

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, March 24, 2014

7:15 P.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Whitford, Councilwoman Maria Jones, Councilwoman Marie Carrubba

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Harry Snellings

Chairman Whitford called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting were approved.

Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

No one appeared to speak.

RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLVED, That Fire Investigator Shawn Shilling be and he hereby is authorized to attend the National Fire Academy's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist Level I Program and Symposium at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, New York, April 29-May 1, 2014, with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Law. Note: This item appears on the Finance Committee Agenda.

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the March 31, 2014 meeting.

2. RESOLVED, That Police Officer Jay Wadsworth be and he hereby is authorized to attend the Defensive Tactics Instructor Course in Hamburg, New York, March 31 – April 4 1, 2014 with expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Laws of the State of New York. Note: This item appears on the Finance Committee Agenda.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Snellings stated that the training has been cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Event Application – Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena – Jordan World Circus.

The members approved the request.

Request from the United Veterans Council of Jamestown to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade.

The members approved the request.

Deer Over-Population

Councilwoman Carrubba stated she has been getting calls regarding the deer population in the city. They are out all hours of the day and night. I do not know what to do. The woman that called said they have eaten everything. She won't replant anything but wondered what to do.

Councilman Whitford stated we looked into it at one point. The bait and shoot program. No wards are exempt from it. They are all over the place. On Pearl Ave. you see 14 deer in the middle of the road. They jump over the fence to get into the back yard. Our neighbor has a large bird feeder and they eat from it. This winter it has been worse. They eat everything. If you do the bait and shoot and go through the DEC it takes a long time to get approvals.

Councilwoman Jones stated they are not afraid.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Snellings stated Captain Isaacson attended the meeting in the Town of Ellicott. It did not go as well as expected. Once you start the program you are committed. You can't go back as far as trying to kill the deer population. You can't do it one year and stop.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated so they say that you will have more deer if you do not do it every year?

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Snellings stated yes.

Councilman Whitford stated the normal procedure was they would do the normal study they do to look at the populated areas.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Snellings stated we would have to determine the area, safety issues, etc. We are limited to the area we could do it.

Councilman Whitford stated you have to be elevated when you are shooting. You can't dress the deer in the place you shoot it. You have to go to a neutral area and then they have to be donated. You have to have an agreement with someone to do that.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Snellings stated you have to determine who is going to shoot them.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated I know it is not an easy issue. I said I would bring it up. She indicated that that there may not be anything to do but wanted to ask. I feel her pain. When I see deer running down West 3rd Street, they are not afraid.

Councilman Whitford stated on Pratt Ave. you can see anywhere from 5-15 deer.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated a neighbor would not get out of her car because they were on her front lawn.

Councilwoman Jones stated it is a problem we are going to have to deal with. It will continue.

Councilman Whitford stated initially when we addressed it, public safety was going to do it. We need to pay for the ammunition and the shooters.

Councilwoman Jones stated there was no damage data available.

Councilman Whitford stated insurance companies lobby for the deer hunting. They save money by it. If you approached the insurance companies to assist in the cost they might be receptive to it.

Spruce Street Meth Lab

Councilwoman Carrubba stated she was at the public meeting along with Police Chief Snellings regarding Spruce Street and the State Police provided a lot of information on methamphetamines. My eyes were opened as to how easy it is and how easy the information is obtained to produce them. That and the program on the heroin epidemic. We are just beginning to see what is going on. We are lucky it is not as bad as other areas. Hopefully we can address it before it gets worse. It is across all socio-economic groups. The demographics are unbelievable.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk