

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 28, 2022

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

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

Mr. Neubauer called for public comment and recognized Mr. Jeff Pale, a resident of East Sixth Street. Mr. Pale expressed his concern about the lack of enforcement of trailers parked on the public streets in the Borough. Mr. Pale also discussed with the committee a lack of response from the Borough's Zoning Officer concerning a complaint he filed regarding the operation of a business at 35 W. Sixth Street. Mr. Pale stated that the resident at 35 W. Sixth Street has pallets stacked at various locations on the property, and on trailers parked on the property, as well as on the public street adjacent to the property. Mr. Pale also stated that the resident of the property has yard sales four to five times annually. The Borough ordinance permits two yard sales per year.

Mr. Neubauer noted that a Notice of Violation of the Zoning Ordinance has been provided to the owner of 35 W Sixth Street. In addition, Mr. Neubauer stated that he would look at the property to observe the conditions first hand. Chief Leatherman advised department practice is to enforce the forty-eight hour time limit parking of trailers on a public street upon receipt of a resident complaint.

Mr. Neubauer made a motion, second by Mr. Heller, to approve the minutes of the August 31st, 2022 meeting of the committee. The motion was approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman briefly reviewed his report with the Committee. The Chief noted that the Regional Police Commission has successfully negotiated a new 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the EBRP Association.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

Handicap Parking Request – 392 South Reading Avenue – The Chief reviewed a handicap parking request submitted by the resident of 392 South Reading Avenue. The resident’s handicap parking placard is set to expire in December 2022. The resident advised the Chief that she has taken the required steps to have the placard extended. The resident did advise the Chief that her disability may be temporary. The committee agreed to list approval of the handicap parking request on the agenda of the October 3rd meeting of Council. The resident will be asked to provide the Borough with a copy of the extension of the handicap parking placard.

Management of Parking on Municipal Lot at 23 S Reading Avenue – The committee discussed options for managing parking on the municipal lot at 23 S Reading Avenue. The lot has thirty eight spaces for public parking; all located on the south side of the entrance driveway from S Reading Avenue. Options discussed included time limit parking, permit parking, and a fee to park using either a kiosk or mobile application. Also discussed was a name for the municipal parking lot. Following discussion, the consensus of the committee is to establish a three hour parking time limit, without charge. Due to the small number of spaces in the lot, parking permits will not be made available for this lot. Mrs. Loder will contact the solicitor to amend the parking ordinance.

Public Comments

Mr. Neubauer called for public comment and recognized Mr. Charles Haddad who suggested Council be observant of the availability of real estate in the Borough which could be used to create a municipally owned parking lot for residents of the Borough. Mr. Haddad further noted that residents often use their private garage for storage and park their vehicle along the alley way behind their property, which makes it difficult for property owners on the opposite side of the alley to get their vehicles in and out of their garage. Mr. Haddad also suggested the elected officials break the Borough up into four zones; and four elected officials each select a zone which they would monitor for ordinance and parking violations.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. was made by Mr. Neubauer and seconded by Mr. Heller. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary