

**,Regular Police Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday July 9th, 2026**

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

Alderspersons in attendance: Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Matrisch, Boster,

Absent: Karrick, Calloway and Carter

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

Audience: None

Comments from Audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes 06-11-26

Motion made by Matrisch seconded by Boster to approve Police Committee Meeting Minutes of 06-11-26. **Motion** passed with all in favor

2. Debris along roadside

Bertolino requested an update on the emails that he had sent to the Chief of Police concerning debris (chairs, couches, love seats, junk) put on the side of the road by the residents. He asked what the Police procedure for roadside junk complaints is? Chief Snodgrass explained the process as, most enforcement is acted on as complaint based.

There was continued discussion on why the Public Works Department can't pick the debris up and then bill the residence, why can't the Police Department just go knock on the door and talk with the residents, Chief Snodgrass responded he tries to make phone communication with the residents and if no contact can be made, then he sends out a letter that the junk must be removed within 10 days. Matrisch stepped up and asked, as an Alderman, would it be appropriate for him to go and talk to the residents if complaints are in his ward? The answer was yes. Chief Snodgrass will forward copies of complaints to Matrisch for any trash complaints that are received for his ward.

3. Dispatch update

Neighbors and Bertolino inquired about the Part Time Dispatch, on the progress of training. Chief Snodgrass reported the training of the Part Time

Dispatch is going good and is ahead of any schedule. She has worked approximately 240 hours and approximately 200 more hours are anticipated before she will be able to work on her own. Chief described her as highly motivated, fast learner and enjoys the job.

Discussion: on the officer at the academy, as he is still on the Dispatch List. He presently is holding two positions 1 as a full time Dispatch and 1 as a full time Police Officer in training. He would like to work part time as a Dispatch even after completing the Academy. Chief Snodgrass spoke on the difficulties on hiring a full time Dispatch off the street. He recommends continuing hiring parttime with the potential to move into full time position.

4. PT Police

Discussion: on the part time police officer; one has worked 12 shifts so far this year, often covering weekends to assist in reducing overtime. One took some personal time away for family, and one hasn't worked any shift, but has come in and helped with administrative work off the clock. Concerns were raised about return on the investment given the cost of the Academy Training, unlike full time officers who signed service agreements part timer have no minimum hours of commitments, leading to inconsistent availability. There was discussion about implementing future contracts requiring a minimum monthly hour commitment to ensure adequate utilization and investment return.

5. Radar

Chief Snodgrass reported the batteries are being charged and the radar sign will be reactivated. Possible relocation will be Dye St and/or by the school gym on Union St where speeding complaints have been reported immediately following evening school events around 6:00 pm.

Chief also spoke on Flock readers and defended them against public concerns about privacy and surveillance. He clarified Flock only captures license plates vehicle make, model and color. Running them against a state database for stolen vehicles, amber alerts, and other critical alerts, not routine violations. Other local municipalities around Virden that also used them are Springfield, Chatham, Sangamon County, and they recently helped to locate a kidnapping victim in Springfield. Public complaints often on social media stem from misinformation.

6. 222 N Finis St.

Mayor Murphy spoke on the e-mail that he received from Attorney Craven on the three ways the property could be sold. The property has had a sign posted on it, "For Sale by the City of Virden," for the last five years. Craven was OK with the city selling the property for the bid price plus the closing cost. This issue will be taken to the City Council for consideration.

7. Class G licenses

Mayor Murphy was asked to get some kind of documentation from the Gaming Parlor Applicants stating they are still interested in opening up a Parlor and are still continuing the process of getting a state license.

All three responded that they were inspected, however no documentation was given by the state. Boster and Bertolino agreed that the city has nothing to hold the applicants accountable to the six month opening date deadline. The consensus of the committee is the have Parlor owners submit a simple letter/memo requesting a 90 day extension on opening day due to state delays.

8. Video Gaming Terminal Tag

Discussion: on Video Gaming Terminal Tags, Bertolino passed out a copy of a tag that Auburn uses. The tags give the machine information and is meant to allow inspectors to know that a permit was in fact paid for that particular machine.

Executive Session: None

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to adjourn at 7:43 pm.

Motion: passed.

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: