

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 13, 2016
TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Public Health and Safety (PH&S) Committee met on Monday, October 12, 2016. Those in attendance included Chairperson Bridget Nations Councilmember - Ward II, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, Councilmember Randy Logan, Ward III, Councilmember Tom DeCampi, Ward IV, Mayor Bob Nation, Chief Ray Johnson and City Administrator Mike Geisel. Those also in attendance included City Attorney Chris Graville, Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer, and Captain Steve Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by Vice Chairman DeCampi.

I. Approval of Minutes – October 24, 2016

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Logan seconded to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2106 Public Health & Safety Committee meeting. The motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Logan motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to suspend the order of items on the agenda to allow the review of items III and V first so that the City Attorney could address the Committee before his attendance was required at another City meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

(Councilmember Bridget Nations arrived at the meeting at 5:36 PM.

III. Elementary School Resource Officer

The Committee reviewed a request by Councilmember Dan Hurt to budget for an additional Elementary School Resource Officer (ESRO) to the police force. Chief Johnson provided information regarding the time that a single ESRO spends in the schools and the cost to the City for that officer. Chief Johnson noted that the ESRO would spend 75% of his/her time in the school (during the school year) and 25% of his/her time as a patrol officer (during the summer months). Chief Johnson also reported that currently there are four ESRO's in the thirteen elementary schools within the City of Chesterfield. Chief Johnson also noted that no other surrounding municipalities provide ESRO's to elementary schools.

Councilmember Flachsbart asked Chief Johnson if the current ESRO's voiced a request for additional manpower to cover the schools. Chief Johnson replied there have been no requests from the ESRO's or from command staff but none had been asked that question.

Councilmember Logan recognized Councilmember Hurt's concern for safety but noted that every elementary school is visited every school day by an ESRO. He voiced his opinion that the Chesterfield Police Department is doing the best job of covering the schools compared to our surrounding areas.

Councilmember Flachsbart noted that he is sympathetic to Councilmember Hurt's concerns but he also noted budgetary concerns regarding the addition of additional manpower at this time when each of the elementary schools is being visited each day. Councilmember DeCampi also noted that there has been no evidence or threats to safety at the schools to warrant this action at this time. Councilmember DeCampi also suggested that an increased ESRO presence in a school may create a false concern about student safety.

Councilmember Logan inquired if there were additional officers available to assist at schools during drop off and pick up times daily. Chief Johnson replied that officers are regularly in areas but are not assigned to the schools every day at morning and afternoon transport times. Chief Johnson did inform the Councilmembers that the ESRO's rotate at the schools regularly so that they are at the morning or afternoon transport time on a regular basis.

After discussion, Councilmember Logan motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to table this issue and review it again in two years. The motion carried 4-0.

V. State Crime Victims Bill

City Attorney Graville reviewed the State Statute on Victims' Rights and also informed the Committee that the Police Department is in compliance with the Statute by virtue of its' General Orders and CALEA compliance. He suggested that the City consider an ordinance outlining a framework for the Municipal Court to follow the mandates.

City Prosecuting Attorney Engelmeyer voiced his support for an additional ordinance noting that the Municipal Court is experiencing a recent increase in the volume of serious crimes because the St. Louis County Courts are referring more cases back to the municipal court.

Councilmember Logan voiced concern over additional potential liability the City may incur in adopting a victims rights ordinance.

City Attorney Graville indicated that the implementation of new court rules by the Missouri Supreme Court may impact any proposed victims rights ordinance and as such, any proposed new ordinance should be crafted after issuance of the new Supreme Court Rules. Councilmember DeCampi motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to direct City Attorney Graville to work with City Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer to draft an ordinance that will work within the framework of the new Supreme Court rulings for Court operations. Once the draft is complete it will be placed on a future Public Health & Safety Committee meeting agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

II. Deer Overpopulation

Chief Johnson provided a detailed report regarding methods used by surrounding municipalities to remedy the overpopulation of deer. He noted that this issue is still very controversial among residents.

Councilmember Flachsbart suggested possible changes to the bow hunting ordinance including the reduction of the amount of land required to hunt from one acre to one-half acre and decrease the amount of liability insurance required by the hunter/land owner. He also suggested the City consider contracting with sharpshooters and/or bow hunters in the future; and, to again contact subdivision trustees encouraging them to also contract with hunters.

Councilmember DeCampi asked if hunting could be done on City property such as Railroad Park or the River's Edge Park.

Discussion continued regarding the options available including hiring White Buffalo, Inc. to provide a managed hunt and the cost to the City of Chesterfield for that service. Suggestions were made for the City to conduct its own managed hunt. Liability issues were discussed. Chief Johnson informed the Committee members that a deer count must be done before any managed hunt could occur and at this time, White Buffalo is the only option for a deer count.

Councilmember Logan motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to have City staff explore the possibility of opening Railroad Park to hunters, and also to contact the owners of the property contiguous to the park to open their property to hunting. The motion carried 4-0.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to direct staff to bring additional information regarding a managed hunt and ordinance revision for hunting to the next meeting. This motion carried 4-0.

IV. City Policy Review

Chief Johnson reported that he had reviewed the City's policies in the category of Public Health & Safety. He noted that there were twenty-one policies that were reviewed, with the oldest of the policies initiated in 1990 and the most recent was in 2013. He had several suggestions on which policies to keep, which policies to delete, which policies to modify. The Committee reviewed the suggestions and agreed with Chief Johnson's suggestions.

Councilmember motioned and Councilmember Nations seconded to accept the recommended changes. The motion carried 4-0. The proposed actions regarding the City Policies will be forwarded to the full City Council with a recommendation for approval.

V. Other – Arrest Protocols

Councilmember DeCampi asked about the arrest procedures particularly the choice between custodial arrest and the issuance of summonses. Chief Johnson reviewed the process and noted Court directives, outstanding warrants, and officer discretion.

Councilmember DeCampi had a question about a particular incident and Chief Johnson agreed to further investigate the incident for him.

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.