

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, October 21, 2013

6:00 P.M.

Police Training Room 4th Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Szwejbka, Councilwoman Maria Jones, Councilman Paul Whitford

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Captain Todd Isaacson, Deputy Fire Chief Chet Harvey, Tiffini Conti, Greg Rabb

Chairman Steve Szwejbka called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the October 7, 2013 meeting were approved.

Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

No one appeared to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from Ira Lou Spring Post 149 of the American Legion to hold Veterans Day Service on November 11, 2013.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – American Cancer Society, Inc – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – St. Luke’s Episcopal Church - Super Hero’s Against Bullying.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena – Legends of Wrestling.

The members approved the request with the condition that the east lane on Jefferson Street and the south lane on West 2nd Street remain open.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Renaissance Corporation and City of Jamestown – Holiday Parade.

Tiffini Conti stated that Tracy Plaza will be closed so we will adjust to the street. We used to be in the street when we started. The announcers will be on the sidewalk. It will remain the same as in past years.

Captain Isaacson asked about closing Prendergast Ave. for the entertainment.

Ms. Conti stated she would bring it up at the meeting on Tuesday morning. We have talked about putting it on a semi flat bed and pull it away.

Chairman Szwejbka asked if there will be fireworks.

Ms. Conti stated yes.

Councilman Whitford stated he has seen they came out with rules for the parade. He hoped that all would be decorated. At one time we counted 15 pieces of equipment with no decoration.

Ms. Conti stated that would no longer be happening.

Councilman Whitford stated the kids come to see lights and activity. It is good the rules changed.

Ms. Conti stated we are doing a \$10 donation if agencies want to do that. The others took up line up space up to McDaniel Ave.

Chairman Szwejbka asked if candy will be thrown this year.

Ms. Conti stated no. We discourage it but some people still do it. We address it when it happens.

Chairman Szwejbka stated it would be easier if people walked with buckets.

The members approved the request.

NEW BUSINESS

57 Spruce Street Meth Lab

Chairman Szwejbka asked if citizens realize how dangerous it is? Is this a new one?

Captain Isaacson stated that this is a new one. We got a call from the Fire Department initially. Scott Finch who is the renter was faced with a quick dilemma, calling the Fire Department because the garden hose wasn't putting out the fire or letting the house burn down. When he called the fire department he is handing himself over to the Police Department. It was a shake bottle method. Lithium particles from batteries, the pellets from the freezer packs, you break open the freezer packs, drano, anyone of those would ruin you. Mixing it and injecting it into your body is unbelievable. It got away from them but the Fire Department had a quick response. They carried the extinguished bottle out and when the water started seeping down the lithium particles ignited again. We knew what it was. We worked with the State Police and they brought in their Special Response Unit with the contaminants and storage alone it is a bio-hazard. We do not have the means to do that. Three kids go to Washington Middle School that reside there. They were not there when the fire took place but they were there during manufacturing. It has been going on for some time. It is being rented by the Finch's. The landlord and boyfriend live in the Warren area. They arrived and said JP Morgan owns the house, they collect the rent and do what they want with it. They have been sighted numerous times by DOD for code violations, garbage piling up, etc. The neighbors have been vigilant and calling about it. They were pleased we were there. Greg Moran from DOD showed up and posted a "No Occupancy" sign on the building. It detracts from that beautiful neighborhood but hopefully this will be enough to get it cleaned up.

Chairman Szwejbka stated this is the second one.

Captain Isaacson stated there are ones we do not know about. We do not know until there is a fire or the by-products are thrown in the back yard. It is trending. One of the suspects in this was under the influence. He was definitely out there. There was no talking to him or comprehension on his part. It is quite disturbing. The neighbors to the left of them moved last year to get away from it. That is unfortunate.

Chairman Szwejbka asked if a PSA can be done to the public to make them aware if you smell something. Do people realize how dangerous it is?

Captain Isaacson stated it smelled like rotten eggs the day before. Even when we were there venting it out with the Fire Department we got a strong indication of marijuana. He was growing marijuana in the house on top of the meth lab. It is a volatile situation.

Chairman Szwejbka stated that is dangerous stuff and to have two in the city in that short period of time. Dangerous for the Fire Department and the officers.

Councilwoman Jones asked what the charges were.

Captain Isaacson stated that they have been charged with three counts of endangering the welfare of a child, this is a Jerry Springer type situation at the house. Scott Finch has three daughters. His ex-wife moved in to help with her boyfriend. It is a Class A misdemeanor. The by-products of the meth, there are waters and oils and bottles. We have two bottles. Two ounces are good enough for an A2 felony. There were four ounces and two bottles. They can be charged with two counts. They have not been levied yet because we have to wait for the lab analysis. The State Police does the clean-up. Their team is cross trained. They wear the bio-suits with the respirators in it and have guns to go in and clear it. They have to do that because if someone is in there on it and they see someone with a moon suit come in. They could freak out. Take aggressive action against the officers. They have to go through fog lines which the Fire Departments set up for them. They will bring chemists on site to test it there and then dispose of it because it is so dangerous. It is quite a process. The kids are at a relative's house and safe. The Chief and I did a lot of door-to-door to communicate with the neighbors. They were grateful but stated why my neighborhood?

Chairman Szwejbka stated thank you for the update. I am sure there are more in town.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk