

MINUTES COMMITTEE MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG PUBLIC SAFETY, LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE
January 14, 2019

Ward 4 Councilmember Mel Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM

Call to Order - Roll Call

PRESENT: Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

ABSENT:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

a. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee – Committee Meeting – December 17, 2018

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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NEW LEGISLATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN; APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Clemens appointed Councilwoman Bryant as Vice Chairman.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Caleb Skinner, Ward 1 Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO AN ACCOUNT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: Thank you Chairman, this was money that was donated to the K9 program and we'd like to publicly thank Wesbanco, Beanie Auto Service, Vick's Pizza, ** Corporation, Coughlin, BW3, Five Bean and several other donors including a Go Fund Me page that raised over \$5000 from our citizens and our officers. Any questions?

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 1/14/2019 7:34 PM
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward 4 Councilmember	
SECONDER:	Caleb Skinner, Ward 1 Councilmember	
AYES:	Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE RADIOS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM R.E.M. COMMUNICATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: This will be for our Kenwood radios, 15 in all for walkie talkies.

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MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward 4 Councilmember	
SECONDER:	Stacie Baker, At-Large Councilmember	
AYES:	Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE BODY CAMERAS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM KUSTOM SIGNAL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: This is for 50 body worn cameras for our uniformed officers and supervisors.

Mr. Skinner: Just to clarify, we currently don't have any body cameras correct? This would be across the board giving them to everybody?

Chief Plesich: That is correct, we don't have any.

Mr. Baker: More of a comment. I would like to say, I like the idea of this. Thank you first of all because this will help keep our men and women in law enforcement safe and also the general public safe as well.

Chief Plesich: We think so as well.

Mr. Cotner: Everyone will have one? Will they be worn at all times? Will this be a new policy that every time they're on patrol they're worn by every officer? How are they going to be implemented and what do you envision happening?

Chief Plesich: Well we're purchasing 50. Our goal is to ultimately have 12 officers per shift and 2 supervisors per shift. We're a little short of that right now, that's what we're working on some of these purchases for walkies and what not. So currently we're probably at about 10 or 11 officers per shift and 2 supervisors per shift and plus we have a couple extras. Policy has not been adopted yet. When we did test a couple of body worn cameras a few months back, we did adopt a policy that I had at a previous location just so that we had something on record. So generally the idea is that uniformed officers responding to calls will be required to turn them on when they are responding.

Ms. Bryant: With that same policy, will they also have discretion to turn it off when speaking to sensitive witness or taking care of personal needs like breaks and what not?

Chief Plesich: Having been an officer that had failed to do that from time to time, yes, we definitely will have times when it is appropriate to turn them off.

Mr. Skinner: I believe that this is the same policy that Columbus police uses is that correct?

Chief Plesich: We will not adopt Columbus policy. I used Charleston, South Carolina's policy and the DC and I will use that as a starting point and we'll come up with our own.

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Mr. Baker: Can I get a copy of that policy because I'm very aware of Columbus policy but I don't know anything about South Carolina policy.

Chief Plesich: As soon as we have it written, you'll have it.

Mr. Joseph: What is the time table as far as when you want to see this fully implemented?

Chief Plesich: I would hate to estimate because I don't know if the company has them on the shelf. Perhaps at the next Council meeting I can give you a better time table.

Mr. Joseph: Have you done any research as to how often these have to be replaced due to breakage or failure or any other issues that may cause them to malfunction?

Chief Plesich: No, but I can tell you from personal experience, they are very robust. If the clips are not robust, they can fly off during combat and it's been my experience that that's never manageable that I'm aware of. We're implementing a camera that has a very strong clip, stronger than the one I've ever used. And we're also a very strong magnet and we're also looking at outer vest carriers for our officers that comes with an area designated for body worn cameras. So they're designing equipment now that hang onto them a little bit better.

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AYES:	Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO PURCHASE FOUR (4) POLICE CRUISERS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE REYNOLDSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: This will be for four new Ford Police SUVs and this will begin a rotation that we are hopeful that every year we can come back and ask for the same amount of cars that way there's not a spike in cost for cruisers every so often.

Mr. Skinner: I would just like to make a comment that I appreciate that as well. The consistency of it as opposed to every so many years we have to splurge and buy 10 new vehicles, we had a situation like that last year where we just had a lot of malfunctioning vehicles and we had to spend a large sum on them at one time. So I appreciate the consistency that we're looking at here.

Chief Plesich: Well thank you and we definitely appreciate the support of the Council that did provide those vehicles because that got us where we needed to be.

Mr. Luzader: I've mentioned this before Chief and I'm hoping that the city mechanic has been included on the specifications not necessarily the cruisers, but, because I know cruisers can be a

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different breed of animal and a lot of times those are specked out before you ever get them. But also for your next item on the pick-up truck to make sure that it will do the job that it needs to do.

Chief Plesich: Absolutely. I delegate vehicle acquisition to one of my Sargents, Sgt. Bachmoyer, he's the one that did advise that the City crew was the entity that the previous truck, reference number 5, was no longer viable and so, they do our striping now so it's a team effort now.

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SECONDER:	Caleb Skinner, Ward 1 Councilmember	
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ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE ONE (1) PICK-UP TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: I kind of hinted at this a moment ago. So, we have a pick up truck that is assigned to our special investigations unit and due to some frame rot I believe, we were informed that the vehicle was no longer safe to operate so we did have to take it out of service. This is a replacement vehicle and for the type of work that it is used for, we thought it was more appropriate to buy a used vehicle which we spent several days to find one that fit the needs of the SIU and was significantly lower cost than a brand new vehicle that came in at about \$19,000.

Mr. Clemens: Declaring it an emergency because its used and buying it at the proper price?

Chief Plesich: We declared an emergency because it is assigned as the vehicle for one of my SIU detectives to operate and it is necessary for the type of work he does.

Mr. Clemens: I understand that, the reason I brought that up is we have so many pick up trucks floating around Reynoldsburg here, I figured if you needed something you could use it from another department and I don't know why this is not done to be honest with you.

Chief Plesich: Well, this is for undercover work sir.

Mr. Clemens: Alright.

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LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY AUDITOR TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT FROM THE CITY'S FIXED ASSET LIST. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

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