

Police Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday, February 13, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Mitchell at 7:00 PM

Aldermen in attendance: Mottershaw, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Mitchell, Schnetzler, and Alderwomen Calloway

Absent: Alderman Boster

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, Chief Steven Snodgrass, and David Bounds

Audience: None

Comments from Audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes (01-09-25)

Motion made by Mitchell seconded Bertolino by to approve Police Committee Meeting Minutes of 01-09-25. Motion passed.

2. Purchase of New Mobile Radios

Chief Snodgrass talked about purchasing 2 new radios. He said our radios are old and out outdated and cannot be tuned. He doesn't know how much longer they are going to last. Since we ended up getting a grant for tasers there would be equipment money left, and he was wondering if it could be used to purchase 2 mobile radios. The cost for each radio is \$1,717.90. The old radios could go to Public Works as they have in the past. It would take a couple weeks to get them in. The committee agreed to move forward in purchasing the radios. Mottershaw requested an updated quote for them and Chief Snodgrass said he would get it.

3. Golf Cart Ordinance

Chief Snodgrass asked if a time limit could be put into the ordinance because he did not believe that people should be driving golf carts at 2:00 in the morning. One of the problems is that some people drive their golf cart to work and in the winter months it gets darker early. There are about 30 to 40 registered golf carts in Virden.

This issue will be put on next month's police committee so we can get input from the insurance company and from the lawyer.

4. Ordinance Tracking Sheet and Current Ordinances

Chief Snodgrass reported that some people started cleaning up but, in his opinion, have a ways to go. Areas of concern are 204 Henrietta, the Wiser/McFarland house, travel trailer at 832 N Springfield St., and 521 S Dye St.

Mottershaw said again that we need a better definition on what junk and trash is, so we know what we can take if the city has to do the cleanup.

5. Mobile home empty Lots

Bertolino gave Chief Snodgrass a list of different properties and will make up a spreadsheet like the ordinance violation spreadsheet. Chief Snodgrass will make up a PDF form and present it at the next council meeting.

6. New Police Car

Chief Snodgrass reported that the new car is in. It looks pretty good and still needs to have the lettering put on.

7. Full-time Police Employment, Status on Police Apps

Chief Snodgrass reported that there has been 5 applications submitted. One from a full time certified person. Snodgrass would like to set up interviews at the March police committee meeting.

Calloway asked if the Chief has checked them out completely from top to bottom. We just cannot have a ten million dollar lawsuit like what Springfield just had.

Snodgrass said he had them checked out the best he could; by doing a background check, talking to previous employers, and trying to get as much information as possible.

Mottershaw asked if any of the officers had turned in a resignation letter yet. Chief Snodgrass said no. We need to get this going because if we do

not have them by the beginning of April, we will miss the Academy deadline, and the next one is in September.

Bertolino said that he was not a fan of the Academy because it takes too long, cost a lot of money, and you pay for mileage. We must pay other officers' overtime to cover the shifts. We need boots on the ground.

Motion made by Mayor Murphy second by Mottershaw to temporarily adjourn at 7:43 PM

Motion Passed

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Bertolino to resume the Police Committee at 9:22 PM.

Motion Passed

8. Nuisance and Nuisance Complaints

There still seems to be some confusion on exactly how the Council wants the Police to handle complaints. He has been handling complaints the best he can as he sees fit. If it is a violation, he issues a notice or a citation. After all, the end goal is to clean up the town.

Bertolino said that he believes that on some of these just a knock on the door and a talk would take care of the problem instead of issuing tickets and going to court. A little communication goes a long way.

Mottershaw asked about the complaint he put in about chickens.

Mayor Murphy said that our ordinance does not allow livestock and chickens are livestock.

It was recommended maybe that the Chief could take a copy of the ordinance out to them and have a little talk with them since they just moved in. In the meantime, they could put up a barrier so the chickens could not be seen and put the droppings in a bag disposing of it in normal waste pick up.

9. Budget

Mottershaw passed out a budget worksheet. The projected revenue is \$2,047,000 and the expenses are projected at \$1,920,408. So, it looks like we won't have to make any cuts like we thought.

Executive Session: None

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Calloway to adjourn at 9:39 PM.

Motion Passed with all in favor.

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: