

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 25, 2018

4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Jackson and Ron Volkert

Members Absent: Scottie Ard

Others Present: Craig Yehlik, Jim Vanderwyst and Lori Brinkman

Jim Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Ron Volkert moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Ron Volkert moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of June 27, 2018, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

CBD Oil Update

Police Chief Craig Yehlik gave an update on CBD oil possession. A legislative bill has passed stating that biproducts of hemp are legal to end users (including oils), however, State Statutes still state that biproducts of hemp are illegal. It's hard to enforce at this time because of the discrepancy. Chief Yehlik is waiting for the Attorney General to release a statement so there is clear direction for law enforcement, but he doesn't think it will happen until after the November election.

UTV/ATV/Golf Cart Use on Roadways

Alderman Jackson asked that the issue of allowing UTVs/ATVs and golf carts on City streets be discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting. Chief Yehlik has been researching what other nearby jurisdictions allow. From what he has found so far, Somerset has recently adopted a UTV/ATV ordinance and North Hudson is in the process of adopting a UTV/ATV ordinance. It appears that Woodville is the only nearby jurisdiction that allows golf carts on their streets. Discussion followed about the benefits and challenges of adopting a policy for UTVs/ATVs and/or golf carts. One thing to keep in mind is that a specified crossing point would need to be established upon all highways within City limits.

Chief Yehlik will continue to research.

Mobile Field Force

Chief Yehlik explained that earlier this year the State made some grant money available for groups around the state to provide a "Mobile Field Force" for times of civil unrest. At an area Police Chief meeting, Rice Lake Police Chief Steve Roux indicated he would take the lead on this grant if he had support from some of the larger police departments in the area (such as New Richmond, Hudson, and River Falls). They are hoping to get four agencies that would be willing to have (up to) four officers trained and ready to be available to be sent to areas throughout Wisconsin in times of civil unrest to help with crowd management, protests, directional movement, etc. Chief Yehlik explained that Chief Roux already sent two of his officers to the training and they can in turn train other officers. Chief Yehlik asked the Committee if this is a worthwhile effort to look into. Alderman Volkert and Alderman Jackson believe it is worthwhile to pursue. The grant money would cover basic crowd control equipment such as helmets, chest protectors, batons, etc. Discussion ensued.

Ron Volkert made a motion for Chief Yehlik to move forward with mobile field force research and finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding which will be presented at a later date for full Council approval, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Police Department Fees

The Attorney General's office has issued a news release stating that many government agencies are charging too much for documentation related to public records requests. The release emphasizes that government agencies are only able to charge a fee for the actual, necessary, and direct costs of four specific tasks: reproduction and transcription, photographing and photographic processing, locating, and mailing/shipping. Government agencies may not charge for the time it takes to redact records, and agencies may not make profits on its responses to public records requests. Chief Yehlik mentioned that there have been some recent local lawsuits against municipalities for exorbitant fees. He then outlined the current fee schedule for the Police Department for things such as paper copies/reports, DVDs, and photographs. He also went over the fees outlined by the Department of Justice (\$0.0135 per black and white copy, \$0.0632 per color copy, \$0.13 for a DVD). Chief Yehlik believes City staff should proactively look at our current fees to ensure we are not charging too much. Alderman Volkert suggested Chief Yehlik work with Human Resource Manager Sarah Reese and City Clerk Tanya Batchelor to pull a full listing of fees to bring to the Council for review in light of the Attorney General's news release.

Communication/Miscellaneous

Chief Yehlik stated K-9 Storm is doing great. Storm was able to help clear a building last month after calls of gunshots fired.

Detective de la Cruz will be holding a "Drugs in Plain Sight" presentation at the United Methodist Church this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Lori Brinkman noted we need to avoid rescheduling the Public Safety Committee meetings to afternoons when the Library Board has meetings.

Ron Volkert moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Minutes by Lori Brinkman