

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
April 14, 2014

President Pro Tempore Chris Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members of Council present: Leslie Kelly, Cornelius McGrady, III., Mel Clemens, Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long, Dan Skinner, Esq.

President of Council Doug Joseph was not present.

Approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held March 24, 2014.

Approval of Agenda-

Mr. Long: a couple of typographical errors. One in item #18- strike the phrase AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This item is not an emergency.

In items #19 and #20, they are listed for disposal and not going for auction.

Community Comments and Requests:

Communications:

No communications.

Reports:

Presentation from Community Resource Officer Kessler.

Chief O'Neill: Thank you President Long, members of Council. Last summer, we decided to try a new program in the Southwest portion of the city to kind of address the high concentration of activity that we saw there. As part of that, Officer Kessler was selected for a new position in the department termed Community Resource Officer. He's going to give you a presentation today as far as how the first quarter has gone and when we initiated this program, we had to take sort of a two prong approach, we wanted it to have some clearly defined goals so you're going to hear some of those goals here today but we also knew as a new program within the department, we wanted to have a more fluid dynamic to be able to respond to the needs of the people and the needs of the business owners that are down there. So he's going to kind of discuss the goals and how we've come to address some of the problems down there and he's going to give you some examples of what we've done down there first quarter.

Mr. Long: Thank you Chief. Officer Kessler.

Officer Kessler: The first thing we did was come up with some goals.

1. Develop a Residential and Business Survey.

A survey was developed for the residents and a separate one for the business owners to find out what exactly they find are the problems in the area and find out what effects them, quality of life issues. Once those surveys come back, we move onto number two.

2. Develop a database of residents and business in the CRO jurisdiction.
3. Develop, implement, utilize and participate in new programs to address negative issues identified through surveys, contacts, and ATACRAIDS.

One of the perks to my position, since I'm not taking service calls all of the time, I have the time to be able to reach out to different organizations in the state and local community that generally don't happen with a regular patrol officer. The ATACRAIDS is a program that we just got access to this year. You can access it online at raidsonline.com is the civilian version. It's basically a map of the city and it will show you what kind of crimes have occurred over a certain period of time. The version we have access to imports the full report so I can pull up the whole report that went with it. The public version is just a little icon that shows what type of crime it was. It's not up and running completely yet, but it has the potential to be a very good tool. It's a big time saver and it will help with statistics.

4. Identify outside agencies that can assist with the implementation of programs.

Century City is the only apartment complex left that I have responsibility for that deals with mental health patients. They have a block of apartments where they work with these outpatient programs to house patients that need little to no supervision. But as you can expect these can sometimes cause problems for officers not used to dealing with the types of problems. I've been able to make contact with the groups that house patients here, I have a direct line to the case workers and it seems to have eased some communications problems that we've had.

5. Assist narcotics detectives with enforcement of narcotics tips initiated by business owners and residents.

These are not things that I'm generating myself, they're complaints that have come in from the residents and the business owners in the area which is kind of surprising, usually an officer will generate a tip and will follow up on it but these are people coming to me and saying that this is a problem, would you look into this..

Surveys:

Neighborhood and Business Surveys complete and added to the city's web site

Residential surveys distributed and awaiting responses from residents

Business surveys to be handed out by CRO personally

This gives me a chance to meet business owners, address code violations, collect emergency contact information. So far the surveys have been passed out for about a week and a half now and we've had about 3% of them returned so far. So it's not too bad of a return so far.

One of the things that this allows me to do with reaching out to other agencies is we've had an ongoing problem in the area of the high school with trespassers. I've been pulling reports up since at least 2006. Teenagers going back and forth between the Baldwin Road, their residences and the high school and their destroying property. The residents in the area have been trying to deal with this since at least 2006, they've replaced the fences two or three times since then and frankly, they're fed up with it.

Pointed out photos from Presentation (attached)

Some residents have been threatened. It's getting to the point where some residents have put grease on their fence rails, some of them have discussed glass and other things like that which obviously we've told them they can't do but their willing to try just about anything.

Kids are cutting down fence slats at the rear of Chandler Commons so they could get around the chain link fence to get to their homes. They've been dealing with this since 2006 and to them we're just blowing more smoke and they don't expect any change. There are some disciplinary actions the school can take whether it be suspensions, detentions.. we started after school announcements letting the juveniles know that it is illegal, you aren't allowed to cut through there, stay off of private property but it's been happening so long that they don't think anything of it. I actually stopped a kid there in Barcelona Square one morning, it was his first day of school and he already knew about the cut-through.

People he had met on the street the day before told him. I took him to school, verified his identity to make sure it was his first day of school and it was. That's how accepted it is.

Met with residents and explained proposed response
Met with principles of Baldwin Rd. Elementary and RHS Livingston campus
Initiated announcements after school advising students not to trespass
Targeted enforcement
Met with representatives of the Board of Education to explore alternatives
Discipline from the school
Clearing out tree line at Baldwin Rd.

Code compliance is a big thing in the area and we've been tackling some of the jobs. So far, I've met with owners of the Century City Market, the 99 cent store and I'm talking to the owner of the liquor store on Livingston Avenue about problems with property we've had down there.

He presented photos of the Century City Market, before and after.

Working with code compliance and Service Department:
Bring local business owners in the area of the CRO into compliance
Clean up the area
Broken window theory
Build positive business relationships

Narcotics complaints
All complaints investigated were generated by business owners or residents
16 drug complaints
9 of the drug complaints have led to charges being filed thus far.
1 small marijuana grow
1 SWAT search warrant resulting in a recovered gun, marijuana and paraphernalia
1 search warrant executed by CRO resulting in a recovered gun, heroine, ecstasy, marijuana, cocaine, evidence of an escort / prostitution ring and evidence that assisted in a rape investigation

Mr. Long: Thank you Officer Kessler.

Mr. McGrady: I want to applaud you for your efforts today. Outstanding work.

Mr. Long: I do have one question. The Raids system, I believe there was an article in the newspaper today about other municipalities that are currently utilizing it, it gives them the ability to share information so that we can actually tell if there is a pattern coming from Columbus, across Brice Rd and into our area. Is that a part of our system?

Officer Kessler: I don't know. I know that is part of what is supposed to be coming. We actually have some training scheduled tomorrow I think with the people from Bear, so I'll have some answers for you on that as soon as tomorrow. I do know that that's one of the things they claim to have.

Mr. Long: The news article from the communities who are actively involved in that have said it has been able to help them, not only identify patterns that are moving towards them, but have enabled them to enlist other municipalities when a pattern exits the current municipality and we may notice a pattern 2 blocks into the city of Columbus and say, that looks an awful lot like the next thing that happened in Reynoldsburg, so then there is collaboration and they're able to solve it much quicker.

Officer Kessler: Yes.

Mr. Long: any further questions or comments from members of Council. Thank you very much Officer Kessler. Thanks for the good work. Thank you Chief.

LEGISLATION REQUIRING ONE READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO PURCHASE TWO POLICE CRUISERS FOR REYNOLDSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

---Safety. Long.

Mr. Long: This item comes from the Safety Committee with recommendation of adoption of emergency, I so move. Second by Mr. Skinner.

Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye", Mr. Long "Aye", Mr. Skinner "Aye".

6 affirmative 0 negative Ordinance 17-14.

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND 299 INDIGENT DRIVERS INTERLOCK AND ALCOHOL MONITORING FUND AS REQUIRED UNDER ORC 4511.191(I) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. ---Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: This item comes from the Finance Committee with recommendation for adoption of emergency, I so move. Second by Mr. Clemens.

Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye", Mr. Long "Aye", Mr. Skinner "Aye".

6 affirmative 0 negative Ordinance 18-14.

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING SPONSORSHIP FUNDS TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

---Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: This item comes from the Finance Committee with recommendation for adoption of emergency, I so move. Second by Mr. Skinner.

Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye", Mr. Long "Aye", Mr. Skinner "Aye".

6 affirmative 0 negative Ordinance 19-14.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR 2014 FIREWORKS DISPLAY.--- Long. Safety.

Mr. Long: this item comes from the Safety Committee, I'd like for it to stand for its first reading and be referred back to committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL WITH EMH&T FOR 2014 SEWER INSPECTION AND CLEANING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
(to pass after 2nd reading).---Clemens. Service.

Mr. Clemens: I'd like for it to stand for its first reading and be referred back to the Service committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL WITH EMH&T FOR THE CITY-WIDE WATER SYSTEM MODELING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (to pass after 2nd reading) ---Clemens. Service.

Mr. Clemens: I'd like for it to stand for its first reading and be referred back to the Service committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO PURCHASE ONE 2015 FORD F250 PICKUP TRUCK FOR WATER/WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. (to pass after 2nd reading)-Service. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I'd like for it to stand for its first reading and be referred back to the Service committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A 3% COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR THE YEAR 2014 FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES COVERED BY CHAPTER 160.--- Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: This comes from the Finance Committee and I'd like for it to stand for its first reading and return to Committee.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ITEMS ON FIXED ASSET LIST FOR AUCTION; AND AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF MONIES RECEIVED FROM SALE OF ITEMS. (Water Dept) 1st reading on 3/24/2014 --- Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: I'd like for it to stand for its second reading and be return back to the Committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ITEMS ON FIXED ASSET LIST FOR AUCTION; AND AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF MONIES RECEIVED FROM SALE OF ITEMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Parks & Rec. to pass at second reading) 1st reading on 3/24/2014 --- Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: I would like to pass this as an emergency, this comes from Finance.

Mr. Long: Mr. Cotner moves for emergency, Second by Mr. Clemens.

Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye", Mr. Long "Aye", Mr. Skinner "Aye".

6 affirmative 0 negative Ordinance 20-14.

LEGISLATION FOR THIRD READING

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING DONATED FUNDS TO ACCOUNT 110.111.5362 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND. 2nd reading on 3/24/2014 --- Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: This comes from Finance with a recommendation for adoption and I so move.

Mr. Long: Mr. Cotner moves for adoption, Second by Mr. Skinner.

Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye", Mr. Long "Aye", Mr. Skinner "Aye".

6 affirmative 0 negative Ordinance 21-14.

Mr. Long: I will entertain a motion to move into executive session as requested by the Mayor discuss the purchase of real property.

So moved by Councilman Skinner, Second by Councilwoman Kelly.

Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye", Mr. Long "Aye", Mr. Skinner "Aye".

Reconvened for adjournment

Meeting adjourned. 8:16 p.m.

Chris Long, President Pro Tempore

April L. Beggerow, Clerk of Council