

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Witte, Vice Chairman Dougherty, Alderman Panus, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Crawford, Alderman DaPolito, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Tim Richardson, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Witte called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, May 5, 2020)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Update on Reopening – Phase II (Witte)

Alderman Witte explained that she wanted to touch base with the Mayor's Office. Mayor Aiello explained that as of today, permission came late last night, the area can move into Phase II. He explained that this allows (LIST FROM RECORDER).

Mayor Aiello explained that he did get a couple of calls today, including one from the owner of the tattoo parlor on North Union Street. He explained that the State is not giving much information on when they will be able to open, and he referred them to Senator Borello's office, as well as Empire State Development. He explained that they can provide their business number, and the system should tell them when they will be able to open. He explained that they are being told that they will not be able to open until sometime after Phase IV, but he doesn't understand why he can't open sooner as only one customer is done per hour, and it is one on one.

Mayor Aiello explained that he was at Sports Locker prior to the meeting with Tom Reed, and they are letting people in the back door and are getting ready to open up. He explained that they are doing all of the things necessary, including putting up signs and erecting barriers. He explained that barbers and hairdressers have to be tested every 14 days, which will be difficult, but places will begin to adapt as long as the public cooperates.

Mayor Aiello explained that there was once incident today where people refused to wear masks at Country Fair, and the police had to respond when they were asked to leave but wouldn't. He said that barring that, everything seems to be going smoothly. He explained that it is a good thing to get opened back up, as long as everyone follows the rules and there isn't a spike in the virus.

Mayor Aiello explained that in two weeks, we may be able to move into Phase III and in another two weeks into Phase IV, which includes recreation, so the City is monitoring that. He explained that Mr. Shewairy is calling other places to see what they are going to do. HE explained that we are still uncertain about the pool, and it hasn't been uncovered or had chemicals put into it. He explained that they do not want to do this and then find out that they can't open. He explained that we will wait a couple of weeks before making a decision.

Alderman Witte explained that she has seen kids playing in the parking lot at the YMCA, and she wonders what the difference is between that and the summer program. Mayor Aiello explained that they are kids in their daycare program, and he is not sure. He explained that the City will be able to have some kind of program, but it may be condensed, He explained that so many things have been cancelled for kids, and we need something for them Alderman Crawford asked if the STAR program has been formally cancelled, and Mayor Aiello responded that he is not sure. He explained that if schools aren't allowed to open that he imagines that it will be, but he will inquire with the director of the program to find out for sure.

Alderman Anastasia asked if the concerts in Lincoln Park will be able to start, and Mayor Aiello responded that they may be able to in July. He explained that it will be a matter of social distancing, but we have room in the park. He explained that the concerts have basically been postponed, and the musicians have been informed that if things start to loosen up that they will try to fit them in. He added that concerts may be held on Sunday or another day in addition to Thursday nights, but right now, everything is cancelled through June. He explained that we will have to see what happens come July.

Alderman Gonzalez asked about gyms, and explained that he heard that a gym in Olean went rogue and opened. Mayor Aiello confirmed that Eades did, and that when a complaint was received, the police investigated and made a report that was sent to the County.

Alderman Witte explained that bus trips for the Junior and Senior Leagues have been cancelled through September. She explained that when you go to another state, they don't want anyone from a different state to come, and you have to quarantine. Mayor Aiello explained that another problem is that the seniors look forward to the tax preparations, and his office has been getting calls on when that will be done at the senior center. He explained that Terry Shaw will be coming back on the 15th of the month, and at that point they will start to look at things, and he anticipates the center being opened in July. Alderman Witte added that she believes that Meals on Wheels volunteers can go back on the 11th.

Alderman Witte explained that it all comes down to keeping everybody safe, and hoping that number don't start to go up. She explained that she has spoken with a couple of people about where the best place to get tested is, and she explained that in terms of getting results sooner, it is best to get tested with the County. Mayor Aiello explained that he and his wife were tested at a County site on a Thursday, and they received a call with their results on Saturday.

Alderman Crawford explained that he wanted to communicate that he went to the Beef and Barrel a couple of nights ago, and Mr. McAfee communicated that as businesses are gearing up for Phase III, they have found that communication regarding guidelines is very limited. He explained that if we have any resources, that we should reach out. He explained that he does not know where else to tell them to go besides Senator Borello's office. Mayor Aiello explained that Empire State Development is also a resource, but it seems that the State puts regulations out at the last minute, and that doesn't help businesses to prepare. He explained that one of the questions that is always asked during the calls with the Governor's office is when the guidelines are coming out. He explained that as soon as he gets more information, he will share. Alderman Gonzalez noted that it always seems like a last minute decision.

Mayor Aiello explained that when the State says that right now we are in Phase II, in two weeks we may be able to go into Phase III. He explained that too many people are putting a date on Phase II and if the numbers aren't there, it won't happen. He explained that as politicians, the Council should express that Phase III may begin on a date, not that it will. He explained that information is now being sent off internationally, and somebody will look at the numbers and see when things will be okay to open.

b. Discussion – Fireworks (Witte)

Alderman Witte explained that she had a gentleman contact her regarding hearing fireworks in his neighborhood on Memorial Day weekend, and he was concerned. She explained that she knows that fireworks are illegal, but she wonders if there are guidelines or consequences. She noted that Chief Rowley sent her the law on fireworks, and she can make a copy if anyone wants one.

Chief Rowley explained that if there is a constituent with a complaint that they need to call the police department. If they are not busy, they will go out. He explained that this is a violation that can result in a ticket. He explained that people need to have a reasonable expectation of what is going to happen, as a lot of the time it is hard to tell where the fireworks are coming from, and they often disappear when a police car pulls up. He explained that this comes up every year, but that there is not a lot that can be done about it. Alderman Gonzalez compared the situation to the noise ordinance, and Chief Rowley added open fires and explained that these are minor quality of life issues that are difficult to enforce.

Alderman Witte explained that he told the constituent that she would look into this, and that she thinks that it is very good advice to have them contact the Police Department. Chief Rowley explained that the department should be contacted when the issue is happening.

Alderman Dougherty asked if the City has a curfew, and Mayor Aiello responded that we don't. Alderman Crawford asked if there is at least one for young people, and Mayor Aiello responded that there is not.

Alderman Witte explained that she drove through the recent protest, and she commends the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Department of Public Works, and Mayor for pulling together with last minute notice. She explained that we were non-confrontational and she thinks that this says a lot about our community. She explained that there were not a lot of people from outside the community that came in. Chief Rowley explained that there were some people from outside the community, and his officers mentioned that there were a lot of people that they didn't recognize. He added that there were pickup trucks on North Union Street that were pro police agitators that tried to confront protestors.

Alderman Witte explained that she felt that overall things went well, and she commends everyone for the good job. Chief Rowley explained that the general public was well behaved, and they were there to protest, not to loot. Alderman Witte added that she was impressed that there was no garbage left after the protest. Chief Rowley explained that there were no criminal mischievous complaints and no one was arrested.

Mayor Aiello explained that it was a team effort, and a quick plan was put together before the protest that worked out well. He explained that law enforcement has to be commended for keeping their demeanor, and he gives a hats off for the wonderful job. Chief Rowley explained that the department tried to maintain a minimum presence at the scene, and that cars were staged off site from the Sheriff's Department, as well as from the State and Village of Allegany, in the case that they were needed. He explained that they did not want the public to see a huge police presence. Alderman Gonzalez added that it was a great message delivered up front by Captain Marsfelder.

Mayor Aiello explained that from the fire side, Chief Richardson was in communication with the District 4 Coordinator. Chief Richardson explained that the department was staffed heavier in the case of fires and that kind of thing. He noted that there was only one delay in response, and the truck simply skirted out around the protest and came in the back way. Mayor Aiello explained that we reached out to District 4 in the event that something happened, so different areas of the City could be covered. Alderman Witte explained that we are very lucky to have the mutual aid system in place in rural New York.

Alderman Anastasia explained that summer is coming, and asked who should be called if there are complaints about backyard fire pits. Chief Rowley explained that either the Police Department or Fire Department should be contacted. He explained that there is a law in place, and pamphlets have been printed out that contain the whole Code so that they can be handed out. He explained that backyard fires are okay, but that they need to follow the Code and not be a nuisance. He explained that if people are burning garbage, grass clippings or wet wood and creating noxious smells or smoke that it is a different story and a complaint should be made. Alderman Anastasia noted that he used to get calls regarding the backyard fires when he was a legislator.

c. Discussion – Police Vehicle Leasing

Chief Rowley explained that he and the Mayor have been talking to the representative from Enterprise to get more information regarding previously discussed concerns. He explained that he would like to clarify that when the City is leasing a vehicle, Enterprise will give the City notification that it is a good time to sell the vehicle; however, the City does not have to turn the vehicle in at that point. He explained that we can keep the vehicle as long as we want until the end of the lease. They simply notify us when the best trade in time is.

Chief Rowley explained that the price to lease two brand new Dodge Chargers is \$533 per car per month, which equals \$12,798 per year plus the cost of upfitting. He explained that he would recommend that we do not have Enterprise perform the upfitting as he would rather pay out of pocket than have to pay them interest for these costs. He noted that he will try to minimize cost over time by reusing equipment whenever possible. He explained that there are two cars with over 100,000 miles this year and we could possibly see \$7,500 to \$10,000 for the two cars. HE explained that the City can either apply this to the next lease, or apply the funds to lower the monthly cost throughout the remainder of the current lease.

Chief Rowley explained that the City has been kicking this around of 3 to 4 years and it has been discussed during a lot of meetings, and a lot of research has been done. He explained that the City will never be more comfortable with the idea than we are now unless we try this out. He

recommends that the City try this this year, and look at a cost of around \$34,000 rather than \$80,000.

Mayor Aiello explained that there will be a resolution on the agenda next week to authorize the City to lease the two police vehicles, as well as to transfer the funding required to do so. Chief Rowley explained that he is estimating the cost of upfitting, so he recommends that a resolution state that he can spend “no more than X”. Mayor Aiello explained that a plan will be put together for next week on how to fund this.

Alderman Gonzalez asked Chief Rowley if he will budget this for next year, and Chief Rowley responded that he will. Mayor Aiello explained that he will speak with Mr. Donahue in the City Garage, as a couple of vehicles are slated to head out and the police cars are typically recycled down through the City departments as they are needed, He explained that he may ask that we don’t trade the existing cars in.

Alderman Witte explained that she feels comfortable with this idea. She explained that the County has been doing this for years, and they seem to be doing very well. Mayor Aiello explained that we are getting County prices. He noted that it is the same price as Cattaraugus County, but that it is through another account.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:05 p.m.