

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 18, 2017
TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Public Health and Safety (PH&S) Committee met on Monday, July 17, 2017. Those in attendance included Chairperson Barry Flachsbart Councilmember - Ward I, Councilmember Guy Tillman, Ward II, Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III, Councilmember Tom Michelle Ohley, Ward IV, Mayor Bob Nation, Councilmember Barb McGuinness, Ward I, Chief Ray Johnson and City Administrator Mike Geisel. Those also in attendance included City Attorney Chris Graville, Captain Ed Nestor. Several citizens were also in attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM, by Chairperson Barry Flachsbart.

I. Approval of Minutes – May 22, 2017 Meeting

Councilmember Tillman noted an error in the minutes. Page one, Section II. It should read: Councilman Tillman was appointed to be the liaison to CAPY. Councilmember Tillman motioned and Councilmember Ohley seconded to approve the amended minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

II. Body Worn Cameras

Chief Johnson updated the Committee members on a nationwide grant program offered by Axon Company to provide, free of any charges, body worn cameras to police departments for one year. City Council has approved participation by the Chesterfield Police Department. Chief Johnson reported that he, along with other Police Department staff, have met with Axon representatives and it is expected that all police officers will have the cameras before the end of the year. All data secured by these cameras will belong to the City of Chesterfield. At the end of the year, Axon will then comply with and participate in the City's bidding process to provide body worn cameras.

Councilmember McGuinness inquired if the cameras provide facial recognition information. Chief Johnson replied that the cameras only film video.

Councilmember Hurt asked if there is a defined protocol developed for the use of the body worn cameras. Chief Johnson noted that the Police Department currently has several cameras in use by officers and the Department has been developing regulations during this trial period. He informed the Committee members that Axon will also provide professional input. Some guidelines are in effect but a Police Department General Order will be developed and issued. Councilmember Hurt requested that City Council be kept informed as development occurs.

III. Clarkson Valley Police Services

Chief Johnson informed the Committee members that the Police Department took over police services for Clarkson Valley at 12:00 Midnight on July 1st. The implementation of services went very well. Chief Johnson noted that he has been in touch with Mayor Douglas of Clarkson Valley and the City Clerk several times since July 1st and he and Captain Nestor recently attended a Clarkson Valley City Council meeting where all present voiced their pleasure with the delivery of services.

IV. Proposition P

Upon introduction of this topic, Mayor Bob Nation informed all present that this is a financial issue and will be discussed in meetings of the Finance & Administration Committee.

Councilmember Flachsbart asked the Committee members to consider allowing those citizens present to speak regarding Proposition P.

Councilmember Tillman motioned to allow those present to speak and the Committee will then pass on their comments to the Finance & Administration Committee. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded. The motion carried 4-0. Councilmember Flachsbart also invited those present to speak at the City Council meeting following this meeting.

Mr. Howard Curtis addressed the Committee. Mr. Curtis is a current member of the Police Personnel Board, and a 20 year resident of the City of Chesterfield. Mr. Curtis expressed concern regarding the difficulty of hiring police officers recently and the number of officers leaving the Department. He also noted officer dissatisfaction with the administration of the City's salary and benefit plan. He encouraged that money from Proposition P be directly utilized to support the Police Department.

Mr. John Walters, currently the Chairman of the Police Personnel Board, read a letter signed by five members of the Police Personnel Board. He reported that, in his opinion, the morale of the Police Department has never been lower in his eighteen years of serving on the Board. This letter noted that the citizens of Chesterfield had voted in support of Proposition P and gave examples of how other municipalities are planning to spend the money from the tax increase on police (salaries, equipment, etc.). He urged the City Council to act on behalf of the Police Department regarding the upcoming revenue from Proposition P.

Ms. Debbie Donnelly, a Chesterfield citizen and member of the West County Community Action group noted how St. Louis County is planning to spend Proposition P dollars. She requested transparency of expenditures and that money directed to the City of Chesterfield be a budget line item where revenue and expenditures will be clearly available to citizens.

Mr. Walter Lantz, a Chesterfield citizen, voiced his agreement with the previous speakers and encouraged them to also speak at the City Council meeting.

Mr. Jim Moore, a Chesterfield citizen and also a member of the West County Community Action group encouraged the Committee members to use the Proposition P money for

the police and make the Proposition P money a budget line item so that it will be a transparent item for citizens to review. He commended Chief Johnson for his direction of the Police Department.

Councilmember Hurt voiced that the City Council is trying to do the right thing for the citizens and noted his efforts to restore the Police Department to its original strength after the “right sizing” of 2010. He voiced his support for the Police Department and will work to achieve the goals of the citizens of Chesterfield.

Councilmember Flachsbart urged all who spoke to keep track of how St. Louis County is spending Proposition P money as well as other municipalities. He all encouraged them to give further input on this issue as it moves to the Finance & Administration Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.