

Police Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday May 9, 2024

Interviews were conducted at 7:22pm

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

Aldermen in attendance: Bertolino, Calloway, Mitchell, Mottershaw, Boster and Neighbors

Also in attendance: Mayor Murphy and Chief Steven Snodgrass

Absent: Cunningham

Visitors: Shirley Lomelino, Sara Lehman and Robin Shoemaker

Comments from Audience:

1. Shirley Lomelino

- a.** The water way between Chizmar and ours, he has blocked all that water way off. It used to be a natural water way. He took the alley and filled it all in. We get all the water. There is a big hole that a little kid could fall in. She asked who is going to fix it. She called the mayor to see if he'd be willing to fill the big hole there down so far to her property line. He said she would need to move the shed. The shed has been there for years and was there before she bought the place. Steve said he could have horses. If he can have horses, she can have goats and pigs. There is no difference. Steven said he has never consulted with him about horses. He never ever said he could have horses. (Not sure who is talking) said he has an electric fence and there are kids not even a block away in the trailer court and she has someone come over and don't want anything to happen to him. Murphy checked the ordinance. It doesn't say you can't have an electric fence. It says if you have one it has to be 3 feet from the easement. When Murphy went to look, it looked like it is 3 feet from the easement. It's on the inside of his wooden fence that he's got. Murphy doesn't think that is in violation. Shirley says on the north side it's in his ditch. Does that mean we can use the ditches for our fences if we wanted to? Murphy didn't see that part. When it rains it makes their yard a swamp. Bertolino said when Chizmar purchased that ground most recently wasn't there some sort of water way that ran through and that was on his property which he was allowed to do that since it was on his property. Correct. (Not sure who is talking) said since he did that all the water now stands in our yard. Bertolino said correct me if he is wrong, he was allowed to do that because it wasn't platted as a city ditch. Murphy doesn't remember. He also filled in the east and south as well. Bertolino said the one he's talking about runs north and south. He most recently purchased that from Narmont and we could not stop him from doing that because it was on private property and not a city easement for the water to go through there. Mitchell said he believes they rerouted it. They said it wasn't because their

properties flood every time it rains. They need bigger culverts to get the water to pass through. Talked more about ditches being clogged and water not passing through. Bertolino asked for Shirley's number to meet her out this weekend so he can see what she is talking about.

Topics:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (4/11/2024 & Special 4/29/24)

Motion made by Mitchell second by Boster to approve the Police Committee Meeting Minutes for 4/11/24 and Special Police Committee Meeting Minutes for 4/29/24. Consensus passed.

2. Nuisance Properties/Ordinances

Mottershaw says going to court for a fine is just a waste of money, but he asked Joe about it. We send them a notice on weeds, and they don't do anything, so we have the authority to go in and mow it and bill them for it. Mottershaw proposes we send the notice, they don't do anything, we mow it and bill it them. They don't pay we send them to collections and instruct our attorneys to file a lien on the property and go forward to foreclose on that lien. Murphy said at least it would get it done. Talked about junk being put on city side of ditch. Bertolino said that's going to put a lot more mowing on the Public Works and we haven't been paid for the ones we have already done. Mottershaw says but it's a way to get ahold of the property. Bertolino wants to know who's going to be handling the billing. Mottershaw says the office from my understanding.

3. 2 Police Explorers

Steven saw that this was on the agenda, so he wanted to drive them to see what was going on. The unmarked car, they can't say the steering rack is out until they take it apart. The marked car's steering rack did go out and was parked for a while because it was back ordered. He got into it today and he goes to turn, and you are forcing it to turn. He couldn't recreate the reverse problem because he just turned it in a circle and parked it because he couldn't steer it. The other one when you try to accelerate it and try to get on it, around 30 mph, it revs up and then crash in almost like it grabs it. Every little bump you hit, it goes thud, thud, thud Mitchell called over to Sterling Transmission and he talked to Paul. He said if we brought them over there, he could test drive them, road test them and tell you what the problem is at no cost. The steering rack in the one would have to be fixed before it can be driven there. Steven said he doesn't mind driving the other one out there. Bertolino wants to know if Mitchell can drive the vehicle and Steven follow in another to bring him back. Steven right now is by himself so he would have to find someone to fill in. Bertolino says or a Public Works guy. Bertolino asked Mitchell as the police chair for him to get with Steven and figure it out. Mottershaw says let's see what we get out of the marked one and if we aren't going to put any money in the unmarked one. We might as well get it up to Ladage.

4. Interview Part-time Police Officers

Interviews were held at 7:22pm. They were not recorded.

5. Part-time Patrolman pay

- a. Steven wanted to see about since the contract pay was increased to see about increasing part-time pay. Maybe get a certified guy. Paying a parttime guy is a lot cheaper to get him to come in and work. Right now, he has 2 working but 1 applied with another agency and going through the hiring process right now. He said he maybe will be leaving in the middle of June. Then that will leave him with 1 working part-timer. Boster wants to know how much of an increase. Stevens personal opinion he'd like to see \$25 an hour. that's what you started full time at, but you don't pay them any benefits. Murphy said he can see bumping them up, but he doesn't know about \$25.00. Boster says if you put \$3.38 add to their training because the \$19 that would be the same raise. It'd make it \$22.38. He can see making it \$22.50 to keep it an even number. Bertolino said he agrees with Tony. Murphy says why not start at \$21.00 during their training and once they pass their training give them a little bump or something we have to pay them the weekends they are training. Steven says to set a training pay and once they get done with 200 hrs give them a bump up. Boster says why don't you make their training pay \$21.00 and after training make it \$22.50 and then after 200 hours give them \$1.00. Neighbors likes that idea. Bertolino says do the \$19 as their training because they agreed with that. Murphy is good with the boots on the ground at \$22.50 or after the 200 hrs. Mottershaw wants thoughts on their 200 hours, starts when they are solo? Boster said they have to get through the academy first. You're talking about their field training not qualifying. Mottershaw said that's what he wants clarified. Field Training they can assist with an arrest, breaking up fights, and all that. Yes, as long as they passed the state exam and certified.
- b. Murphy said Karen asked me since the new police contract, do we want to increase chiefs clothing allowance from \$600 to \$700.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Calloway to take to council to increase Chiefs clothing allowance from \$600 to \$700. Consensus passed.

- c. Mitchell says while we are on this, this is his personal opinion we gave the officers' a good raise and raised part-time and that. He things we faced slapped the Chief and Pokey. They didn't get enough raise in my opinion. Mitchell says he deserves the same pay, and he thinks Pokey as well. Mottershaw said if we are going to review that Finance would be the place. Mottershaw kinda brought it up when we were discussing non-union people. Boster saysf the y should get an additional \$3 that would give them \$4 and put them about the rest. Mottershaw says we got a Finance Meeting before Council and there are more non-union people who deserve a whole heck a lot more. Let's review the whole bunch and council can decide how to go. Motterhsaw will add that to.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mitchell to enter executive session to discuss hiring/firing personnel and approval of executive session minutes at (??)pm. Consensus passed.

Executive Session

- 1. Approval of Executive Session meeting minutes (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(21))**

2. Hiring/Firing Personnel (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1))

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mitchell to exit executive session at 9:12 pm. Consensus passed.

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Mottershaw to approve executive session minutes from police 3/26/24 and 4/11/24. Consensus passed.

Additional:

- Mitchell says this is a recommendation for the #1 spot Rynie McKinney, #2 Timothy Wallis and #3 Emmanuel Cannon.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Neighbors to recommend we approve the list as stated by the chair. Consensus passed with majority.

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Calloway to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. Consensus passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Karen Burgess
Deputy City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: