

EMERGENCY SERVICES

October 3, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Driskell
Alderman Olive
Alderman Lanzotti

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Police Chief Wheeler
Deputy Chief Childers
Fire Chief Crews
Alderman Budd
Alderman Skultety

Owen Lasswell
Shirley Sams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Megan Bryant

Chairman Driskell called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M.

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE SERGEANT

Chief Wheeler advised that the position of Sergeant will be put on hold for now. Chief Wheeler and Deputy Chief Childers discussed changes they would like to make to the current guidelines. Currently an Officer must be employed 4 years to qualify for the position. They would like to change it to 2 years and increase the salary.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Officer Nelson was named Officer of the Quarter
- Officer Bolinger continues to balance her duties as a Community Outreach Officer and Patrol and is in the process of organizing a Good Deed of the Month Contest
- Department has been busy with patrolling and crime prevention initiatives. The Patrolmen are very active in interacting with the public
- The CAT team continues to work on narcotic locations while balancing patrol duties
- Citizens are continuing to communicate with the Police Department on troubled areas.
- Officer Nichols is attending PTI and doing very well
- Calls for service 1612-September 2019 1671-September 2018
- Received \$2,000.00 in towing fees
- Officer Ponzel will graduate on 10-04-19 as a Field Training Officer.

Police Chief Wheeler provided the Committee with the Monthly Activity by Classification Report. Also provided were Traffic Citations by Officer Report and Arrests by Officer report comparing 2018/2019 totals.

Officer Withrow and Officer Adams attended a self-defense course. Alderman Driskell inquired about training classes for the public, stating a self-defense class for women would be pro-active. Deputy Chief Childers advised that both are very capable and well trained.

Chief Wheeler advised that Mr. Richard Grundy, who was employed as a Police Officer in Taylorville in the 60's, had recently visited the Police Department. Chief Wheeler and Deputy Chief Childers enjoyed his interesting history with the Department. He passed a picture of Mr. Grundy in his uniform.

Chief Wheeler has spoken with a representative from USDA regarding grants for rural areas. One of the grants he plans to apply for covers patrol cars 55%, with City covering remaining 45%, up to \$80,000.00. Mayor Barry advised there is one patrol car in the budget, and one vehicle loan has been recently paid in full.

Alderman Budd asked about having repair work done on the loose gravel parking lot at the side of the Police Department. A Police Officer slipped on the gravel. Chief Wheeler will be looking into applying for a Federal Grant for Capital Improvements that could be used for repairs. The Committee agreed that the parking lot should be concrete; the project would be bid. Alderman Budd advised that if awarded a grant, the matching funds could be contributed from the Utility Tax Funds from each Ward; the Wards have worked together in the past on City projects.

There was discussion regarding the need for more traffic speed devices to have in areas to slow traffic.

SAFE PASSAGE

Safe Passage assisted 12 persons in September. In October, Denise is currently assisting 5.

The program is already making a difference on retail thefts. One example: Walmart retail thefts from July 1 to September 30 in 2018 had 11 retail thefts compared to 6 in 2019. This is a 54% decline. The Police Chaplain has been speaking with the individuals going through Safe Passage and this has been a big help.

REPLACE SCBA CYLINDERS WITH CITY/FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FUNDS

Chief Crews advised that the SCBA Cylinders will become obsolete at the end of October 2019. He had applied for a grant to be used for them, but at this time has not received it. He did receive a grant to be used for training. He presented the Committee with prices of cost for 15-year cylinders and 30-year cylinders. There is a \$7,000.00 difference and he is recommending the 30-year cylinder.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Olive to recommend to the City Council to allow Fire Chief Crews to purchase 32 SCBA cylinders from MES Municipal Emergency Services, with the Fire Protection District contributing \$18,300.00 and the City's portion \$19,030.00. Motion carried 3-0.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total Calls-130
- Business Inspections- 11
- Toured the Kincaid Energy Plant with Hazardous Materials Team
- Issues continue with nuisance calls
- Harvest season will bring numerous calls for service
- Have had severe weather presentations at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Training Summit and Kiwanis
- Had a school resource meeting with Taylorville School district officials, they will be having a tactical drill at the schools
- Firefighter Holmes is working on establishing a team for the Scott Firefighter Challenge
- Firefighter Carls working on an IT report for the Department to modernize operations

A second meeting with the hazardous Mitigation Planning Team was held on September 10, 2019. Discussions centered on the results of the principle hazards for Christian County. There are nine communities working together on a Mitigation Plan. He stated the report will be approximately 100 pages when complete. They have the capabilities to track weather patterns all the way back to 1950. The doppler systems in place are more accurate than in the past to help track dangerous weather.

A Mitigation Plan must be in place to apply for Federal Grants that could be used for things such as buildings to be built in areas throughout the area for residents in case of emergencies in areas such as close to mobile home parks. Chief Crews described hazards such as the tornado, mine subsidence, as there are a lot of underground mines in this area, active shooter, and dam failure.

The Police and Fire Departments will be hosting Trick or Treaters again this year at the Fire Station. Alderman Budd feels this is a wonderful event for the community and was well attended last year.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

This was Chief Crews last Emergency Services Committee Meeting; he will be retiring October 23, 2019. Chief Crews stated it has been a great privilege working for the City.

The Committee thanked him for his service to the Community and again thanked him for the excellent job he and his Department did during the tornado. Chief Crews stated that he had a great team. Chairman Driskell feels he has laid a great foundation for the Department.

Alderman Olive is a past Volunteer Firefighter. He told Chief Crews that he has watched the Fire Department for a number of years and under his leadership the Department has really grown. He thanked him for his leadership during the disaster, stating it was flawless and the City is indebted to him. Deputy Chief Childers advised that the State has classes on natural disasters and State Officers are using Chief Crews model to train.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Olive to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Kathy Driskell, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee