



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

Attending

Committee Members: Councilman Jeff Henley, Chairman; Councilman Travis Holleman; Councilman Vondell Richmond; Councilwoman Wanda Smith

Absent: Councilman Erb

Others Present: Mayor Joe Pitts, Fire & Rescue Chief Freddie Montgomery, Police Chief Alonzo Ansley, Police Deputy Chief David Crockarell, Building & Codes Interim Director David Smith, Planning Commission Director Jeff Tyndall, Transportation Planning Director Stan Williams, Councilwoman Stacy Streetman, Richard Stevens, Kathy Gray

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

Minutes from the December 18, 2019 meeting were approved by the committee after a motion was made by Councilman Holleman and seconded by Councilwoman Smith.

BUILDING & CODES:

~Mr. Smith stated that he would answer any questions regarding the monthly reports.

- He noted that 2019 commercial permits were down, as compared to 2017 and 2018. However, multi-family and single family permits were very high in 2019, compared to 2017 and 2018. Revenues generated were consistent in 2017 and 2018 at 1.9 million, and are showing an increase so far this year.
- He stated that Councilman Erb had relayed a concern from a constituent regarding lack of self-initiated complaints in Ward 3. The report identifies both citizen complaints and self-initiated complaints which are about equal in number. Approximately one third are in Ward 3.
- Chairman Henley asked why commercial permits were down and Mr. Smith said they were down, but sometimes the scale of the projects can skew the total number.
- Chairman Henley asked about rules on placement of campaign signs. Mr. Smith said the former RPC Director had started looking into this with the Legal Department before he left, but no changes got completed. 4 x 4 signs are permitted with no fee, but anything larger requires a permit fee of \$25 per location. Councilwoman Smith said she feels that since the candidate and the property owner both pay taxes, that this is a duplication and is unfair. Mr. Smith said the current law must be complied with by the Codes Dept. He stated that they have to monitor the signs to make sure candidates are in compliance, which is very time consuming.
- Councilwoman Smith asked how many codes enforcement officers they currently have and Mr. Smith said six, down one from seven.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

~Chief Ansley presented monthly reports and asked for questions.
He introduced Deputy Chief David Crockarell.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

~Chief Montgomery gave a review of the monthly reports and asked for questions.

- He stated that during 2019 they made 14,649 runs, conducted over 2,500 commercial fire inspections, and their fire fighters received over 37,000 total training hours. During December, they conducted 165 runs, issued 7 commercial burn permits, installed 60 smoke detectors, attended five public education events, reviewed 17 plans, and conducted 11 investigations. They are short five staff members and will add four more by March with retirements coming up. Promotions for all ranks are underway. They will be educating the public in the next few days about burn permit procedures and will give out the phone number to call for information.
- Mentioned issues with roof leaks at Station 1 and with gas issues at Station 6 stemming from the construction of the building. David Smith stated that it is not an emergency, but repairs are underway.
- He introduced Gina Johnson, who was recently selected to replace Susan Harris when she retired.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Ordinance 49-2019-20: An Ordinance to amend the City Code pertaining to a prohibition on electric motorized bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. (Councilman Holleman)

Councilman Holleman asked for the committee's thoughts on amending this Ordinance, as to whether we should ban or regulate scooters. Mayor Pitts said he has concerns about scooters on narrow streets and sidewalks, but feels they may be a good alternative source of transportation, especially when the convention center is completed. He is leaning toward banning them. Mr. Tyndall said they might be positive as a link between downtown and APSU. Nashville and Memphis partner with multiple companies and it might be best to partner with only one company. He favors giving it a try. Councilman Richmond said his biggest concern would be liability to the City. He has witnessed lots of disasters in another city. Councilman Holleman said they issue DUI tickets in Knoxville. Councilwoman Streetman said she has researched other cities as this matter first came before the Parks & Recreation Committee. Some require a license for each scooter, in addition to a business license. She fears they will clutter the sidewalks and could be dangerous in light of the uneven sidewalks. She favors a ban because of the liability factor. Those she has talked to are also against them. Chief Ansley said he also favors a ban. Birmingham discontinued theirs and Nashville has a lot less than they used to. Councilwoman Smith asked about revenue for the City and the Mayor answered that there would be no revenue sharing. She said our downtown is too small to accommodate them and there could be liability issues especially concerning minors. She favors banning them also. Councilman Henley suggested having a trial period. Mayor Pitts said that Lance Baker met with the County to discuss and is reviewing other cities so we may want to wait and get this opinion and get a temporary ban in the meantime. Councilman Richmond said he would like to know if APSU is in favor and Councilwoman Streetman said those she has spoken with at APSU are not in favor of them. Chairman Henley asked if we should postpone for six months or a year and the Mayor suggested six months. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to postpone for six months in order to get more feedback from Lance Baker. Councilman Holleman seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Ordinance 54-2019-20: An Ordinance amending Part II of the City of Clarksville Code of Ordinances, Title 4 (Building, Utility and Housing Codes), Chapter 5 (Plumbing Code), relative to residential new construction plumbing permit fee. (David Smith)

Mr. Smith stated that this change was presented by the Plumbing Board and is designed to create a more uniform way to handle the fee structure for new residential construction plumbing permits. The current fee in the City is \$10 per opening, and a flat fee of \$140 in the County. This Ordinance would change the City fee to a flat fee of \$140, the same as the County rate. Motion was made by Councilman Holleman to approve this Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Richmond, and approved by all.

Resolution 39-2019-20: A Resolution authorizing retirement of a Patrol Service Dog "Leonidas" from K-9 Unit and donation to Police Officer Gary Mefford. (Chief Ansley)

Chief Ansley stated that the K-9 Unit does a great job and has grown from one dog to six during his tenure. Patrol Service Dog Leonidas is nine years old and has a severe spinal condition, along with other medical problems, preventing him from performing duties of a Patrol Service Dog. He is asking that Leonidas be retired and donated to his handler, Officer Gary Mefford. The Resolution was approved by all after motion was made by Councilman Richmond and seconded by Councilwoman Smith.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Austin Peay State University and City of Clarksville, Tennessee Police Department (Chief Ansley)

Chief Ansley stated that the Memorandum of Understanding establishes permission for APSU to use the Police Department radio channels to enhance communication. They will purchase their own equipment. He added that Mayor Pitts is in favor of the agreement. Councilman Richmond made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, and approved by all.

There was no further business.

Councilman Richmond made a motion to adjourn at 4:52 p.m. and Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion.

Submitted by:

Kathy Gray

Clarksville Police Department