

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

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:00 pm.

Alderspersons in attendance: Calloway, Carter, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Matrisch, and Karrick

Absent: Alderperson Boster

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, Police Chief Steve Snodgrass, Director of Public Works Gary Etter and Lead Police Dispatcher Dave Bounds

Audience: Rick Maguire, Mindy Hertz, and family

Comments from Audience:

(Discussion also includes topic #5 Fireworks and bomb complaint Finis St.).

Mindy Hertz (3291 Hill St.) presented concerns about repeated large fireworks being set off near her home which distresses her grandchildren. She detailed an incident during her granddaughter's birthday party where a neighbor set off a large loud mortar type firework, causing severe distress to the children and guests and said this has been ongoing. She identified multiple neighboring houses involved: 460 N Finis (which involvement is frequent), 404 W Hill and, 425 N Blair. She provided video evidence also claiming there were multiple witnesses and describe police responses were lacking in citations. She requested stronger action to prevent further trauma to her grandchildren and indicated a willingness to continue to reporting and advocating.

Her complaint was acknowledged, the challenge in pinpointing the exact source and enforcing the citations were explained. She was encouraged to continue reporting the incidences which needs to be as specific as possible. She was encouraged to get submission of witness statements and any video evidence available. Public videoing and the legal ramifications of such evidence was explained. The potential of possible charges would be disorderly conduct, per the city code. The Committee and Police Chief committed to pursuing charges if probable cause and an exact individual could be identified. Guidance was given to the Hertz family to submit formal statements for further action.

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes 10-09-25

Motion made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to approve Police Committee Meeting Minutes of 10-09-2025

Motion passed with all in favor

2. Dispatch part-time pay increase

Issue raised regarding the lack of formal Council vote to raise the part-time dispatch pay (as previously discussed in May).

Motion made by Matrisch seconded by Karrick to take to the December 1st City Council Meeting a motion for the approval to increase the part-time Dispatch pay to \$17 per hour starting off, then increase to \$18 an hour after they are released on their own.

Motion: passed with all in favor

3. Hiring FT Dispatcher & FT Patrolman

Discussion: on the need to hire a full time Dispatch to fill the upcoming loss. The position could be filled by the part time person, who desires full time employment. If hired for full time, their part time position would need to be filled at a later date.

Recommendation: made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to allow the Chief of Police to post the advertisement for a full time dispatch.

Recommendation: passed with all in favor

Discussion: Chief Snodgrass reported that he has received a resignation letter from one of his officers and, has already begun the advertisement process to fill that position with a certified officer. As of this date one (1) application has been received. Police interviews conducted by the council could be conducted at the December Police Meeting.

4. Liquor License Background check

An ORI (Originating Agency Identifier) which is a unique 9 digit character code used for criminal history record checks is needed. It has been requested from the State Police. Once received, Chief Snodgrass will set up the database used for criminal history record checks.

5. Fireworks (N Finnis) bomb complaint

Discussed in Audience Comments

Executive Session: None

Additional: None

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Motion: passed.

Jonathan J. Myint

City Clerk

Date Approved: