



Public Safety Committee

September 23, 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

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

Citizens:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Mayor:

- ❖ Mayor Doscher requested for the advertisement for the Meter Attendant position.
 - Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to advertise for the Meter Attendant position.
- ❖ Mayor Doscher noted that some time ago a request to place a handicap meter at a handicap spot in front of Uncle Chens restaurant was approved by the Committee.
 - He said it was brought to his attention that this meter was never installed.
 - There was discussion about placing a meter in that area.
 - The Committee asked the DAS to coordinate the installation of a handicap meter once there is a meter head available in that handicap parking spot.
- ❖ Mayor Doscher noted the Borough needs to formalize the SRO agreement with Northgate School District.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about whether there are enough Police Officers to cover the hours that Northgate is looking for as well as if there is a need for the position.
 - Mayor Doscher stated he feels it would be a great asset to have the SRO position.
 - Mrs. Braunlich stated she would feel it would be more economical to the Borough if the Officer was considered one of the two Officers that are on duty at one time and they would be responsible to also respond to calls.
 - Chief Sentner stated at times they are unable to hear the radio and would miss calls
 - There was further discussion by the Committee.

Fire Department:

- ❖ Chief Pritchard stated they had received a bid for the 1993 Chevy cutaway for \$11,500.00.
 - He stated it was lower than the bid request amount but the Volunteer Fire Department are willing to accept the bid.
 - The Committee made a motion that was seconded to accept the bid amount of \$11,500.00 from the Chalfant Volunteer Fire Company.
- ❖ Chief Pritchard stated the Committee needs to appoint someone to the Fire Marshall position.
 - He explained to the Committee why the position is needed.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about having a Fire Marshall as well as two Deputy Fire Marshalls.
 - Mr. Wissner stated that the individuals that would be appointed to the position would get no additional compensation for their Fire Marshall services.
 - He stated the position would allow for fire inspections, hazard mitigation etc.

- He explained to the Committee about what the various job duties the Fire Marshall would be.
- There was discussion about who would be the Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Marshalls
- There was discussion by the Committee about how many fires the Borough has.
- Mrs. Braunlich stated that this position would need to be added to the Personnel Code if it changes the current job description.
- The DAS stated that in the Personnel Code the Firefighter position states that they may have other various duties.
- She stated by appointing them to the position it is not creating an additional position just adding to their current duties, therefore the Personnel Code would not have to be changed.
- There was discussion about what the duties would be and what type of authority of the Fire Marshall would have.
- There was discussion about if Chief Pritchard as the Deputy Fire Marshall would be paid a stipend for the position.
- Chief Pritchard stated that he gets paid when he is driving but he would not be paid if he is not driving.
- The CEO noted they are not able to enter a building without authorization by the property owner. He stated he believes an ordinance should be written to allow for yearly fire inspections since they are not able to enter the building without consent.
- Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to have a resolution written appointing Jeff Wissner as the Fire Marshall, Jack Davin and Glen Pritchard as the Deputy Fire Marshalls.
- ❖ Mrs. Braunlich stated she has some concerns about the Knox Box Ordinance.
 - There was discussion about the need for the Knox Box Ordinance and why the commercial properties would be required to get them.
 - Chief Pritchard stated the Knox Box is not just for false alarms but it would also be for the fire calls where they need to get into the building and they don't want to break down the doors.
 - Mrs. Braunlich stated she has a problem with the Police Department having access to the Knox Box.
 - She stated she has contacted other municipalities and they do not allow for the Police to access the Knox Boxes.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about the Police still needing to have access to the Knox Boxes.
 - There was further discussion about what properties would be required to get the Knox box.
 - The DAS stated if they have an automatic fire alarm they would be required to get the Knox Box.
 - There was further discussion about why the Police Department should have access to the Knox Box.
 - Mr. Wissner stated he would like to get the ordinance passed at least with the Fire Department.
 - The Committee made a motion to keep the wording of the Knox Box Ordinance as it currently stands with the revisions dated September 23, 2008.

Police Department:

- ❖ Mrs. Braunlich requested Chief Sentner to forward her a copy of the Taser Policy from the DA's Office.
 - He stated he can do this.
- ❖ Chief Sentner stated he is planning on having a policy manual update in 2009.
- ❖ He stated that the COG is putting together a Mutual Aid Agreement with the other local northern municipalities.

- He stated COG is requesting to get questions and concerns from the Committee members.
- There was discussion about how long the Mutual Aid agreements last and what municipalities it would involve.

Code Enforcement:

- ❖ The CEO reviewed his report with the Committee.
- ❖ He noted he had issued a cease and desist order for the events were being held in the upper rooms in the property owned by Sam Dibatista located on Lincoln Avenue.
 - He explained Mr. Dibatista did not have a proper occupancy permit.
 - The CEO explained how Mr. Dibatista would be able to get another occupancy permit to allow for those other type of events.
 - There was discussion about other type of events are being held in the Borough that are not being properly coordinated through the Borough.
 - The DAS noted there will be an authorization request form on the new Borough web site.
 - The CEO stated that he was told that during the art crawls that are being held a business owner had invited and encouraged outside vendors to set up on the sidewalks which is unacceptable.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
- ❖ The CEO stated that he has been unable to contact the business the Borough contracted to tear down Grant Avenue property.
 - He stated he is doing some investigation to see what happened with him and if he still is going to be completing the demolition.

Administration:

- ❖ The DAS explained to the Committee about the need for the Borough to get a credit card to be used in the case of an emergency.
- ❖ The DAS explained that she received a request to inform the leader of the Halloween Parade to try to move slower so the band can follow them up on North Balph Avenue onto Teece Avenue.
- ❖ The DAS gave to the Committee a letter and amendment to the Nuisance Tenant Ordinance.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - There was discussion if it is worth amending the Ordinance if it is not enforceable.
 - Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to amend the Nuisance Tenant Ordinance as per the Solicitor recommendation.

Council Members:

- ❖ Mr. Walter requested for the update in the Harrison Avenue crosswalk request.
 - Mayor Doscher stated he believed Chief Sentner is looking into the installation of a cross walk in that intersection.
- ❖ Mr. Walter requested to have a meeting to review the Volunteer Fire Companies Books.
 - Chief Pritchard stated the Treasurer is having some personal issues but hopes to have this meeting soon.

Old Business:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

New Business:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

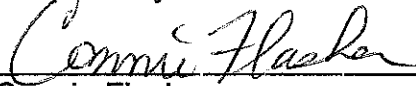
Citizens:

- ❖ Mr. Joe Nolan stated that he is concerned about the Knox Box Ordinance that being passed because he has a lot of sensitive information in his building that he would not just want to be accessed.
 - Mr. Wissner stated that the box has been drilled tested, pick tested and are extremely safe.

- He stated if the property owner is concerned a tampered switch installed that hooks up to the buildings alarm system.
- ❖ A resident spoke to the Committee about her concerns with the short staffing of the Police Department and the SRO officer position.
 - She stated she would like the funding for the Police Department to be increased.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about if there is a need to hire additional Police Officers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Connie Flasher
Secretary

Motions to be made:

- 1. Motion to advertise for the Meter Attendant position.**
- 2. Motion to accept the bid amount of \$11,500.00 from the Chalfant Volunteer Fire Company.**