

## **Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**March 2, 2022**

The meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman Charles Neubauer. Present in addition to Mr. Neubauer were committee members Charles Heller, Jeff Cascino, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council members Keith Endy and Barry Christman; Lori Carnes, Mayor; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; and an interested citizen.

Mr. Neubauer called for public comment; no comments were forthcoming.

Mr. Cascino made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

### **Police Chiefs Report**

Chief Leatherman reviewed the Police Activities Report for the month of February.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Parking Enforcement Officer** – Mrs. Loder advised that the job description is not yet ready for review by the committee.

**BAF&R – Discussion False Alarm Ordinance** – Nothing new to report; Mr. Neubauer and Mrs. Loder will follow-up with Roger Lehmann on this matter.

**Parking on North & South Sides of E Philadelphia Avenue** – A lengthy conversation was held on the subject of elimination of parking on one side East Philadelphia Avenue from Reading Avenue to Madison Street. Mr. Neubauer referenced information contained in a 2020 Downtown Parking Study prepared by Traffic Planning & Design, Inc. The study considers modification of on-street parking and notes that removal of on-street parking on one side of East Philadelphia Avenue would provide seven additional feet within the right-of-way to utilize for improvements. The study notes that local businesses and residents should be involved in discussion about parking modifications. The study discusses traffic calming measures and states the intent of these measures is to set the comfort level of drivers for the desired speed. Under existing conditions on-street parking acts a traffic calming measure to keep vehicle speeds reasonable. By providing wider travel lanes, vehicle speeds may increase. In addition, eliminating on-street parking would remove the existing buffer between moving vehicles and pedestrians. The study further states that if parking is removed, only a portion of the additional 7-feet of width should be assigned to increasing the width of the existing travel lanes.

Following lengthy discussion on the subject, the committee agreed to schedule a public meeting in May for the purpose of obtaining input from businesses and residents. Mrs. Loder was directed to request the Borough's traffic engineering consultant to participate in the meeting,

and to contact the Friendship Hook & Ladder Fire Company about use of their social hall for the meeting.

### **New Business**

**No Parking West Side of South Walnut Street** – Chief Leatherman advised the committee that it has come to his attention that the No Parking posted on the west side of South Walnut Street from West Philadelphia Avenue to East Third Street is not listed in the Borough Code of Ordinances. The Chief noted that the No Parking Zone should remain; Mrs. Loder will prepare an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to include this No Parking Zone.

**BMBA Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair – June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – The committee reviewed a letter from Kenneth Hunt, BMBA Committee Chairperson, requesting permission to hold the Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> on Philadelphia Avenue between Reading Avenue and Monroe Street. The event hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; the road closure is 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Following brief discussion, the committee recommended listing this matter on the agenda of the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Borough Council.

**Hot Off the Press, Inc. No Parking Request 5<sup>th</sup> Street** – Mr. Ken Webb, Hot Off the Press, Inc., addressed the committee concerning vehicles parked on the north side of East Fifth Street between Poplar Alley and Washington Street. Mr. Webb requested that 25 to 30' of that area be designated No Parking to allow trucks exiting from his loading dock to do so without driving over the curbing on the south side of East Fifth Street. Discussion was held on the subject, and the committee agreed to establish a No Parking area on East Fifth Street west of Poplar Alley for a distance of 30' for a 90 day trial period. This trial period will allow Mr. Webb to determine if the No Parking area requested is sufficient to resolve the problem. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Borough Council.

Mrs. Carnes requested consideration for the purchase of cameras to be installed at various locations within the borough, and suggested an ad-hoc committee be formed. Following brief discussion, Mrs. Carnes said she would send an email on the subject to the Chief, Mrs. Loder, and Mr. Neubauer to begin a discussion on the subject.

### **Public Comments**

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Mr. Cascino and seconded by Mr. Heller. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Secretary