

Public Safety Committee

August 19, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson:

Council Chambers

Minutes

In Attendance:

Jerry Walter, Chairperson
Jane Braunlich, Member
Michael Kutschbach, Member
Jeff Wissner, Visitor
Glen Pritchard, Fire Chief

Mayor George Doscher
Matthew Sentner, Police Chief
Connie Flasher, DAS
Mike Lutz, CEO
Linda Woshner, President

Jerry Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens:

- ❖ Mr. Joe Kovacs from 28 Keswick Avenue questioned why the Borough does not have the Nuisance Tenant Ordinance in affect as of yet.
 - He explained how he and other fellow residents have been verbally assaulted by some neighbors and when he called the Police he found out that this was not adopted.
 - He stated he needs Council to pass this Ordinance to give the Police Department and the citizens of the Borough the power to get this type of riff raff out of the neighborhood.
 - He said he would like this to be passed as soon as possible.
 - He further explained there is an Ordinance in Penn Hills that requires property owners that have a certain amount of section 8 tenants to get their own security.
 - He stated requiring property owners that have section 8 housing to have their own security would help in protect the residents and their neighbors better.
 - Mrs. Woshner stated that the Nuisance Tenant Ordinance was not properly adopted therefore is unable to be enforced.
 - The DAS further explained to the Committee why it is not enforceable as well as how she is in the process of having it reviewed by the Solicitor so it can be properly adopted.
- ❖ Ms. Michelle Smith from 18 Hawley Avenue noted that her organization is moving forward with the Farmers Market and the banner to advertise it.
 - She explained she is working with the Chamber of Commerce on the Halloween Parade and explained what new additions they will be incorporating into the parade.
 - Ms. Smith also noted she has talked to the Port Authority and they would be able to detour the buses in order for there to be a car cruise event.
 - She stated they would only need two weeks notice in order to coordinate this.
 - The DAS requested to meet with Ms. Smith in order to get an outline of the events her organization wants to hold within the next year in order for the Borough to be able to better prepare for them.
- ❖ The DAS explained to the Committee there may be issues with the location of the Farmers Market since the fire vehicles will not be able to get out of the firehouse due to the road closures.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - Chief Pritchard stated he will coordinate it with the Fire Department for the next day's Farmer's Market, but it will need to be able to further coordinate for future Farmer's Markets.
 - The Committee stated they will discuss this further in the future.

- ❖ A resident from N. Harrison Avenue explained to the Committee that there is blind man that walks up N. Harrison to cross Lincoln Avenue that may be hit by a vehicle because of lack of crosswalks in that intersection.
 - He explained that he feels there should be a crosswalk by N. Harrison Avenue across Lincoln Avenue to assist pedestrians safely cross the street.
 - He further explained the "One Way Sign" sign by CVS is facing the wrong way so motorist consistently go in the wrong direction to enter the CVS parking lot.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about the best location to place a crosswalk.
 - The Mayor stated the "One Way Sign" pointing the wrong way can be easily fixed.
 - He requested Chief Sentner to research where the best location for a crosswalk would be and get back to the Committee.

Mayor:

- ❖ Mayor Doscher inquired about the status of advertising for the Police Officer list.
 - The DAS explained she had to do some research and it was verified all pertinent documents about the Police Officer position coincide therefore the advertisement can be done.
 - Mr. Walter seconded by Mrs. Braunlich made a motion to for the Civil Service Commission to advertise and compile a Police Officer list.
- ❖ Chief Sentner explained to the Committee he had received an agreement from Northgate to have a SRO (School Resource Officer) in the schools.
 - He stated he is concerned about the signing of this agreement since he is not sure if he will have the man power to provide an Officer for this position if any Officers retire.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - Mayor Doscher stated he had talked to Reggie Bonnofield about getting additional funding for this position.
 - He stated Reggie possibly will request an additional \$5,000 a year from the School Board to fund for this position but has not heard anything formally.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - Mr. Walter stated he is not in agreement to sign this until those details are hashed out.
 - There was discussion about whether or not Avalon Borough can help contribute to pay for the SRO for Northgate.
- ❖ Mayor Doscher presented to the Committee information about the Borough participating in the West Hills DUI Task Force.
 - Chief Sentner stated the Task force is compiled of numerous Police Departments.
 - He stated they coordinate DUI check points and they want Bellevue to be involved.
 - He further explained the benefits of being apart of the West Hills DUI Task Force.
 - He stated all that would be required to be involved would be to have a resolution written.
 - Chief Sentner further explained how the Police Department will be involved and what other Police Departments are involved.
 - There was further discussion by the Committee.
 - The Committee agreed that they would like a resolution to be written in order to be involved with this program.
 - The DAS stated she will get this prepared.

Fire Department:

- ❖ Chief Pritchard noted to the Committee that there is an interested party that is willing to purchase the Fire Department's Rescue vehicle that is for sale.
 - He stated he will continue to gather information from these people and will forward the information to the DAS.

- ❖ Chief Pritchard noted to the Committee that the Volunteer Fire Department is also losing the Assistant Chief Steve Ference.
 - He explained that Mr. Ference he is one of the relief drivers and will need to be replaced.
 - He said he is considering some other people for this position.
 - The DAS stated she will place this on the September agenda.
- ❖ Mayor Doscher inquired about the status of the hiring of a Fire Department employee.
 - The DAS stated they have just completed the written examinations and the oral examinations are going to be scheduled as soon as possible.
 - She further stated are looking to have the employee hired in November.
- ❖ Chief Pritchard explained to the Committee Mr. Wissner has information he had compiled about key lock boxes that he would like to present.
 - Mr. Wissner explained how the Borough has approved the International Fire Codes that states the Borough can require key lock boxes.
 - He presented to the Committee an ordinance that would require a specific type of key lock box that the property owners would have to purchase.
 - He explained to the Committee this key lock box is a sturdy box that is installed on the outside of the building so the Fire Department has access to the building in the case of a fire.
 - He explained what type key storage the Fire Department has currently have for the keys and explained the liability issues that arise for having those keys.
 - He stated this ordinance would give the requirements for what the box will be like, who needs one and what penalties there would be if this is not complied with.
 - He provided to the Committee the pricing for the key lock box that certain businesses will be required to have.
 - He explained to the Committee how the Fire Department will be able to access the key lock boxes.
 - He stated that if the ordinance is adopted letters will be sent out notifying the business owners that the ordinance has been adopted and what they need to do to comply.
 - Mayor Doscher questioned if the access code to the Borough's key lock box that holds the master key can be extended to Ambulance Services or Police Services.
 - Mr. Wissner stated there are communities that do allow that but it would have to be written into the ordinance.
 - Mayor Doscher questioned what businesses would need to get this.
 - Mr. Wissner explained that it will be any commercial or industrial building with an automatic fire alarm or a fire sprinkler system.
 - Mr. Wissner explained further to the Committee the other structures that would be required to participate in this
 - There was discussion by the Committee about whether or not other buildings that are not required to get this would be able to participate in this program.
 - The DAS and Mr. Wissner stated they would have the option to participate in this program even though they are not required.
 - There was further discussion by the Committee about what type of structures would need to get this and how it would be coordinated through the Borough.
 - A motion was made and seconded to prepare the Ordinance and advertise it in order for adoption.
 - Mrs. Woshner questioned if Chief Pritchard had applied for any grants for the Fire Truck.
 - Chief Pritchard stated that he has and explained to the Committee where he had applied to.

Police Department:

- ❖ Mr. Walter explained to the Committee the owner of 48 N. Starr Avenue is present and would like to discuss possibly placing a sign near her driveway or lower the speed limit to help improve safety on her street.
 - Ms. Shirda the owner of 48 N. Starr sated her driveway is not very visible and believes that since cars speed on N. Starr Avenue there very well can be an accident.
 - She requested to get a hidden driveway sign and lower the speed limit from 30 miles per hour.
 - Mayor Doscher stated the Penn DOT was contacted and they do not mind the installation of a sign but not to lower the speed limit.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - Mr. Walter stated the Committee would look at how they can get a sign installed for her.
- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about the computers for the Police cars.
 - Chief Sentner explained that the company he had talked to is giving the Borough unique pricing for all of the computers, software and installation.
 - Mr. Walter asked if this purchase is being piggy backed off of the state contract.
 - Chief Sentner stated that is correct.
 - Mr. Walter stated then there really is no need for additional quotes.
 - Mrs. Woshner requested for the Committee to not purchase these at this time since she is compiling a wish list to be sent to Sean Ramaly's office to try to see if the Borough can get grant funding.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about whether or not it would be beneficial to hold off on purchasing the computers in the hopes of receiving grant money rather than using the bond money.
 - Mr. Walter seconded by Mr. Kutschbach made a motion to purchase the computers for the Police Vehicles.
- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about the purchasing of the stunning devices.
 - Chief Sentner stated he has been talking to the District Attorney's office and they would possibly be willing to fund the purchase of the stunning devices if the Borough would enter into an agreement for Drug Enforcement.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about what type of ownership there would be by the Borough if the state helped pay for the stunning devices.
 - Chief Sentner stated they would be owned by the Borough.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about what type of stunning devices would be purchased.
 - Chief Sentner stated that if there is a camera installed it would only show what happened after the trigger was pulled not what led up to the use of the stunning device.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about the benefits of having stunning devices available for the Police Officers.
 - Chief Sentner stated he will have all this information available to be presented at the Pre-Council.
- ❖ Mrs. Woshner stated she would like to have a policy in place prior to the purchase of these.
 - Chief Sentner stated he has a "Use of Force Policy".
 - There was discussion about whether or not Council would have to vote on this since no money will be spent on it.
 - The Committee agreed that if no money was being spent on the purchase of the stunning devices there are no motions that they would need to make.
 - The Committee made a motion to adopt the Policy of the use of force as it relates to stunning devices.

Code Enforcement:

- ❖ The CEO reviewed his report with the Committee.

Administration:

- ❖ The DAS noted that tomorrow the roof will be started.
- ❖ The Committee stated they would like to invite Karen McClellan that does the crisis intervention presentation to the Pre-Council meeting.

Council Members:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

New Business:

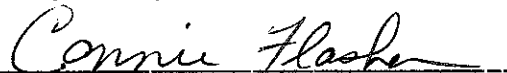
- ❖ Mr. Walter stated he would like to put a policy in place that stipulates what the minimum criteria would be to be a Fire Marshall.
 - The DAS stated she already has the policy.
 - Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to appoint Jeff Wissner as the Fire Marshall for the Borough of Bellevue.
 - The Committee stated they would like the DAS to prepare a Fire Marshall Resolution and have it ready for the Pre-Council to be adopted at the next Council meeting.
- ❖ Chief Sentner noted to the Committee West View Water will be installing the generator on August 27, 2008.
 - The DAS stated that they are to contact her 24 hours prior to the installation so the DPW can take pictures of the road prior to the installation.

Citizens:

- ❖ There are no citizens present that wish to speak.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Connie Flasher
Secretary

Motions to be made:

- 1. Motion to for the Civil Service Commission to advertise and compile a Police Officer list.**
- 2. Motion to purchase the computers for the Police Vehicles for the cost of approximately \$8,000 as designated in the state piggy back contract from the bond.**