

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 29, 2021

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

Also in attendance were Council members Keith Endy and Barry Christman; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; and interested citizens.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2021 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman submitted the Police Chiefs report dated September 7th, 2021.

Chief Leatherman reviewed with the committee a traffic problem which is occurring during dismissal at the High School. The number of parents picking their children up at the close of school has increased dramatically causing a backlog of traffic on North Madison Street and East Fourth Street. The Chief stated that on some days the traffic on North Madison Street is backed up to East Philadelphia Avenue. The Chief and school officials have been discussing and reviewing ways to resolve the problem. The back log of traffic on North Madison Street prohibits buses coming from the middle school to use Madison Street to get to the High School. To resolve this problem the Chief has allowed the buses to temporarily travel north bound on the one way south bound block of North Monroe Street. Chief Leatherman states that this is not an acceptable long range solution.

The Chief inquired if the Committee would consider removing the one way south bound designation of North Monroe Street. A lengthy discussion ensued on the matter with committee and council members present suggesting school official's direct parents to use the Monroe Street extension from Montgomery Avenue to access the east side of the high school at dismissal. Following lengthy discussion on the topic, Chief Leatherman suggested he contact the school to inquire if a school representative would attend the October 4th meeting of the Council to continue this discussion. The committee agreed, Chief Leatherman will contact school officials and request their attendance at the October 4th meeting of Council.

Unfinished Business

Parking Enforcement Officer – Chief Leatherman has no new information concerning when the Parking Enforcement Officer will be cleared by his doctor to return to work. It was anticipated that he may be able to return to work in September; the Chief will follow up with the employee.

Mrs. Loder inquired if the committee would consider creating a full time position incorporating the parking enforcement officer duties and management of the residential rental unit program. Mrs. Loder stated that the cost to create the position could be included in the 2022 budget for consideration. Following discussion, the committee agreed to proceed with including a full time code official/parking enforcement officer in the 2022 Proposed Budget.

New Business

Parking on North & South Sides of E Philadelphia Avenue – Mr. Deery suggested this topic be delayed for discussion until the 2022 term of Borough Council. Mr. Deery noted that two perhaps three seats on Borough Council will change in 2022. The committee agreed.

Sidewalks & Curbing East & West Philadelphia Avenues – Mr. Deery suggested this topic also be delayed for discussion until the 2022 term of Borough Council. The committee agreed.

BAF&R – Discussion False Alarm Ordinance – Mr. Mest recognized Mr. Roger Lehmann who addressed the committee about the increase in the number of false alarms the fire company is receiving. Mr. Lehmann noted that the company is a volunteer fire service and is concerned that the volunteers will tire of responding to so many false alarms. The company is concerned about retention of its volunteers. Mr. Lehmann requested the committee's permission to work with Mrs. Loder and the Borough Solicitor to amend the Borough's current false alarm ordinance to better manage false alarms. The committee agreed to Mr. Lehmann's request; Mrs. Loder and Mr. Lehmann will work together to amend the existing ordinance for consideration by the committee and Borough Council.

Tractor Trailers South Franklin Street – Campbell Fittings – Earlier this month Campbell Fittings Plant Manager, Charles Neubauer, provided the committee with documentation which the facility is providing to delivery drivers providing instructions for accessing the facilities loading dock. Mr. Neubauer also provided photographs of a sign posted at the dock instructing drivers to obtain the instructions from plant personnel prior to backing into the loading dock. Discussion was also held on allowing the owners of 300 Front Street to install bollards behind the curb line within the right of way to deter trucks from driving over the curbing. Mrs. Loder will contact the property owners to ensure they are aware of the steps Campbell Fittings has taken and to advise them on the borough's position regarding the installation of bollards within the public right of way.

Parking Restrictions on Certain Vehicles – A resident had expressed a concern regarding the parking of a commercial vehicle on South Jefferson Street. The resident stated that

the vehicle obstructs sight visibility when exiting the alley onto South Jefferson Street. A lengthy discussion was held on the subject and committee members noted that sight visibility is a problem at many intersections due to the size of many personal vehicles. Following a somewhat lengthy discussion the committee agreed that no action should be taken at this time to enact an ordinance prohibiting the parking of certain vehicles on the public streets of the Borough.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. was made by Mr. Mest and seconded by Mrs. Carnes. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary