

# **MINUTES**

## **COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY (FIRE & POLICE) COMMITTEE**

**December 14, 2016 - 5:30 PM**  
Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

**Members Present:** Maurice Jones, Chair, Council Member  
Mac Morrow, Vice- Chair, Council Member  
Jim Fatland, City Manager  
Phil Harris, Chief of Police  
Craig Budzinski, Chief of Fire

**Staff:** Mark Norton, Assistant Chief  
Ronnie Bickford, Animal Control Officer  
Jill Murray, Deputy City Clerk

**Press:** Matt McGregor, Transylvania Times

### **1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Chairman Morrow called the meeting to order at 5:24 PM.

### **2. Introductions**

None

### **3. Certification of Quorum**

Quorum was certified.

### **4. Review of the Minutes**

There were no minutes to review.

### **5. Fire Department – Night Staffing**

Mr. Fatland explained to the Committee that the FY16 budget funded a pilot study for night staffing and then called upon Chief Budzinski for an update.

Chief Budzinski explained that they conducted a two month assessment of working two firefighters from 5pm-12am during the months of October and November, thereby being staffed 6 nights a week Tuesday through Sunday. Their regularly scheduled meetings are every Monday night so that night is already covered. He provided a handout showing that the additional staffing decreased turnout time and total response times. He added that they were able to get the trucks out in 1 minute 42 seconds thereby cutting two minutes off the normal time.

Mr. Jones added that he hopes that we will be able to do this again if we don't get help from the County.

Mr. Fatland stated that City Council has supported additional staffing in the past but now we have solid facts to demonstrate to the County that this would be a beneficial program to improve response time. He suggested a City/County meeting with Larry Chapman, Jaime Laughter and Dave McNeil would be a good idea.

#### **Fire Department – Rescue Truck**

Chief Budzinski passed out information about a rescue truck committee made up of six members of officers and firefighters to seek a replacement for their 21 year old rescue truck. They met with three different vendors to get comparisons. He added that the payment for the ladder truck is finishing up this year and if we could get permission to order the truck, it would be a year before they would get it. He stated that they are the only department in the county certified for heavy rescue. They would like for the committee to meet one more time and narrow down which company they want to go with and then come back to this committee.

Mr. Jones suggested they go ahead and meet again and then we can bring it to Council and it can be a part of March's budget items and he added that he believes in some capacity there needs to be night service year round.

#### **Fire Department – New Fire Station**

Mr. Fatland said he would like for the City to do a turnkey on design build for a new fire station. We'll look for the landsite and purchase it, provided the County agrees to pay their share and proceed with the construction and make it happen sooner than later.

Mr. Jones asked where the funding would come from. Mr. Fatland explained the funding of the property would come from the fire department budget which is shared 52 ½% City and 47 ½% County. Mr. Fatland stated that the City should own the building, the apparatus and the assets. The City could provide one bay at no cost for EMS to put their unit in there.

Mr. Jones asked if there would be multiple bays and if it would do anything for our rating. Chief Budzinski replied there would be 4 bays and it would better our rating and their rating would drop.

Mark Norton said he is in talks with someone right now about a piece of property but could not elaborate at this time.

After much discussion, the Committee decided that Mr. Fatland would try to set up a meeting with himself, Mr. Jones and Chief Budzinski and the County and discuss both issues, night staffing and the fire station.

#### **6. Animal Control Report**

Chief Harris asked Officer Ronnie Bickford to talk a little bit about what his position as an animal control officer does.

Mr. Bickford explained that he answers calls about sick wildlife, distempered raccoons and wild foxes, animals not having vaccination records, dogs not on leashes and dangerous dogs. He explained that he is currently trying to put together a dangerous dog board, as he has investigated 4 or 5 cases so far, whereas in the prior 6 years, they've only had one case. He has been very busy and Chief Harris added that Officer Bickford handles the call during the day, however, every patrol officer is trained to handle the calls as well.

Mr. Jones asked how he deals with wild animals. Officer Bickford explained that if the animal appears to be healthy, he releases them. However, if they are showing signs of illness, he writes up a report and takes them to the animal shelter where they are put down and put into a cooler until they can be taken to the landfill for burial.

Chief Harris added that they are going to be recommending a change to their ordinance and how it's worded. He would like to be changed from the board of health to an appellate board that is appointed to hear any appeals. The county health department would like their name taken out of there but still have members that will be glad to stay on the board. Therefore, there will be an appellate board and a dangerous dog board. Chief Harris provided a handout that shows Brevard is among the ten safest small towns in North Carolina.

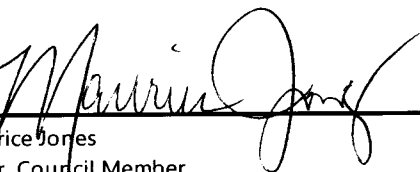
#### **7. Schedule Meeting**

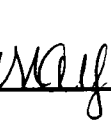
The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:30pm.

Note: No meeting was held due to conflict with a Public Works & Utilities meeting.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Chief Harris motioned, seconded by Chief Budzinski, the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The Committee adjourned at 6:31 PM.

X   
Maurice Jones  
Chair, Council Member

X   
Jill Murray  
Deputy City Clerk