

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

June 2, 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; Council member Keith Endy, Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Department Supervisor; Jillian Magee, Mainstreet Manager, and interested citizens.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman reviewed the Police Chiefs report submitted on May 3rd, 2021. Chief Leatherman also advised that the EBRPD has started the hiring process to hire one full time police officer. Deadline for receipt of applications is July 9th. The Chief also noted that he is monitoring parking of cars in and along alleyways. As anticipated, he observed that there are some violations; however, a majority are not parked in violation of the ordinance. At the conclusion of his investigation of the matter he will post information on the department's Facebook page with information on the ordinance relating to parking in alleyways.

Unfinished Business

Request for All-Way Stop Sign at Monroe and Second Street – The Chief reviewed with the Committee statistics obtained through use of the department's speed trailer on East Second Street. The trailer was stationed on East Second Street for a two week period in which time the data provided revealed that the majority of vehicles traveling over the 25 MPH speed limit were below the 10 over threshold at which the police may stop them. A small percentage were traveling at 35 MPH and over, and the highest speed range recorded was between 45 – 49 MPH, not a single recording over 49 MPH. The average speed is 25.15; 85th percentile speed is 31. The data show that people do speed; however, there is not a severe problem. The department will do follow up random enforcement and use the speed trailer periodically.

Discussion and review of the TPD, Inc. 2nd Street Traffic Calming Evaluation was undertaken. The cost proposed for the study is \$7,100. Following discussion, the committee agreed not to undertake the study at this time.

Colebrookdale Railroad Improvement Plans – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that as a result of the meeting she and Solicitor Hartman had with the RR they submitted a revised plan for review by the Borough. Solicitor Hartman will review the revised plan with Council at the June 7th Council Meeting.

Parking Enforcement Officer – Mrs. Loder stated she and Chief Leatherman interviewed Jessica Kilian for the part time position as Parking Enforcement Officer, and recommend hiring Ms. Kilian to train and serve as a substitute Parking Enforcement Officer. Chief Leatherman stated that the current Parking Enforcement Officer hopes to be released to return to work within the week; however, he does not anticipate being able to work 20 hours per week. The Chief stated that Ms. Kilian is aware that if Mr. Landes is able to return to full duty, she will only be given hours as a substitute. This matter will be placed on the agenda of the June 7th meeting of Borough Council.

New Business

Rotary 5K Run October 2nd, 2021 – Jeremy Rolston reviewed with the Committee a request to use the Boyertown Community Park on Saturday, October 2nd, 2021 for the Rotary 5K Run. The details of the race remain the same as in previous years. Mrs. Loder advised that she has prepared the Park Use Agreement. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to list this matter on the agenda of the June 7th meeting of Borough Council.

Street Sweeping “No Parking” – Chief Leatherman and Mr. Hansley reviewed with the Committee the difficulties they encountered in getting cars removed from the street for spring street sweeping. Chief Leatherman noted that the department does not encounter this problem when they post no parking signs when streets are closed for events. The Chief stated that the distinguishing difference is the department tows vehicles that remain parked on the streets in violation of the “no parking” signs posted for community events. Following a lengthy discussion, the consensus is to purchase “no parking” signs that include language notifying the public that the vehicle will be towed. Information will also be included in future Newsletters and on the departments Facebook page.

BaBB – Mr. Mest recognized Ms. Magee who requested permission for the BaBB to hold the annual Oktoberfest event in the Town Center Parking Lot on September 17th, 18th and 19th, 2021, details of the event are the same as requested in 2020 with the exception of the event ending time, which is requested to be 9:00 p.m. Following discussion, the committee agreed to list this on the agenda of the June 7th meeting of Borough Council for approval of the required resolution.

Ms. Magee then noted that the BaBB will hold a Farmers Market on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Farmers Market will be held on the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles parking lot.

Ms. Magee then requested permission to include wine tasting as a part of the Comedy Under the Stars events being held at the Spaatz Pavilion in the Community Park. Ms. Magee stated that the BaBB is looking for ways in which to generate additional revenue and feel that the addition of wine tasting would generate a larger interest in the event. Consumption of alcohol is prohibited by ordinance at all Borough owned parks. A lengthy discussion ensued, and the consensus of the Committee is that allowing the consumption of alcohol at Borough owned parks is not something they are willing to consider.

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, June 30th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary