

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members Joe Frederick, Wendy Margolis, Larry Browne, and Joe Flood, as well as Councilperson Ben Bell and Noni West, Borough Manager John Davis, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien, Mayor Ron Strouse, CBRPD Chief Karl Knott and Captain Robert Milligan

The **Minutes** of the January 2021 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Wendy Margolis and seconded by Larry Browne.

John reviewed the **122 North Main Street 15-Minute Parking Request**. Two spaces were requested, but the new business tenant there is open to the possibility of one space. This is to be a small coffee shop, where much of the business will most likely come from County courthouse foot traffic. This is an unusual request, as typically these spots are not requested by a business owner. Most in attendance aren't sure the benefit would outweigh the loss of revenue and a parking spot in that area. The business owner was invited but did not attend the meeting to discuss it further. The committee decided they were not inclined to decide on this situation at this point, as the business is not currently open. All in attendance agreed to table this issue until next month.

John provided information on similar ordinances from nearby municipalities regarding **Marijuana and Related Paraphernalia Personal Use Decriminalization**. Chief Knott explained that currently, costs are incurred in the marijuana testing when brought in to be analyzed at a lab. With the possibility of a new ordinance regarding alternative marijuana enforcement, Chief Knott and Captain Milligan will work with Borough counsel to work out the logistics and language needed. They are hoping to have a viable draft ready for review at the next meeting. Joe Flood asked if the Youth Aid Panel is available as a diversion program; Chief Knott reviewed that the State has many restrictions and there are other diversion programs for youth offenders, which includes anyone under age 21. More details will need to be worked out regarding youth offenders as well as fines. Captain Milligan will be working with other police departments on the details and will report back. Mayor Strouse suggested the review of Lancaster's ordinance as they are handling their ordinance differently from other municipalities. All in attendance agreed to continue the work on this ordinance.

Mayor Strouse had provided a **Municipal Building Gun Resolution** to review and discuss. Currently, guns are not permitted in courthouses, but they are permitted in municipal offices, where there have been violent issues in the fairly recent past. The language of the resolution is designed to stay clear of any infringement of the second amendment. Joe Flood commented on the language regarding current events and felt it could alienate many. Chief Knott noted the idea of concealed permit holders being able to check their guns at the entrance could be counterproductive as well, as it causes people to handle the guns multiple times in the building. Mayor Strouse suggested removing some of the language regarding the current violence toward government buildings in order to gain full support of Borough Council. In response to questions from Joe Flood, Chief Knott explained that the police department is permitted to ban guns from their building. On a motion from Larry to approve the resolution with the removal of the fifth paragraph, seconded by Joe Flood, the Committee voted to forward the resolution on to Borough Council.

John reviewed **Public Events**, which include a food drive being spearheaded by Matt Caffrey to benefit the Opportunity Council in the Printer's Alley area of town.

Old/New Business: Wendy asked Chief Knott for an update on the CBRPD mask mandates. He explained officers are required to wear masks in a building or any time engaging with another. They are not required to wear a mask when in a patrol car alone.

Wendy was appreciative of Officer Watson following a recent accident she had.

John discussed the most recent issue regarding speeding on Maple Avenue near Linden Elementary. Several residents have recently reached out to him with concern, and he discussed the past history of speed studies in that area with

them. He didn't feel new speed studies weren't warranted at this time, as there have been studies and discussion at the end of 2019. Both residents have decided not to attend this Committee's meeting at this time.

Joe Flood expressed gratitude to Bucks County Commissioners for allowing residents to use the County parking garage during the recent snow storms. John noted he has better communication with County officials regarding these issues going forward.

Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.