

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

April 28, 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 Marianne Deery, Mayor; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager, and interested citizens.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2021 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Carnes and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman reviewed the Police Chiefs report submitted on April 5th, 2021. Chief Leatherman also discussed with the committee a complaint filed by Charles Haddad concerning cars parked in alleyways. Chief Leatherman noted that the code prohibits parking of vehicles in alleyways. Historically the police department has only ticketed vehicles that are parked in alleyways if they are blocking the alley or blocking access to a garage of a neighboring property owner. Chairman Mest recognized Mr. Haddad who explained the reason for his concern is that the alleyways are being used as pedestrian walkways because of the poor condition of the public sidewalks. Mr. Haddad stated his belief that parking of vehicles in the alleyways creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians. Mr. Haddad further noted that many property owners are using their garages for storage of personal property instead of using it to park a car.

A lengthy discussion was held on the subject, after which it was decided that Mrs. Carnes should include information in the May Newsletter to alert residents to the fact that parking is prohibited in all alleyways. Chief Leatherman will also have the information posted on the EBRPD Facebook page. This is the first step in getting information to residents on this subject. The Chief also stated that if the problem persists warning tickets could be issued to violators.

Unfinished Business

Request for All-Way Stop Sign at Monroe and Second Street – Mrs. Loder and Chief Leatherman advised the committee that as per discussion at the last meeting of the committee a meeting was held with traffic engineer Chris Lincoln of TPD, Inc. and borough resident James Hartenstein to discuss the possible outcome of a traffic study to make the intersection at Monroe and Second Street an all-way stop. Mr. Lincoln's observation of the intersection including volume of traffic and accident statistics is that the intersection would not likely meet the criteria required for an all way stop. It is noted that Mr. Hartenstein's primary concern is the speed at which vehicles travel on East Second Street. Mr. Lincoln noted that traffic calming measures could be used to slow traffic. An example of a traffic calming measure could be adding a bike lane. TPD would perform a traffic calming study for consideration by Borough Council. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee directed Mrs. Loder to request TPD, Inc. provide a cost proposal for a traffic calming study.

Colebrookdale Railroad Improvement Plans – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that she and Solicitor Hartman will meet with Nathaniel Guest, of Colebrookdale Railroad, next week to review with him the results of TPD’s investigation of the installation of ASTM approved bollards and curbing in place of the current barricade located on Third Street. Mrs. Loder also stated that discussion will be held with Mr. Guest on the specific location of the curbing because it is believed that the plan calls for the installation of curbing outside of the vacated portion of East Third Street.

Parking Enforcement Officer – Mrs. Loder stated that the search for a Parking Enforcement Officer is ongoing. It was noted that the current individual holding the position is on medical leave and expects to be released to return to work in early June; however, there remains some uncertainty about the individual’s ability to continue in the position. Following discussion the committee noted they would welcome the current employee to return to the position; however, in the mean time we should continue the search.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. was made by Mr. Mest and seconded by Mr. Heller. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary