

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Virtual

**Present:** Chair, Greg Jenson, Alderpersons Ozzie Doom, Joyce Tikalsky, Members; Tricia Suess Charleston, and Eric Quam. Staff; Mayor Swadley, and Police Chief Greg Leck. Jean Ligocki arrived at 7:05 PM,

Excused: none

**Guests:** Paul Rosowski.

**Call to Order:** Chair Jenson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **Old Business:**

2. Discussion and possible action on the Alcohol Committee Resolution.

Mayor Swadley provided an overview of the Resolution and after a brief discussion it was **moved by Doom, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tikalsky to recommend approval to the Council. Approved 6-0**

3. Discussion of the Bullying/Harassment Ordinance Sec. 50-15

Leck advised that he has not yet gotten the ordinance on the website and also explained the ordinance to the committee. Leck advised that since the ordinance was enacted, no one has been charged under the ordinance. Committee members are concerned that citizens are not aware of the Ordinance and that may be the reason it isn't used. Alder Tikalsky mentioned that we could do an article for the Hub. Alder Jenson stated that he will contact the Stoughton School Board President and see if the District could put on their website or other ideas for communicating the ordinance.

No further action taken.

**Communications:** Chief Leck gave a brief update regarding the two major incidents that the department had in December. Starting with the Officer Involved Shooting that occurred on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Leck gave a brief overview and reported that the incident is still being investigated. Leck also briefed the committee on the Homicide that occurred on 12-31-21.

Leck then gave a brief report on PD staffing. Leck stated that the department currently has two vacancies and that one of them will be filled next week. Leck stated that Senior Detective Allen Adams has tendered his resignation and will be retiring on 1-31-22. Leck added that the PFC currently has a hiring process going on.

In addition to the vacancies, Leck reported that he has had several staff members out with positive Covid tests and this has further stressed staffing levels.

### **New Business**

5. Minutes of 10-27-21: **Moved by Suess 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Doom, to approve the minutes of 9-23-21. Motion carried: 6-0**
6. Discussion and possible action to Amend Chapter 70-176 (88) regarding No Parking Anytime on both sides of Jackson Street between US HWY 51 and the City Limits to the West.

Leck explained that both side of Jackson Street should be posted No Parking and that both sides have painted bike lanes.

**Motion by Sues, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Quam to recommend approval to the council. Motion carried 6-0**

7. Discussion and possible action on amending Section 70-176 regarding designating Oak Opening as a through Street.

Leck explained that this designation allow for traffic controls on all cross streets and that Oak Opening will be considered an major artery street once build out is complete.

**Motion by Sues, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doom to recommend approval to council. Motion carried 6-0**

8. Discussion regarding citizen concerns regarding speeding and vehicle noise in the city.

Alder Jenson lead that there have been increasing complaints regarding speeding and noise levels in many areas of the city and wanted to review what can be done. Leck advised that he has been receiving complaints regarding traffic speeding and noise at an increasing level. Leck outlined things that we are doing and the limitation of staff to regularly address residential speeding problems. Leck stated that he just doesn't have the staff to address all the requests for traffic enforcement. High traffic times usually coincide with high call volume times and that it is difficult to address both. Leck added that he can put staff out on overtime but it is difficult to fill that overtime when officers are already doing overtime to fill shift vacancies.

Discussion followed regarding devices and their effect on traffic. Traffic Islands help and the new speed board will also help when weather improves enough to be able to use it. Alders wondered about fixed speed displays as used on Hwy 51. Leck advised that they are very expensive and that the lighted pedestrian crossing signage has been the recent priority. Speed display signs cost well over \$10,000.00 apiece and that the committee would have to look at funding those at budget time.

9. Discussion and possible action on the speed data from Kings Lynn Road north of Chapin.

From item 8, the discussion that went into a review of the data from Kings Lynn Road. Leck explained that data and reported that out of 9700 plus vehicles, 12 were going greater than 40 mph. That resulted in a lower rating but still an issues that obviously concerns resident. Leck reported that he has this area on the departments Directed Patrol sheet but staff time doesn't allow the department to address the area like we would like to. Paul Rosowski then informed that committee about the reasons why he had written the letter. Mr. Rosowski stated that he understood the constraints that the PD has with staffing but wanted to bring the issue forward before a pedestrian and child gets hurt.

Staff will continue to monitor and try to come up with strategies to address the issue. No further action at this time.

10. Discussion and review of how to handle Regular Licenses and the 60 day not doing business ordinance.

Mayor Swadley and Chief Leck explained what the issues are regarding both how Regular licenses are awarded and also the importance of the 60 day usage provision. The City Clerk was looking for some guidance of how to proceed with both these area.

After some brief discussion, staff was directed to work with the City Attorney on drawing up some actionable procedures to address these two issues.

11. Discussion and possible action on a proposal to contract with LexisNexis regarding the police department accident reports.

Leck walked the committee through the proposal that would reduce time that the department spends on process Open Records requests for crash reports and also generate a small amount of revenue in the process. Partnering with LexisNexis would also provide a crash dashboard that the department and citizens can review that gives data on crashes and potential crash hot spots that can be address.

**Motion by: Jenson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Quam to recommend approval to Council**

**Motion carried 6-0**

12. Discussion and possible action on amending the Outdoor Storage ordinance and enforcement.

Planning Direct Scheel explained that changes to Chapter 58 Sections 1-13 relating to Public Nuisances. Director Scheel stated that this change repeals parts of Chapter 58 and replaces them with clearer language and better tools for enforcement.

Alder Ligocki questioned why some of the language regarding grasses and weeds was removed. Director Scheel replied that those items are address in other sections of the ordinances under 50-318.

**Motion by: Quam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doom to recommend approval to the council.**

**Motion carried 7-0**

13. Discussion and possible action on PSC involvement with resolving of staffing issues.

Alder Jenson stated that he put this on the agenda to discuss how the PSC can help resolve the issue of staffing in the PD. Mayor Swadley explained to the Committee how personnel decisions are made and the limitation of funds available. Leck stated that there have been no new sworn positions in the department for the last seven years. Leck advised that he requests more fulltime staff every year and that with call volumes and shift coverages issues it is becoming an acute issue in filling shifts. Leck stated that the discussion regarding traffic issues in the community is a direct reflection of how difficult it is becoming to address basic issues that citizens want.

Jenson brought up possibly funding the Community Service Officer (CSO) fulltime as a means to help with staffing issues. Leck advised that it would help a little but what is really needed is fulltime sworn staff.

Mayor Swadley indicated that this would be better discussed as budget time approaches for 2023.

No further action taken.

Future meetings topics; Bullying Ordinance review, Continue Liquor License process, EOC & Emergency Plan, Curbside pickup pilot.

**Moved by Doom, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Ligocki to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Greg Leck, Chief of Police