

Police Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday May 8th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Boster

Aldermen in attendance: Carter, Bertolino, Boster, Neighbors, Karrick, Matrisch and Alderwoman Calloway

Absent: Alderman Donley

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, Chief Snodgrass

Audience; Crystal Creasy, Angie Bauer

Comments from Audience: Mayor Murphy received an e-mail from Crystal Creasy asking if there was an ordinance against living in storage units.

The mayor's response was that he believes there is, again how do you enforce it?

Chief Snodgrass said, to enforce it they would have to go after the storage unit owner.

Creasy also asked about the school crossing on route 4, claiming the crossing aids are being harassed and if something more can be done.

Chief Snodgrass said there is an officer presence around the school who looks for violations.

Topics:

1. Approval of minutes 04/10/25

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Neighbors to approve the minutes of 04/10/25.

Motion passed with all in favor

Visitor- Angie Bauer: Bertolino gave a brief to update the new Alderman on a chicken issue that was brought to his attention in mid-December 2024. Since December Alderman Mottershaw, Chief Snodgrass and Mayor Murphy have also been contacted.

After 4 months the neighbor still has the chickens.

Bauer asked if the officer that was dispatched to talk to the neighbor told them it was ok for them to keep their chicken. She stated that when she confronted the neighbor (later identified as the daughter) the neighbor said, "the cops have already been here, and he said we can keep the chickens"

The resident then went and spoke to Chief Snodgrass and wanted to know if that is what was said.

Chief Snodgrass responded that the officer did speak with the neighbor letting them know that the city did have an ordinance against having chicken but, it has not had to be enforced.

Chief Snodgrass spoke with the neighbor and tried to make things right until the council made the decision to enforce the ordinance or change it.

It was after this that Bauer felt that retaliation started as the neighbor moved the chicken coop closer to the fence so, now not only can they see them, but they can also hear them.

Council's Discussion covered; to enforce or change to the ordinance, how to enforce if not changed and how to change the ordinance if needed, communication between police and residents, the city needs an Enforcement officer as per city code,

Bauer stated that she lives in the city and did not want to live next to where livestock is kept.

Chief Snodgrass said if he is directed to enforce the livestock ordinance it will be done thru out the city. Since this 2018 ordinance has not been enforced he request council guidance.

Boster recommends that the council request the Mayor direct the Chief of Police to enforce all ordinances the council has put in place.
Consensus passed with all in favor.

Boster speaking for the committee ask the Mayor to have the Chief of Police enforce the Livestock ordinance, starting with no chickens.

Mayor Murphy asked the council for guidance on exactly how to proceed with enforcement.

Chief Snodgrass said if he has to enforce the ordinance he would issue letters to the chicken owners stating that they have 10 days to get rid of their chickens or they will be ticketed with a court appearance. Then it would be up to the court and if needed a request to remove the chickens would be requested.

Alderman Calloway wants to look in to allowing for a couple chickens.

Discussion continued on how to enforce. Can a letter be published for all citizens to see?

Mayor Murphy stated that if a letter is published then it may empower more people to want to support or have chickens.

Alderman Karrick asked, since this issue has been talked about for quite some time, can a time frame or special meeting be called, to resolve this issue.

No conclusion was made; no guidance was finalized.

More discussion needs to be done, possibly at every committee meeting (except Public Works)

2. Part time dispatch raise

Parttime dispatch makes \$15.50 during training. After training they make \$16.00.

Recommended Raise their pay to \$17.00 during training and \$18.00 after training.

3. Part time police raise

Parttime Police Officers pay is \$19.00 starting off while in training. Then goes to \$22.50 after training, after 200 hours is reached they get an additional \$0.50.

Recommended Raise pay to \$25.00 once 200 hours of on the street training is completed.

Discussion: Chief Snodgrass was asked for definitive rates of pay be provided for the next Police Committee meeting.

4. Raise the golf cart fees to \$40

Present fee is \$35.00; this has been causing a payment and change issue. Raising the fee to \$40.00 would make payment easier. Recommendation is changing fee to \$50.00 starting in Jan 1st 26.
Consensus passed

Additional Discussion:

Alderman Boster wants to visit Liquor/Gaming licenses in the near future.

Mayor Murphy stated the Knights of Columbus has approximately \$2,600.00 to \$2,800.00 left over from a donation to a Safe Passage Program. K of C wants to liquidate this fund. Mayor Murphy is going to give them the following recommendations:

- a. Leave the funds in the account
- b. Give the money to another Drug Rehabilitation Program
- c. Give the money to Taylorville's Safe passage Program

Dickie Lowder intends to build two houses over by Dye Street.

The owner of 220 West Dean St. wants to possibly give the property to the city. He is still undecided whether he is going to demolish it or rebuild it stating that the insurance company only gave him \$2,000.00 for demolition.

The city would require him to turn over any insurance money he received for demolition.

Motion made by Calloway seconded by Boster to adjourn at 8:38 PM

Consensus passed.

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk
Date Approved