

Police Committee Meeting

City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
October 9th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Boster at 6:00 pm.

Alderspersons in attendance: Carter, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Matrisch, Boster, Carter, and Calloway (Calloway arrived at 6:30 pm)

Absent: Aldermen Karrick, and Donley

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

Audience: Zeb Robinette, Phyllip Kennedy, Terenia Gist

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Zeb Robinette talked about tickets he had received for trash and junk vehicles. He said he would like to compromise with the city.

Alderman Bertolino cleared up that he had not talked to Mr. Robinette about putting up a fence. Mr. Robinette confirmed Alderman Bertolino had not suggested that he put up a fence to hide the cars.

Mr. Robinette stated there were approximately 80 vehicles in Virden, that appeared to be junk, and that he had emailed the Chief of Police pictures of those vehicles.

Chief Snodgrass stated that vehicles are not junk if they can be moved under their own power and they're not presently being worked on.

Mr. Robinette stated that he will have the trash and the vehicles cleaned up by the 18th of October. His court date is on the 13th of November, and he will be contacting the Chief of Police to confirm the trash, and vehicles are cleaned up in hopes to have the court case dismissed prior to the 13th of November.

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes 9/11/25

Motion made by Boster seconded by Bertolino to approve Police Committee Meeting Minutes of 9/11/2025

Motion passed

2. Sergeant Promotion

Mayor Murphy promoted Officer Gist to the rank of sergeant.

3. 1148 N. Noble St.

This address was identified as needing cleaned up; the resident had promised to clean it up during the city wide event but did not follow through.

Notice was sent by mail giving the resident 10 days to get it cleaned up.

Issues included: furniture, vegetation (grass and other growth) kid's toys, junk, and a bed or a mattress on the front porch.

Vegetation was particularly overgrown and added to the formal notice.

After the 10-day period, if unresolved, a citation will be issued, the city can mow, and the remaining issues may go to court.

Discussion: Recounted attempts to remove the junk (possibly by the owner of a blue or dark blue truck) and highlighted prior communications with the residents.

The main resident was described as reasonable, but others in the home were more difficult to deal with, as per the property owner.

This address has been discussed in previous meetings.

The property on Henrietta St. was also discussed

Officer Gist documented conditions with photos showing deterioration, Craven will be assigned to follow-up for further court action.

The council expressed frustration at longstanding property neglect and inconsistencies in enforcement.

4. FTO for police officer that we sent to the academy.

Sergeant Gist provided the following information:

The FTO program is divided into 3 or 4 phases.

Advancement through each phase depends on the officer's ability to handle a variety of situations (e.g., domestics, ordinances, traffic cases) rather than a set number of hours.

Specific tasks must be completed in each phase with about 10 call types per phase.

The officer being discussed has a full time job Monday through Friday and only commits to part time police work, mainly on the weekends.

He is considered likely to be a valuable long-term part-time officer, filling gaps when full time staff needs time off.

He is currently in the latter part of phase one and is several months from completing all FTO phases.

His training is also being overseen by Marcus, who is also a well-trained and respected officer.

The department sees a strong need for several reliable part-time officers to relieve overtime and provide flexibility in coverage.

Hiring and training part time officers is costly (estimated at about \$20,000+ per officer before regular work begins) but seen as a worthwhile if the officer stays for multiple years.

It is difficult to predict exactly when the officer will finish his FTO training as it depends on phase progression and real world experiences gained through the shifts.

Discussion: On part time officers saving the department on benefits and helping to reduce overtime.

The projected timeline for completion is potentially 3 to 4 months, but it is variable.

There was a general agreement that investing in dependable part time officers brings long term benefits, even when there is an upfront training cost.

Executive Session: None

Additional:

A notice was received from Crown Castle regarding subleasing space on the city's tower. The city will begin receiving a monthly payment as a result of this subleasing.

The North End Drainage project previously considered for rebidding is presently on hold.

Bill Sleeman reported there is a possibility of additional money to help fund the project probably due to another municipality not using their grant.

Bill Sleeman will investigate the possibility of securing the additional money for the drainage project.

The audit for the current year has not been completed yet; the audit from 2024 we submitted instead.

The Audit will clarify to the authorities that the city does not have millions of dollars available that could be used for the project.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Carter to adjourn at 6:35 pm.
Motion passed

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: