

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
August 1, 2018

The meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Terry Mest. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Mest were Charles Heller, and ex-officio member Frank Deery. Committee member Lori Carnes was absent.

Also in attendance were Marianne Deery, Mayor; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager, and numerous interested citizens.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman submitted to the committee a report on department activities during the month.

Chairman Mest recognized members of the Wellness Council of Boyertown who, in follow up to discussion at the last meeting of the committee, discussed with the members a proposed route for the 2018 Turkey Trot. The proposed route identified twenty eight intersections where personnel are required for participant and vehicle safety.

Chief Leatherman stated that the Borough does not have sufficient resources to cover this need and Fire Police have not been responsive to these types of requests. Chief Leatherman recommended the group request closure of Philadelphia Avenue, and engage the services of a professional traffic control company. Chief Leatherman stated that if Council agrees to support the closure of Philadelphia Avenue, the group will have to apply to PennDOT for a permit.

Following a somewhat lengthy discussion, the group agreed to submit to the Borough by Friday, August 3rd a final proposed route for consideration at the August 6th meeting of Borough Council.

Chief Leatherman informed the committee that the requestor of the handicap parking sign previously approved by Council for 127 South Washington Street was not satisfied with the proposed location of the sign. The requestor had indicated she would attend tonight's meeting to review her concern with the committee. Chief Leatherman noted that the requestor was not in attendance; therefore, the approval of the handicap sign for 127 South Washington Street is void.

Building a Better Boyertown requested closure of North Chestnut Street from Philadelphia Avenue to the alley on August 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the annual Dog Days event. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the August 6th meeting of Council.

Chairman Mest then recognized Will Dexter who in conjunction with Building a Better Boyertown is organizing the Pick Fest Event scheduled to be held on October 12, 13 and 14. Mr. Dexter described the event format and activities to the committee and requested the Borough authorize closure of North Chestnut Street from Philadelphia Avenue to the entrance of the parking lot of Thompkins Vist Bank on Saturday, October 13 from noon to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Dexter also requested that parking meters in front of Durango's and Other Farm Brewery be bagged to allow vendor loading and unloading.

Discussion was held on the request and Mr. Dexter was directed to put the request in writing and submit it to the Borough for action by Council on Monday, August 6th.

Unfinished Business

Regional Police Update – The Chief informed the committee that we have received the actuarial study from PMRS and anticipate receipt of the Act 600 pension study from ConRed Consulting, Inc. on or about August 3rd. The Regional Police Committee has been working on the Intergovernmental Agreement and discussing budget and other relevant matters relating to the establishment of a regional force.

New Business

PA New Fireworks Law – Mr. Deery had requested this matter be placed on the agenda for clarification of the newly enacted Pennsylvania Fireworks Law. Chief Leatherman explained some key components of the law. Consumers may now purchase and use “Class C” or “consumer grade” fireworks that include roman candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks. The law prohibits purchase of fireworks by anyone under the age of 18, discharging or igniting fireworks on public or private property without express permission of the property owner, discharging from a motor vehicle or building, or discharging within 150 feet of an occupied structure, whether or not a person is actually present, or discharging while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

Chief Leatherman noted that because of the density of the housing in the borough discharging of Class C fireworks is prohibited in the Borough by Pennsylvania Law. It was noted that on July 4th there was particularly active use of fireworks. A somewhat lengthy discussion was held on the subject and all present agreed that education of the public is a tool the Borough will use. If education of the public does not work, then citations will be issued to violators of the law.

No Parking S Franklin Street from Front Street to Borough Line – Chief Leatherman reviewed briefly with the committee a situation on South Franklin Street concerning trucks backing into the loading dock of Campbell Fittings and driving over the curbing and property of the residence on the corner of Franklin and Front Streets. Campbell Fittings personnel suggested

that elimination of parking on both sides of South Franklin Street from Front Street to the Borough Line between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays would resolve the problem. However, the owner of the corner property is not in agreement with that resolution. As a result, Chief Leatherman recommended tabling action on the parking prohibition. The Chief stated that he believes the resident involved in the matter plans to attend a future meeting of the committee.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Mest. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary