

MINUTES FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
January 21, 2014

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

President of Council Doug Joseph was not present.

Chairman Cotner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda.

Addition of 2 items

- Item 2a will be the report from the community resource officer.
- Item 2b will be a report from Officer Triplett on the Motor Unit

Motion to approve the agenda amendments by Mr. Skinner, Second by Mr. McGrady. All voted "Aye". Agenda amendments approved.

Item 2a. Report from the Community Resource Officer.

Chief O'Neil stated that about a year ago, Mr. Sowell had come forward with some itemized concerns that caused us to take a look at the area of Brice and Livingston. Councilmen Long and McGrady, and the Safety Director met with members from the Safety Services members of Columbus, and they were cordial but less than concerned about that area. Specifically, to address the concerns at Brice and Livingston, was the proposal and adoption of the Community Resource Officer (CRO). This position is closely centered to where there is a large concentration of people. It has been in place since the beginning of this month. He said one of the goals is to have a way for residents to contact us whether quality of life issues or actually law enforcement, criminal activity, we realize that all of that needs addressed. By placing an officer in that area, we feel we can work closely with the building department, code enforcement, health departments, fire departments, to address those issues that are "grey areas" of concern for the residents down there. We did go out and talk to several of our officers that showed interest and selected Officer Kessler to take over that position. He's been working down there since the beginning of the year and we wanted to bring him in and introduce him to you.

Mrs. Kelly asked Officer Kessler to share what a typical day would be like.

Officer Kessler stated that right now, after only 2 ½ weeks, a typical day is in front of a computer. He continued, that part of his job is to identify problems that are in the community. He wants to find out what the residents and business owners find are the main problems. He is developing a survey, a needs assessment which is a couple of weeks from distribution which he sees as the first step and from there figure out what kind of resources are needed to fix these problems.

Mrs. Kelly asked: do you envision yourself, once you have your needs assessment, of what the members of the community feel are the major concerns, do you envision yourself actually being physically being out in that area for large parts of the day?

Officer Kessler responded absolutely. A lot of the job relies on contacts, meeting with the business owners and residents and talking to them. Being out and saying Hi, if there are any problems just call me,

isn't going to cut it. You have to develop some trust. He said when a police officer shows up at the scene, that's all the public sees, an officer show up and arrest someone, sometimes they don't, sometimes there's a fight or altercation, that's the only side of the police department they see, there's not a lot of trust there. Part of my job is going to be not only to try to educate them and explain to them why that is what they see and to build that rapport. They're not going to talk to us if they don't trust us.

Mr. McGrady said I too think it's a good idea. But my question is, you know you have a formidable task based on the demographics there, and I *** your success and the community's success. This question may sound redundant but I have to ask, how do you plan to break the stigma of the lack of trust that may be already established between the demographics?

Officer Kessler responded that to be honest sir, the only thing I can do is put myself out there. I can put the material out there, talk to people, explain our position our situation, invite a response, invite a dialogue with everybody involved in this area, but I can only do so much. The police department as a whole doesn't function by itself, it takes everybody involved. If they're willing to come forward and work with me, I'm willing to work with them, but that's about all I can do really is put myself out there and see whether they're going to help us or not.

Mr. Skinner stated that he had a chance to meet Officer Kessler a couple of weeks ago and he was on top of it working on a computer program when I met with the Chief and the Sargent so I'm excited about your work and I think you've got a pretty good grasp on what's going on and what needs to take place. Do you have an idea when or kind of a goal on when you'll get out there and start meeting the business owners? A month, 6 months?

Officer Kessler responded, when it gets warm. It's a process, and it's slowly evolving. Obviously since I'm centered in Century City right now, I'm building a pretty good rapport with the office management and the residents there and I'm slowly working my way out. My main goal is to get the survey and get the questionnaires out there and once that's out there and I'm waiting for the responses, within a few weeks I should be out and meeting with everyone else because there's a lot of things—we keep files on business contacts and all that. That's going to give me a good excuse to go talk to them—to update those business files. We've already started to identify a problem, the liquor store there, the owner there had some issues with people on the lot, the old Value King lot pedaling bootleg CDs and she's made contact and we're working on that right now so it's happening; it's just not going to happen over-night.

Mr. Skinner asked if Officer Kessler felt that he had the equipment that he needs, recognizing that there is a wish list, but does he feel adequately equipped.

Officer Kessler stated that at this point absolutely not because he's just starting. He said I'm taking a lap top out of a cruiser that he has that day and that's what he's working on in his office, but that's a work in progress because you don't get an office and set it up over-night. He said I'm sure I'll have everything shortly.

Mrs. Kelly told Officer Kessler that as a person that works with a lot of different families, this is a great first step in building that trust. That the community will learn that the police are not there just take people away but that are someone that can be trusted.

Mr. Cotner asked Officer Kessler if he will be working primarily on foot, in a cruiser , on a bike? How does he plan on maneuvering around the area.

Officer Kessler responded mainly in a cruiser. The area given is from 70 and Brice to Retton Road to over by the high school and that there are many apartment complexes and a lot of residences in there. The main corridor- Brice and Livingston, Officer Kessler said he would be on foot but other places mainly cruiser.

Mr. Cotner then asked so as it gets warmer we'll see you walking, really being out there where people will see you.

Chief O'Neil said when we initially put together, one of the concerns was how big of an area could you be effective and one of the nice things about the weather now is it keeps people inside centered together. We've allowed him to set up at the substation that no one was ever in, no one would answer the phone or anything. We're starting there and working outward a little bit. We should be able to realize when we get to the point where we're losing our effectiveness. This is a pilot as far as I'm concerned, this is an area that I think we can move this same concept into different areas of the city, where we know where there are going to be people almost all of the time. We're trying to evaluate almost daily, is this too big, is this too much? How are we going to get information, how are we going to define our problems and once we define them we can move forward. I think by springtime or so we'll have a feeling about what we're dealing with down there. We already know what kind of activity we have, we just want to know how effective one person we have working in these circumstances can be.

Mr. Long stated that our response from the City of Columbus when we took the time to go down there and meet with their Safety individuals, was a little less than stellar, but they did seem to be open with open communications between the different departments. Everybody knows that what goes on one side of the street is going on on the other side of the street, is Officer Kessler in contact with the officers on the other side in Columbus?

Chief O'Neil replied that we hadn't gotten to that point yet where we could say we have a great relationship, but it's been, all the years when I was on patrol in the evening hours, you're best contact is going to be the person that's kind of doing the same job about the same time we are. So it might have been too big of a bite for us to try to meet with their Safety Director and try to get something done there if you meet with the patrol officers they have on the road, I think those are the people that are going to recognize the benefits and they're going to realize our efforts are helping their efforts and that's a good point I definitely see that as a starting point for us.

Officer Kessler stated that as time permits, there's definitely, I've made contact with they call him a community outreach officer in Hilliard. I've made contact with a couple of officers in some of the suburbs, just not all of them.

Mrs. Kelly asked about Officer Kessler's position being near the high school and asked if there would be coordination between the school's SRO because sometimes things happen at the High School and they can feed over into other areas. So will there be coordination?

Chief O'Neil responded that there hasn't formally been a line of communication between them. That the SRO officers are extremely capable and well thought of. He said we probably get more information out of the schools than ever that just keep us alert and this is a perfect opportunity to expand on that.

Mrs. Kelly said that it would help the schools be more proactive and that this is a great opportunity.

Mr. McGrady asked for contact info.

Mr. Cotner thanked both Officer Kessler and the Chief for their report.

Next item: Report from the Motor Unit.

*** REPORT WAS IN POWERPOINT PRESENTATION THAT IS ATTACHED****

See report by Officer Triplett attached.

Mr. Long asked Officer Triplett if there was any talk of putting the convertible trike kits on the bikes so that they could be used year round.

Officer Triplett said he knew that in Columbus they ride all year round with side cars and knows that they're upset with Harley because the 2014 bikes don't come with the side car brackets. He said he's curious to see what they're going to do with that. He stated that they have a good relationship with Columbus and the highway patrol and hope to do some training with them in the future. He also said he didn't know how much work they get done in the winter because they're all bundled up with electric suits and arctic gear. He stated that this time of year in this weather, they're more effective in the cruisers. He said he would love to ride all year but is unsure of effectiveness.

Mrs. Kelly said great job and that she saw them at the Christmas in town and what a great way for kids to meet them and great job.

Officer Triplett said it has been overwhelming as to how well the community has responded and how easy it is to talk.

Mrs. Kelly said it makes it feel more accessible and the bikes are pretty cool too.

Mr. Long said he gets the comments 2 ways, either their grateful that you're there or when did the city get motor units. People just don't realize that you're going down this nice wide road and the next thing you know, it's 32-35-37 in a 25mph zone. Thank you for all of the work you do.

Mr. Skinner said thank you for what you're doing and that he thinks it's great that they exercise judgment as to whether or not to give a ticket or a warning. When do you pull the bikes in and put them back out?

Officer Triplett stated that it was April 1-Dec1 but it was recently changed because after Dec 1 there were a few weeks where it was still good to ride. So they changed it to where they can ride all year round but weather permitting. He stated that he doubts the bikes will be back on the roads until spring, but April 1 they will be on the road.

Approval of minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 1/06/2014 and the Special Finance Committee Meeting held 1/13/2014.

Discussion: Council appointment to the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals for a three year term beginning January 16, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016. This position will need to be an Independent. – item held on 12/16/2013, 01/06/2014.

Discussion: Council appointment to the Design Review Board for a three year term beginning January 2, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016. –item held on 12/16/2013, 01/06/2014.

Discussion: Council appointment of Audrey Owens to the Housing Council.

Motion to move to full council for appointment by Mr. Long, Second by Mr. McGrady, all voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Discussion: Authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Central Ohio Clippers Organization to allow their youth organization into the City parks to hold their baseball program and declare an emergency.

Mr. Cotner stated that they had a brief introduction to this last week by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown presented the memo and draft copy outlying the detail of the contract. He opened up for questions.

Mr. Cotner said he didn't have any questions, just that he was excited about seeing the opportunity come into the city and Thanked him.

Mrs. Kelly asked to clarify that the Clippers organization are they going to take over all of the recreational baseball?

Mr. Brown replied that no, we are still going to run our youth baseball/softball program and that parts of this contract will just enhance the youth program, like having the coaches participate in the playability assessments, having their coaches give our coaches a coaches clinic etc.. it's a separate entity.

Mrs. Kelly asked when I look at section 5 second sentence *** \$15 per player...

Mr. Brown replied and that's new, because currently, we've never had a fall baseball league, so what we're doing there, we don't have the resources to staff, to be able to create, develop and administer a fall baseball league, but we do with the Clippers running that fall baseball league and us giving them 19 fields that we don't use after July, so we're going to be playing baseball from March all the way through November depending on the weather, but yes, that's a fall baseball league, a completely different animal and there will be 2 components to that fall league. There will be, understand the youth baseball complexities of Columbus can be kind of complicated, but there's a lot of travel baseball organizations in Central Ohio and they really don't have a fall baseball league. They play fall baseball, but it's like, hey meet me at this park at this time, we'll play. And so the idea is, we have 19 fields let's use them. Let's create some organized structured league where these travel teams can come and play x amount of games per season. And also, have a recreational division so there will be a competitive division and a recreational division. So like Councilman Cotner is coaching on our spring league and he's like you know what Casey really wants to play fall baseball, doesn't want to play soccer, so he can get to play at the recreational level. So kids wouldn't register... it would all go through, there's a lot to it, but it will go through the Clippers.

Mrs. Kelly asked so the kids will register with Parks and Rec or will they register with the Clippers.

Mr. Brown replied no we will just simply be dragging and chalking the fields and getting them ready to play, they'll be communicating with us to say hey, this is what the practice schedule looks like..

Mrs. Kelly asked but this will all be through the Clippers.

Mr. Brown replied correct and we will get money off each registration fee.

Mrs. Kelly asked now do we get the same \$15 and \$30 per player for travel team as well?

Mr. Brown replied yes. And you're talking about fall baseball. And again this is going to be the first year we've done this and we feel good about this because we've got the league put together. All the t's and I's are put together so from the recreational side so when we start our spring baseball/softball program, we'll be marketing this fall baseball season. So these coaches and parents will get a chance to say we want to do that.

Mrs. Kelly asked about point number 1. I'm assuming this is for travel?

Mr. Brown replied correct. That is the Clippers organization for spring league which will largely take place in Huber Park.

Mrs. Kelly asked, where am I seeing it for the fall..

Mr. Brown replied, fall is number 5.

Mrs. Kelly asked the kiddos that don't want to do travel sports, do we know what cost will be for the kiddos to play in the fall recreational division? Will it be similar to our price point?

Mr. Brown replied, yes although kids are going to register as a collective group, so again, back to the example, if he's going to play in the fall league in the recreational division, he is going to pay the \$150-\$175 for the team fee and then he is going to put together his team of kiddos that fit that age group. Because he is responsible for forming his fall recreational baseball team that fits within that age group so there will be age requirements and audition as far as that to make sure everyone is playing on the same pool.

Mrs. Kelly asked if the umpires and the like will all be provided by the Clippers.

Mr. Brown replied correct.

Mr. Clemens asked if the agreement had been run by the City Attorney.

Mr. Brown replied that he largely created the agreement.

Mr. McGrady asked if the inability to provide for lights, how would that affect this contract?

Mr. Brown replied that it doesn't, it's on the wish list because it would take that youth baseball to the next level and increase the time to play, it isn't a deal breaker, it's just something to make a goal.

Mr. Cotner asked if Mr. Brown thought that if the program took off as it's expected that would the Clippers be willing to partner in some of those improvements.

Mr. Brown replied yeah he thinks it's something that could be discussed.

Mrs. Kelly asked about the liability. Are they are holding the liability.

Mr. Brown replied that yes they are registration process and all of that is going through them. Although through the contract, it will all be filtered back through the city and liability will be split at some point. But through the registration process, coaches, players are going to be signing off liability.

Mrs. Kelly asked so when you say we'll split that liability...

Mr. Brown replied at the end of the day they're still playing on city facilities so when they do liability insurance, it covers their programs.

Mrs. Kelly asked if the kiddo was injured playing, got a concussion and had to go to the doctor, would that the City's liability cover that? Or..

Mr. Brown replied, no, that would fall under their liability.

Mrs. Kelly said that our liability would be if the fence fell down on them I would assume because we maintain the ***

Mr. Brown replied Correct. Or if we had like a broken base or something that we left out there and someone broke a leg on a broken base.

Mr. Skinner asked, just a follow up, do we have anything from them that talks about the liabilities and so forth, I didn't notice that in the agreement...

Mr. Brown replied that we will have all of that outlined as well, and there will be a copy for the Mayor to sign in the contract.

Mr. Skinner said don't hold it against me my profession is as an attorney, so when you asked the question I immediately start thinking and there are ways that potentially we could suffer some liabilities so..

Mr. Brown replied absolutely, every time we've hosted baseball, softball tournaments, we've had 47 teams here, the payment of their fees pays liability and makes sure that's accounted for.

Mrs. Kelly asked if we could get that added to this. That they have to maintain the liability.

Mr. Brown replied yes that that would be pretty simple to add.

Mr. Skinner said there are certain things you can add like indemnification agreements and Jed should be able to help us with that and the Mayor, but that would be something good.

Mr. Brown replied yeah we could easily add that.

Mr. Cotner asked for more questions, there were none.

Mr. Cotner moved to send forward for recommendation of adoption as an emergency pending the addition of the language regarding liability coverage and issues.

Second by Mr. Long.. All voted "Aye" Motion Carried.

Discussion: Recommendation for continuation of the Brice and Main TIF, Taylor Square TIF, Taylor

Road TIF #1, Taylor Road TIF #2, Kroger TIF, Summit Road TIF and the East Broad Street CRA and declare an emergency.

Mr. Harris stated that in December there were meetings with all of the TIFC and CRA for E. Broad street and a TIF is a Tax Increment Financing program. These are all things where taxes aren't abated, however they are used to pay for certain improvements to the property. Most of these except for the East Broad Street CRA, that's what they are. Council is asked to continue those that under the current agreements they're continued anyway, but the state because of a difference between what they are saying because they're older and what the current law is where you don't really have to do it but they like you to do it, so we're asking you to approve those. The only one of those that have any jobs are the CRA which is the Limited took the old Lane Bryant building and turned it into Victoria's Secret direct and Council approved back in 06 or 07 to make that a CRA, community reinvestment act and there were jobs promised in that and those have all be qualified. So the City's asking that you go ahead and pass something to show that Council has approved continuing all of these Tifs. And just about all of them are on the fund report if you want to see what is in them.

Mr. Cotner made motion to send forward to council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Second by Mr. Skinner. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Discussion: Then and Now AEP (Street Lighting)

Mr. Harris stated that under section 5705.41(d) of ORC everyone is required to open up a purchase order and have a purchase order opened before a liability is created. These 2 are any time you have one that they don't get a purchase order open in time, if it's a small one, under \$3,000 I can sign off on it. Don't have to, but I can. These are 2 that somebody just didn't carry the purchase orders over and while this seems silly that we have 2 AEP bills, we actually have about 35 AEP bills. So these 2 there was not something carried over, they had money in the accounts to pay those last year, they didn't have a purchase order open, so they have to be paid this year, they have money in the accounts so not asking for appropriation, just approval of the then and now. Administrative in nature.

Mr. Cotner asked for questions.

Mr. Cotner made motion to send forward to council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Second by Mr. Clemens. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Discussion: Then and Now AEP (Street Lighting)

Mr. Cotner made motion to send forward to council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Second by Mrs. Kelly. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:34

Finance Committee
- - April L. Beggerow, Clerk of Council
January 21, 2014