

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 27, 2023

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 Jeff Cascino, and ex-officio member Frank Deery. Committee member Charles Heller was absent.

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

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 August 30th, 2023 meeting of the committee. The motion was approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman reviewed the department activities report for the month of September. The Chief noted the department continues to work on hiring a patrolman.

Unfinished Business

Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs – Mrs. Loder advised that PennDOT requires submission of a sketch plan depicting the type and location of the signs to be installed along with a letter stating that the Borough will purchase, install and maintain the signs. The letter is prepared and will be submitted to PennDOT upon completion of the sketch plan, which is being prepared by Traffic Planning and Design.

New Business

Intersection of Seventh Street and North Reading Avenue – Mrs. Loder informed the committee that a concern regarding this intersection was brought forward by Donnie Ellixson. Mr. Ellixson stated that many of his customers use Seventh Street when leaving his business on North Washington Street. Mr. Ellixson feels a mirror should be installed on the railroad bridge to aid with site visibility. Discussion was held on the subject; Chief Leatherman suggested submitting a letter to PennDOT to advise them of the concern and request they investigate the intersection to determine if any changes should be implemented. Following discussion, the committee agreed with the Chief's recommendation. Mrs. Loder will submit a letter to PennDOT.

Handicap Parking Request 22 S Jefferson Street – A handicap parking request was submitted to the EBRP Department by a resident at 22 S Jefferson Street. The requestor does have a handicap parking placard issued by the state. The committee agreed to refer this matter to Borough Council for approval.

Chief Leatherman discussed with the committee a safety concern raised by Councilman Heller regarding the intersection of West Philadelphia Avenue and Orchard Hills Drive. Mr. Heller states that Philadelphia Avenue west bound traffic is traveling at speeds in excess of the speed limit which makes it difficult to exit Orchard Hills Drive safely. Mr. Heller feels signage should be posted on West Philadelphia Avenue to advise vehicle operators of the intersection at Orchard Hills Drive. Chief Leatherman noted that this concern could be submitted to PennDOT for consideration of the addition of signage. Following discussion, the committee agreed. Mrs. Loder will submit a letter to PennDOT requesting they investigate this concern.

Mr. Neubauer discussed with the committee his concern regarding the Salvation Army's food pantry distribution which occurs every Thursday and Friday morning from their location at 409 South Reading Avenue. Mr. Neubauer stated that vehicles line up on the south side of Walker Drive; vehicles also park on the north side of Walker Drive, which creates traffic congestion and unsafe conditions. Resolutions to the concern were discussed including prohibiting parking on the north side of Walker Drive on Thursday and Friday. Following discussion, the committee agreed that prior to enacting new parking regulations the borough should open a dialogue with the Salvation Army on the subject. Mayor Carnes agreed to speak with Salvation Army representatives on this subject.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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, November 1st, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary