

EMERGENCY SERVICES

August 1, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bryant
Alderman Olive
Alderman Lanzotti
Alderman Driskell

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Treasurer Nation
Police Chief Wheeler
Deputy Chief Childers
Fire Chief Crews
Alderman Burtle
Alderman Dorchinecz
Alderman Budd
Alderman Skultety

Carol Endsley
Owen Lasswell
Brent Windell
Mindy Durbin
Owen Lasswell
Nate Thompson
Shane Ponzell
Bill Jones
Dustin McClure
Shirley Sams

Chairman Driskell called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

HIRING OF NEW POLICE OFFICER/STAFFING OF DISPATCHERS

Chief Wheeler advised he met with the Fire and Police Commission to discuss the hiring of a new Police Officer. The next person on the list is currently working as a Dispatcher for the Police Department. He will be going through the next step of testing; upon approval of testing Chief Wheeler will Bid/Advertise for a new dispatcher. No vote needed; this had prior approval.

POLICE CHAPLAIN

Alderman Lee Lanzotti has agreed to be the Police Chaplain. Alderman Lanzotti has had four years of training and received his license to be an Ordained Minister. Chief Wheeler will contact him when needed. Chief Wheeler stated at times the Officers need some spiritual guidance and help when they go on a call and have situations such as a suicide, and the Police Chaplain would be called to offer comfort with family members. He will also offer guidance for the individuals in the Safe Passage Program.

REQUEST TO USE DRUG FORFEITURE FUNDS TO PURCHASE FURNITURE & ELECTRONICS

Chief Wheeler advised there is a room in the upstairs of the Police Department that has not been utilized. He will use Drug Forfeiture Funds to convert this area into an Intelligence and Training Room. The cost will be approximately \$4,000.00.

Chief Wheeler explained how the Drug Forfeiture Funds are distributed. There is approximately \$29,000.00 in the fund; the City will get 65% of this amount. When cash is confiscated during an arrest, the Police Department is required to sign papers and the State's Attorney keeps track of the funds and time frames. If an individual wants to fight to keep the money, they have 14 days to dispute it. They must prove where the money came from; most do not. When the Judge awards Drug Forfeiture Funds/Proceeds/Property to the City, the Treasurer must forward these funds to the State. The State then distributes funds to other organizations, with the City receiving 65%. The City owes the State \$5,260.00 that was not forwarded previously, stating the Treasurer was unaware of this procedure. Chief Wheeler will be maintaining the fund.

If a vehicle came from drug forfeiture, it may be used for the enforcement of any laws, not just drug enforcement. This differs from other drug forfeited property. The Department confiscated 6 or 7 vehicles; the City kept one and Chief Deputy Childers called the owners of the others. They did not want them, so they were towed. In the future, Chief Wheeler and Deputy Chief Childers will decide whether or not to confiscate vehicles depending on the value.

Under State Statute, drug forfeiture proceeds are to be utilized solely to assist with the funding of enforcement of drug laws. The funds should not be the sole source of funding for the agency. It is not intended for local governments to replace funds allocated for their Police Department Budget with drug forfeiture proceeds. Similarly, the Police Department should not fully replace the general revenue funds budgeted for the drug enforcement portion of the Police Department with forfeiture proceeds. Rather, the proceeds should be

used to supplement that portion of their budget. “Anticipated shared property should not be budgeted” per 725 ILCS 150/2. Chief Wheeler does not need a vote from the Council to use funds but he has to inform the Council what he utilizes the funds for. He presented the Committee with a list of items to be purchased for the Intelligence and Training Room. Alderman Burtle stated that although the funds are separate from the City Budgets and the purchases do not require a vote, he recommends that a motion be made each time funds are to be used from this fund to keep everyone informed. Chief Wheeler and the Committee agreed.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to recommend to the City Council to approve Police Chief Wheelers request to utilize the Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds to purchase furniture and electronics to furnish and equip the Intelligence and Training Room. Motion carried 4-0.

SQUAD CAR POLICY

Chief Wheeler advised he would like to amend the Ordinance regarding the Squad Car Policy to allow the Officers to use their vehicles for limited personal use such as to go to the store or gym. This would be more convenient for the Officers, and Chief Wheeler felt that the presence of the Officers in the stores could deter activities.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to forward the Squad Car Policy to the Ordinance Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM UPDATE

The Community Action Team is doing very well, there are eight Officers that have joined the team. The Officers are in plain clothes but will be wearing their vests. Chief Wheeler is very proud of the work the Officers are doing.

REQUEST TO USE DRUG FORFEITURE FUNDS TO PURCHASE VEST OUTER COVERS

Chief Wheeler is requesting to use the Drug Forfeiture Fund to purchase vest outer covers. The cost is \$400.00 each. The vests will be worn by the Community Action Team Officers. He explained how the vest outer covers work, Police Officer Nate Thompson came forward to show what they normally wear under their uniforms and explained that the vest has panels that fit inside the outer cover. It is much more comfortable for the Officers as it distributes the weight more to take pressure off of back and hips and is easy to remove. If the Officers are doing reports, they can take the vests off easily while doing paperwork and can put back on quickly.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to approve Police Chief Wheeler’s request to utilize the Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds to purchase vest outer covers for the Community Action Team Officers. Motion carried 4-0.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

- Total Calls: June 2019-1819 June 2018-1692
- Firearms Qualifications: all passed
- August 3rd 5:00 P.M. -7:00 P.M. Drug Coalition Fundraiser for the Safe Passage Program at the Moose
- National Night Out is August 6, 2019 5:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. at the Fire Station
- Have assisted nine individuals in the Safe Passage Program

The Committee was also provided with a Monthly Activity Chart showing the numbers of thefts, domestic battery, etc. They also received a list of traffic citations and arrests made by each Officer.

Mayor Barry asked Chief Wheeler to provide these numbers for 2018.

PERMISSION TO HIRE REPLACEMENT FIREFIGHTER

Chief Crews is asking to hire a replacement firefighter per contract. Firefighter Chausse has taken another position with the Normal Fire Department. He had less than four years of service with the Department; the City will be billing him for training, education and equipment.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to direct the Mayor to prepare a letter to send to the Police and Fire Commission to begin the hiring process to fill the vacancy in the Fire Department due to the resignation of Firefighter Blake Chausse per the contract. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVE UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Chief Crews presented the 2019/2020 Maintenance Report for the Fire Department vehicles. Jon Wamsley has handled the maintenance schedule for 12 years; the vehicles are in great shape. He would like to start scheduling the vehicles for maintenance the first week of August. The list will cost approximately \$6,575.00, but he expects the cost to be higher as the ladder truck many need extra repairs depending on what they find.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to recommend to the City Council to approve the 2019/2020 Maintenance Schedule for the Fire Department Apparatus at a cost of approximately \$6,575.00. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total Calls-143
- Inspections were suspended for July for other activities, and will resume in August.
- New policy implemented for Violent Instances
- Assisted in searches in Menard/Cass/Montgomery Counties
- Gave a tornado presentation at Hopedale Hospital/Illinois Insurance Underwriters
- Gave a tornado presentation for the National Weather Service Interns
- Procurement/Record Keeping/Equipment Management Policy adopted
- Awarded the bid for the new engine apparatus which is being purchased by the Taylorville Fire Protection District
- Meeting will be scheduled for an upcoming Active Shooter Exercise
- As of July, now implementing frivolous call charges which will be billed through Charleston.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

The Fire Department is now down three Firefighters, which is creating a lot of overtime. The Fire and Police Commission is working on the new hire lists. The Fire Department has approximately ten new applicants. There will be a meeting next week to review the test scores.

There is still a problem with water at the Fire Department coming from the roof and windows. They have tried different ways to fix the problem but the water is still coming in, which is resulting in damage to the walls and floors. When the Municipal Building was repaired, Alderman Olive had an engineer come look at it. Henson Robinson did the repairs to the Municipal Building roof and it now has a 30-year warranty. Chief Crews was advised to contact them.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Bryant to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

Kathy Driskell, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee

