



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 21, 2019

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: Councilman Jeff Henley, Chairman; Councilman Richmond; Councilman Erb; and, Councilman Holleman

Councilwoman Wanda Smith was absent.

Others Present: Building & Codes Interim Director David Smith, Fire Chief Freddie Montgomery, Police Chief Alonzo Ansley, Chief of Staff Halford, Richard Stevens, Mayor Pitts, Susan Harris

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

The minutes from July 17 were approved as presented. The minutes from August 1st were approved as amended (correcting Councilman Jeff Norris to Councilman Gary Norris).

BUILDING & CODES DEPARTMENT

Mr. Smith presented his monthly reports and stated that he would answer any questions. Wesley Chapel Church demolition will start in about 10 days. Dunkin Donuts is joining forces with Baskin Robbins on Wilma Rudolph Blvd. Talked about single family permits changes over the years but it was stated that they just go up and down throughout the year. Cost of construction is inflation but we're actually ahead.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Montgomery presented his monthly reports and briefly discussed them. Runs are backing up EMS. He had a short power point for the committee and they are attached for the record. He has it broken down into divisions and what they have done.

Fire Prevention staff attended a seminar for one week but still did 260 inspections, issued 12 commercial burn permits, installed 60 smoke detectors, had 11 public events, and reviewed 15 sets of new plans. Working on a project with APSU and having students help with the installation of smoke detectors in the general area. Have tasked them with getting with different departments and being on the front end instead of the back.

Maintenance Division is one of the hardest working groups at CFR. They work in that hot building. For the future we're looking at fleet reliability. Currently looking at it. They are concerned with the aerals. Some are quite old. (1986) They are high dollar (1.2 million each). Vehicle replacement plan. Some of the uses of our fleet are being looked into. We ride in Ford Explorers and when you look at having to command something like a tornado we don't have the availability of what we need in those vehicles. Maintenance Chief is retiring the end of September. Will be looking into a 40 hour schedule for that department. Currently on 24/off 48. When someone's off we have to call in overtime. It stood out to me and they brought it to my attention.

Training Division had 39 classes – 316 attendees with 1301.5 hours. Have a pretty solid training division. They are very active. Have a hiring process for 7 personnel (replacing various positions). October 1 start date with an 8 week academy. Adjusting the schedule for easier planning for training – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Will be targeting certifications for specific ranks. (Officer levels having a certain amount of training). Will be training on structured incident command (NFPA dictates that).

Suppression Division. Are evaluation command structure to address span of control and self - supporting district. South end of the county are District Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs. If we have a major incident at Exit 11 it could take 15-20 minutes to get there. You don't have the same structure. Last year they looked at a Car 12 and didn't explain fully why it was needed. Will be doing that this years. Want to make that District self - supportive. Also working on solutions for the Blue Way. We respond but EMS does the special operations. Our men are standing on the side line waiting for help. We don't need to be in that position. EMS doesn't want to do that and we are going to try to find a way to address this. Special operations response can be handled within the department. Are evaluations staff levels, use and needs. How many people we have on shift, a fair number to eliminate overtime. This is just to let you know what I'm trying to do.

Councilman Henley asked what a burn permit. It was explained that when you want to burn, especially commercially, you have to get permission from the Fire Department. Certain criteria needs to be met. We also notify dispatch on those burns. Residential call for permission to burn also. They have to meet specific criteria as well.

We're 7 hiring firefighters right now due to retirements, etc. This process is over. The next one will be next year. The process was explained to the Committee. Everyone is treated the same.

Talked about the fire truck that had issues before Chief Montgomery came on board. That truck is in service. (Engine 7)

Asked about the program to put smoke detectors in those needed areas in Clarksville. The State does provide them. We are starting with 100 and will work with APSU to install them. This will give credit to those students with community service/outreach.

Regarding the Blue Way. CFR has one boat and it cannot access that. You get so far and are unable to do anything. Waiting for EMS to come with their boat. Have a committee working on that and with EMS to see what they have that we can use. Have been training with Ft. Campbell.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ansley presented the department's monthly reports and advised that he would answer any questions. Chief Ansley has met with the District Attorney's Office to discuss repeat offenders. He mentioned one well-known repeat offender, Randy Joe Clark, who recently overdosed and was given Narcan.

Councilman Holleman asked about CPD's thoughts on the scooters. Chief stated that he's heard they aren't safe. From a safety standpoint they would cause problems. They are causing Metro problems. If someone is drinking it would be a DUI (operating a motor vehicle).

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Councilman Richmond made a motion to forward the Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Clarksville, TN and Austin Peay State University to the full Council. Councilman Erb seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Submitted by:
Susan Harris
Clarksville Fire Rescue