



City of Jonesboro

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

5:15 PM

Huntington Building

1. Call To Order

Mayor Formon was also in attendance.

In the absence of Chairman Moore, Councilman McCall presided over the meeting.

Present 5 - Tim McCall; Judy Furr; Mitch Johnson; Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

Absent 1 - Chris Moore

2. Approval of minutes

MIN-08:103 Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on March 27, 2008.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilman Harold Perrin, that this Minutes be Passed. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Judy Furr; Mitch Johnson; Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

3. New Business

4. Pending Items

5. Other Business

Gang activity discussion and future planning

Police Chief Micheal Yates stated that the City has a significant gang problem developing and that there is need for more officers on the street to start combating the problem before it gets out of hand; also there is clerical help needed. He attributed the problems to outside influences from other cities such as Memphis and Atlanta. He discussed a community near Atlanta that is handling the same situation and conversations he's had with local law enforcement officials in the area. He stated it will be a multi-faceted approach. Chief Yates asked for the authorization to hire five additional officers above the authorized amount to work on gang activity. He added he doesn't think it will need a budget amendment due to natural attrition. He also stated he would like to visit the town near Atlanta to get in the field and see what the officers are doing. Councilman McCall questioned whether the new officers would be used in the field. Chief Yates stated the new officers would be put in uniform patrol and seasoned officers would be put in the field.

Councilman Perrin motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Furr, to authorize Chief Yates to hire five additional police officer and a clerical employee and to move forward with the purchase of a language line. All voted aye.

Language Line

Chief Yates stated that there is a need for a language line through the 911 department. He explained there is a language barrier between some citizens and the police department and that having a language line would help. He further explained the service is offered through companies like AT&T to allow for three-way calling so translation can take place. Councilwoman Furr asked if what kind of languages the language line offers. Chief Yates stated that they offer all languages. He added that he has requested information about how much the cost would entail for this service. City Clerk Donna Jackson stated since it's an emergency then it should be walked on to the Finance Committee.

Lights at Cedar Heights

It was questioned whether the City can do anything about additional lights at Cedar Heights. It was stated nine more lights needed to be put up. Councilman Perrin suggested contacting Mr. Ron Bowen at City Water and Light.

6. Public Comments

Song Birds

Councilwoman Furr stated that she was asked by a citizen to see if the press could do a story about the song bird population. She explained that the citizen is concerned that the song bird population is dying out because of the cats in the area were killing them. He further explained the citizen was wondering if the press could do the story with animal control and suggest that the owners of the cats put bells on their cats so the birds could be warned.

ORD-08:018

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8.44 DOWNTOWN PARKING CODE BY ADDING VIOLATION AND A METHOD FOR OBTAINING CONSTRUCTION PARKING PERMITS

Sponsors: Police Department

Councilman Perrin stated Lt. Morphis has fixed the grammatical errors so the ordinance is ready to be taken to Council. Discussion was held concerning the \$50 fee for the left door to curb fine. Councilwoman McCall noted the ordinance states the fine will be no more than \$50, which means it can be less. She added there needs to be just a standard fine.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Perrin, seconded by Councilwoman Judy Furr, that this Ordinance be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Judy Furr; Mitch Johnson; Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Perrin, seconded by Councilman Mitch Johnson, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Judy Furr; Mitch Johnson; Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore