

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 27, 2024

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

Also in attendance were Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; and interested citizens.

Mr. Neubauer called for public comments on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

Mr. Neubauer made a motion, second by Mr. Cascino, to approve the minutes of the February 28th, 2024 meeting of the committee. The motion was approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman briefly reviewed department activities, and advised the committee that the department has now implemented the use of body cameras.

Unfinished Business

Green Light Go Grant – Qualification Based Selection of Engineering Firm – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee responses received for the Request for Qualifications for Professional Transportation Engineering Services for preparation of design plans, and bid documents for the replacement of the traffic signals at Chestnut Street and Washington Street. Following discussion, the committee directed Mrs. Loder to contact Traffic Planning and Design for submission of a cost proposal for design, bid preparation, and construction management services.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Sign Update – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that site conditions on North and South Reading Avenue are in conflict with the installation of the pedestrian crosswalk signs. Mrs. Loder will review this with TPD to determine if there is a solution.

New Business

Boyertown Area Multi Service Preston's Pantry Food Drive and Community Day Request to Close a Portion of Schaeffer Street – The committee reviewed a request submitted by Cody Eckhart, Food Pantry Coordinator, Boyertown Multi Service, to close Schaeffer Street from the Multi Service exit driveway to Spring Street, on May 4th between the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Preston's Pantry 6th Annual Food Drive and Community Day. Discussion was held on the request and Chief Leatherman advised Mr. Eckhart that he must post a "road closed ahead" sign at Sixth and Schaeffer Streets. Following discussion, the committee recommended this matter be placed on the agenda of the April 1st meeting of Council.

Chapter 184 Vehicles & Traffic, Amendment to Increase Parking Fines – The committee reviewed an amendment to the Vehicles & Traffic Chapter of the Code of Ordinances to increase penalties for parking violations. The Vehicle Code permits a maximum fine of \$50.00. The current penalty for a parking meter violation is \$10.00; the penalty for all other parking violations is \$25.00. The committee recommends the penalty for a parking meter violation be increased to \$25.00; and the penalty for all other parking violations be increased to \$50.00. The committee recommends Council authorize the solicitor to advertise the ordinance amendment for adoption at the May 6th meeting of Council.

Resident Request for “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” Sign to be Installed at Second and Madison Streets – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that a resident of the 500 block of East Second Street made the above noted request. The committee does not agree that the sign is necessary at this intersection.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. was made by Mr. Neubauer and seconded by Mr. Cascino. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary