



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 7 - Mitch Johnson;David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson and LJ Bryant

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:061](#) Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson and LJ Bryant

4. NEW BUSINESS

[ORD-24:023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY TRAILS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson and LJ Bryant

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Mitch Johnson said, so our police reports came out today. Chief, have you got any news you could enlighten us with? Police Department Chief Rick Elliot approached the podium and said, yeah, I don't know if you had a chance to look at the monthly crime stat report that has come out. We did make a modification on report, about a month ago, and did a last year comparison. This time the previous year so

you kind of have numbers to look at what it was a year ago the same day. As we look back and reflect back, the overall call volume is just down by a few hundred. The total calls that JPD was dispatched since this time last year is 5,188. Well, that's what we've answered so far this year, and this time last year we were 5,483. Typically, within a year's time we'll answer over 65,000 calls. So obviously there's a lot going on. We look at the, we call part one crimes, the felony crimes against persons. Last year we had 34 reported cases, and this year we've got 61. So, there's a double increase with that. The crimes against property or referred to as part two crimes. 403 last year at this time and 433 at this point of the year. So, not a whole lot of difference there. We did note, started adding on our monthly report, some success stories from the Real-time Crime Center. Just kind of a few highlights. We feel it's important that the council realizes that seeing what some of these success stories look like. Everyday there's many success stories using our camera system throughout the city. But the ones we've attached to your report are some of the bigger cases that were cleared through the camera system. So, camera system, overall, we're well over 700 cameras and license plate readers throughout the city. Every day it's being utilized to help on traffic accidents and help solve crimes in Jonesboro. We're proud of what we've got accomplished. We're moving the center to more of a real-time intelligence center, so all of our intelligence gathering is kind of being funneled into one place. Our crime analyst falls under this center now, so Claire is working closely with Lieutenant Waterworth and putting information together and distributing it out. We're just trying to be more uniform and concise in what we do day in and day out getting this information out to y'all and the rest of the public. That's kind of it in a nutshell. There's a lot to go over in this, but there's really not any significant changes overall. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, you know, it's always interesting to me, you brought up about the cameras, is several people I've talked to that's gone through the Citizens Academy, that's one of the biggest things that they talk about is how impressive that is. Chief Rick Elliot said, usually with CPA it's the cameras and the canines. People love the cameras, and they love the dogs. They love the dogs more than the cameras, but both are a huge asset to the city. As you can see, we've already used the dogs 97 times this year in either locating an article or individuals. So, we get more use out of the dogs for those kinds of searches and those things then we actually do with physically taking someone down with the dog. We did have a track the other night, two suspects involved in a breaking and entering of a vehicle, and the dog tracked 1.38 miles. Located two individuals. There were 64 turns made during this track on the north end of Jonesboro, so that's a pretty good track in this kind of weather, humidity with a dog and end up locating these two individuals that were trying to run from us and hide. Dogs are, like I said, a big success story for us. A good thing about most of our canines, they were all purchased by businesses around town and you're looking at expense around \$10,000 to \$13,000 a dog. Our last dog we just brought into service, is an explosive detection dog and he was donated by the Exchange Club here in Jonesboro. We just had one of our K-9 Units, Loki, he retired last week, so we're down to six. Currently always have a business always inquiring about making a purchase for us anytime we're in need of a canine. I think, once we get to that point, to bringing on another canine we should have a donor for it. Which is a huge expense. You look at that expense times six dogs and it adds up. That's money the taxpayers aren't having to fork out. That just kind of shows you the support that we have in the community. You know, businesses will step up and support the PD. So, we're doing pretty good. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Chief, is six a sufficient number? I mean, what does that look like for the K-9 force? Chief Rick Elliot said, we actually run more dogs than most agencies in the state and the region. Bigger cities, they may have one for the city, two at best on a given shift. Sometimes we'll run two per shift or have two available. So, they're always kind of there. And then, we train our canines twice a month and K-9 Units from 100 miles around will come in and train with us

because we have some of the best, I think we have some of the best canine teams anywhere. I look for the dog to pay for itself in the amount of drugs they take off the streets and then the money that we take from these drug dealers and then file civil forfeiture on that money then we take that forfeiture money and put it back into the PD for training and buying equipment. Generally, a good dog will pay for himself, the handler, his expenses, within the first month or two that they are in service. It's outstanding. The explosive detection dog, probably not as much, but trying to stay proactive in today's climate, the way things are changing across the country. I feel the need of having a explosive detection dog, we had one in the past and that dog retired, but bringing one back on board, again, with the changing environment to have that asset available. The dog is dual purpose so he can not only do explosive detection working he also can do patrol work as far as tracking and article sniffing. So, we use that dog quite a bit on crime scenes for locating shell casings. It may be in the grass or in a field, the dog will go out and find them for us. All of our dogs are article search trained, so if somebody ditches a gun going down the interstate or whatever, if we've got a general location, we can generally take that dog and go find it. Just kind of reflect a little bit, it was one of our K-9 Units, several years ago, that located Sydney Sutherland's phone after her abduction over in Jackson County, and then the same dog located her the following day. We have a pretty remarkable K-9 Unit and proud of what they've accomplished.

Chairman Mitch Johnson said, Chief Hamrick we have a few minutes. Any updates for fire you would like to share? Fire Department Chief Marty Hamrick approached the podium and said, I guess the biggest thing to pass on as far as the Fire Department's concerned, we're still seeing an increase in call volume, obviously. We're probably on course to run over 10,000 calls this year. The majority of those are going to be medical calls. Probably 85 to 90 percent of all we do is medical anymore. The 22nd, this Monday, we're going to put on 15 new firefighters and that will bring us to our newly approved max of 136. So, it'll be about a two to three month training process, and hopefully by the end of the year we will see those guys and gals on the street and making a big difference in how we operate. Outside of that, is there anything y'all would like to know? Chairman Mitch Johnson said, that is some fantastic news there. Chief Marty Hamrick said, a couple of programs that we're running, I don't know if you're aware, our WMD team, we are the northeast region response team now through the state. This year, we've acquired over \$600,000 worth of equipment. We're on course to get another \$300,000 next year. So that will bring us up to right at a type 1 FEMA team and we'll be able to respond to any type of unknown weapon of mass destruction, anything like that, that happens in this region. And we're also deployable out into the surrounding states, if need be. That doesn't happen very often. We did have one of our members, that's a member of Arkansas Task Force 1, the USAR asset the state has, just recently returned from New Mexico. He was deployed out there for two weeks, helped with all the flooding and everything that was going on there. He learned a lot of lessons that was able to bring back and going to make our response here in Jonesboro even better. Outside of that, anything else y'all would like to know?

[COM-24:032](#)

VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT FOR JUNE 2024

Attachments: [Jonesboro VDCI June, 2024](#)

Chairman Mitch Johnson said, the June mosquito report came out. I don't know if you had time to look at that. Interesting stuff. The mosquitos collected was around 9,179 for the month of June, which is up tremendously from this time last year. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, ASU collected 222 in my backyard when I had them set up their

thing. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, is that right? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yeah. I said, can you just leave that there all summer and keep collecting them? I'm good with that. It also draws them to your yard because it has carbon dioxide coming out of it, so maybe it wouldn't be a good thing.

Councilmember David McClain said, when do we think we'll see a new contract from Vector? I think they're up this year. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, that will need to be let out to bid this fall. It's kind of an oddly structured contract and I think it was for two years and all of them are three years, but I believe it's every five years it has to be completely re-evaluated. Councilmember David McClain said, will they present something to us or are they going to just send that contract over or are they going to come in and do some type of presentation on what they plan to do? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, well, we'll have to go through our normal procurement process on that. I'm sure there will be probably more companies that are also interested in proposing their services to the city, and then at that point we'll go through the normal procurement steps and bring a contract forward to the council.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I don't know if we've had it up since y'all've been in office or not, but do we typically have more than one person bid? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, I don't believe that we've bid that since, I think, like the fall of 2018, was the last time it was bid. I stand to be corrected if anybody knows the history of that better than me. But I believe at the time, there was a second bidder on that. Or at least, at one point in time we went with a different company for a couple of years. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we went with a different company for a couple of years and it was bad. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, I didn't think we went more than six months with them, did we? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I mean maybe one summer. Councilmember Chris Moore said, we didn't finish the contract. We terminated their contract... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yeah it was bad. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, then Vector came in and picked it up again. Councilmember Chris Moore said, it was a mistake to say the least. Councilmember David McClain said, what year was that? Chairman Mitch Johnson said, that was mid 2006 maybe. Chris, wasn't it? 2007, somewhere in there. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I know Vector's had two extensions on their original contract since the time we used the previous vendor. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, yes. I was pretty sure. I hadn't been on the council very long. It seems like it couldn't have been any earlier than 2005 for sure. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I was here so it couldn't of been.... Councilmember Chris Moore said, before Vector we did it inhouse as a department and did it ourselves. Councilmember David McClain said, the only reason I asked that question is a lot has changed in 18 years. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that's true. Councilmember David McClain said, so I think we should be open to looking at other companies that do this, and them, even Vector, lay out your plan of attack. Let us see what that looks like and compare the two. I understand, in government, we don't like to change a lot because something may be working ok, but I think we should be open to it, nonetheless. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, yeah, I think we absolutely, you know it merits the due diligence not only by our procurement, but also understanding that it's a very hot topic this time of year and we want to make sure we do everything that we can to make sure that we have the best service possible. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, I tell you, from what we found was someone from another part of the country coming here to try and treat our areas no comparison to what they were used to in their area. So, it was a nightmare to say the least. Councilmember David McClain said, they came here from out of state. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, yeah, their headquarters was somewhere else. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't know if we've ever had anybody else from our area.

I mean, we might this time. It's been a minute. Councilmember Chris Moore said, we've had another vendor bid that was higher than Vector and they were from somewhere around Stuttgart, or somewhere in that area and they came up here and bid one year.

Filed

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson and LJ Bryant