City Council. Mr. Golden replied yes. Councilman Erb stated the importance of the jurisdiction should be precise of the Security Officer and CPD. Mr. Golden said yes sir. He stated they will also be working in conjunction with the court system and police department in developing the policy and training. Councilman Erb asked if the Security Officers will maintain insurance or will the city have to provide in covering them in an incident like the city police carry. City Attorney Lance Baker said this was not discussed or looked at on drafting this ordinance. He said Heather Fleming will have more knowledge of that. Mr. Baker said any City employee include the security officers can purchase personal liability insurance themselves. He stated the City has an umbrella policy that would cover the City for any incidents. He said the Security Officer would have the same protections as CPD under the Government Tort Liability Act and the Umbrella Act would kick in once the reserve is met. Councilman Erb said he was looking out to protect the Security Officers and didn't want them in a situation outside of their training. Mr. Baker said City Police Officers get sued fairly regularly, this does not mean the lawsuit has merit. He said when this happens there is a specific state statute that allows cities to both defend and indemnify there employees. He stated that defend means the city will provide expense for a lawyer. He said typically when it involves police or any city employees they want us to represent them because we deal with government issues all the time. He said they do have the option of hiring their own lawyer or ask to have a lawyer of their own and have the city to pay for it as long as it is reasonable. He said if a judgement is rendered against them the city will pay for it even if they are sued at a personal or individual capacity. He said we don't the employees second guessing their selves when they are on the job making split second decisions. He said the security officers work for the city so they will have the same protections as CPD. Councilman Erb stated his concern about the training for the security officer on knowing certain policy's when they would need to call for CPD for certain situations. Mr. Golden said the procedures and training already exist for the security officers. He said all the officers go through that type of training and are licensed through the State of Tennessee. He said part of that training covers the specific training and laws on what they can do. Councilman Erb said that was good as long as the employee and city was covered. Councilman Henley stated the Executive Session may want Chief Crockarell's input on this. Councilman Henley asked Mr. Golden if everything was ran by Chief Crockarell and was he ok with it. Mr. Golden stated yes he was and added they wanted to get on the same radio system as CPD.

Chief Crockarell said it is a unique approach but our growth and demand of the city parks and this will be supportive of what we do on a daily bases. Chief Crockarell said Mr. Golden and his staff of security have helped a lot already. Chief Crockarell said this is something we can grow it to. He said that last week they discussed to get them on the same radio system. He thinks they resolved that. Chief Crockarell said with respect for Councilman Erb's concerns, if they need back up then they will receive it. He said they want to make sure the security officer have access to the radio system. Chief Crockarell Said they will be working together. He said with training they will know when to call on CPD for help in a situation. He said it is a good program to grow with but it is in its new infancy. He said based on the ordinances that are being looked at to be enforced and the training they have already received plus working together as a team to make sure they have calms to remain safe. Chief Crockarell asked were there any more questions. Councilman Travis asked about the law regarding alcohol at city parks if it was the same as State parks. Mr. Golden said there are ordinances in place regrading no alcohol in city parks. He said there are special events and the gold course that would allow it. Mr. Baker said there is a City Code in place that covers alcohol can or can't be done in City Parks.

- After the general discussion, a motion to send this ordinance to the full City Council with a recommendation of approval was made by Councilman Erb; 2nd by Councilman Travis. The vote for the motion was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Richmond, seconded by Councilman Travis, and approved by all at 4:20 pm

Submitted by Gina Johnson

Adopted: January 20, 2021