

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, July 17, 2018 – 6:15 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, Alderman Smith, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Andreano called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman Dougherty, who was excused.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, June 19, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018 meeting was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussions

i. Purchase of EMS Equipment

Chief Bell explained that several weeks ago, the Department of Labor did an inspection on the department's ambulances. One of the stair chairs is in really bad shape, so he had Lieutenant Richardson look into the best way to handle the situation. He explained that a lease program was found with zero percent interest, that will also allow for the old equipment to be traded in.

Lieutenant Richardson explained that two stretchers are at the end of their useful lives, and one of the two in the lease option is a power stretcher which raises on its own. The lease will also finance the purchase of four cardiac monitors and four Automatic External Defibrillators. The company will give the City \$36,000 for three of its old monitors, and \$5,000 for a fourth which is ten years old.

Alderman Smith questioned if the lease payment each year is in the budget or if additional funding is needed. Chief Bell replied that he plans to use the Ambulance Fund for the lease

payments. He estimates that at the moment, there is also still enough in the fund to stay on track with a new ambulance purchase. Alderman Smith asked for the total cost after the trade in, and Lt. Richardson replied that the cost is \$152,000 over five years at zero percent interest, which is approximately \$3,400 a month. Then, each piece of equipment can be bought at the end of the lease period for \$1.

Alderman Crawford asked if this will shortchange the fund, and Chief Bell replied that it will not. We will still be on track for the ambulance purchases.

Lt. Richardson explained that the service plans on the current equipment are running out, and what is covered decreases over time. The new plan allows for two free batteries for each monitor every 18 months.

Mayor Aiello explained that this opportunity to upgrade is a way to fund the necessary equipment without impacting the current budget or fund reserves.

A PL and Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into the lease agreement will be introduced at the next regular Council meeting.

ii. TNR Program

Alderman Crawford stated that he had a conversation with Mayor Aiello, and his goal over the next couple of weeks is to meet with the Cattaraugus County Catnippers, as well as follow up with the SPCA. He is waiting on the City Attorney to work on drafting legislation for the cat free roaming policy.

Mr. DiCerbo explained that there are a couple of things left to address, such as where cats should be released after they are spayed and neutered. The Council also needs to consider how to address residents feeding stray cats who live outside of the designated "colony".

Alderman Crawford stated that he does not want to give an open door policy for everyone to start feeding cats. We need to keep an established colony. He hopes to get the legislation out to the Council for review in the next week or two.

Alderman Smith questioned if we are going to coincide the legislation with the TNR program, or if we are going to pass the legislation first. Mr. DiCerbo responded that he is unsure of the best way to time the legislation. He feels that it seems that you would want to address both issues at the same time.

Alderman Smith stated that he feels that the free roaming policy should begin with the TNR, as right now, the only teeth we have are that a resident must keep their cat confined to their own property. Alderman Crawford replied that he wants to get some movement on this as soon as

possible, and asked if we could differentiate between feral, stray, and owned cats in the legislation. Mr. DiCerbo replied that in the policy we could, and we can also pass a law effective the start date of the TNR, or with a future effective date.

Alderman Witte stated that the current code only allows four cats in a household, and asked if this is enforced. Mr. DiCerbo replied that Code Enforcement does enforce this to the best of their ability.

iii. No Left Turn Sign – North 7th Street at Wayne Street

Alderman Crawford explained that he has discussed this situation with Chief Rowley, Mr. Ring, and Mayor Aiello. There is concern from the Mazza Safety Director regarding the number of people turning left onto Wayne Street from North Seventh Street when there are signs indicating “No Left Turn”. He is making this request in the hopes that this sign will be more visible.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that a lot of people don’t realize that there is a “No Left Turn” sign on this intersection, as by the time you get to the corner, the sign that is currently in place is behind you.

Alderman Crawford explained that Mazza reached out to the City, and he reached out to Chief Rowley to look into the situation. Chief Rowley stated that the complaint is valid. He has had officers in this area, and they are writing tickets left and right for this issue.

Alderman Crawford stated that it is agreeable to add the sign. It seems that Mazza is willing to work with us. Mayor Aiello added that there are issues at and near that intersection that Mazza could work on as well.

Mr. Ring stated that the sign will help a little, and enforcement will help a little. Alternatives may need to be looked at. He will look into the number of accidents at this intersection. It may be optimal to change the “No Left Turn” from a specific time to 24 hours a day.

Mayor Aiello added that left hand turners on North Seventh Street also hold up traffic.

A PL and Resolution will be introduced at the next regular Council meeting to allow for the installation of the sign.

iv. National Night Out

Alderman Andreano explained that the annual “National Night Out” is on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. This event is an opportunity for residents to meet their neighbors, Aldermen and Police, as well as offer opportunities to discuss various neighborhood issues.

Alderman Witte explained that she used to participate in this event, and she went to the worst neighborhoods in the City to walk and talk to people. She also asked that people leave their lights on for the event.

Alderman Andreano asked that the committee give her thoughts and send her ideas for the night out. She would like to encourage a positive relationship between the City residents and the Police Department. She will also be discussing this with the Neighborhood Task Force at their next meeting.

Chief Rowley explained that in its heyday, this event was a great thing. Things have, however, changed. He tried to do this the first year that he was Chief, but no one came out for the event. Neighborhoods and people in the City have changed. He is not sure the value of doing something formal for this event. He stated that, however, when you meet with people like this, you are able to answer questions that they might not have otherwise asked.

Alderman Andreano stated that a big push of the Neighborhood Task Force is the Neighborhood Watch. She suggested possibly trying the night out after the next committee meeting. She would like to show that the Council wants to help with the Neighborhood Watch groups, as well as to let residents know that we hear their concerns and want to help them. She suggested a proclamation from the Mayor, as well as press involvement and an announcement of the event.

Alderman Smith stated that he likes the idea of the entire Council getting together, rather than doing something smaller in their respective wards. Mayor Aiello added that he is not opposed to this idea. Alderman Crawford asked if someone could donate music to the event, and Alderman Andreano agreed that it could benefit the event.

Alderman Witte explained that in the past, she walked neighborhoods with no problem, and knocked on peoples doors and talked to them.

v. West State Street Update

Alderman Smith questioned if we are still restriping West State Street this summer to eliminate two lanes in each direction and move to one lane in each direction, and Mr. Ring replied that the project will begin sometime in August.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.