

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, May 12, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Vollrath, Lee, and Bormann. Also attending were Lynn Behrms, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Art Dollens, and James Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present participated in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens\

Dollens told the Committee that he would not be able to attend his son's graduation because of school policies. He began a long soliloquy which alleged that the City had allows illegal hiring of the park director. By bringing in Earl Bennett, the City had thus assumed some sort of responsibility for misdeeds related to the School District. Dollens felt school mismanagement catered to a small elite and was open to discrimination and financial fraud. He made a rambling series of charges that were difficult to assess or connect together. Eventually, he acknowledged to a question by Wilkins that he had not actually requested dispensation to attend the graduation. Committee members and Police Chief ask him not to include the City in his ongoing fight with the School and to address his concerns directly to the Park Board and School Board.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon presented a Police Department activity report for April.

Dudgeon said he had been seeking a way to improve traffic flow and safety around the Chance Elementary School. He has concluded that best solution would be to make Collier Street between Sims and Lakeview into a one-way street going north. Rollins Street between Sims and Lakeview would become a companion one-way street going south. The committee engaged in a long discussion. Behrms said that the Board had, in the past, examined a similar concept. He could not fully remember the reason the City did not to follow through, but thought it may have been opposition of adjacent residents. Dudgeon said he had already received a suggestion that reversing the pattern might be better. Some sort of fix is supported by Chance's Principal Bob Reeves, who will be at the regular Board meeting. With appropriate coverage in the paper, that meeting might be a good forum. Aldermen also said that staff may need to make personal visits to the affected residents of both streets, plus Worthington Court and Burnett Street before anything is implemented.

Behrms stated he would not recommend having one-way streets only when the school is session. The pattern should be all of the time or not at all. Dudgeon described how the bus pattern could adapt to the change, and said that he would be happy to see any other, creative alternatives.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch, presented a report of April department activities.

Rusch told Committee that the raise in per-call reimbursements had not yet been on pay checks. It would be noticeable because of a high volume of medical calls.

Rusch discussed the recent power outage and use of emergency generators. The Fire Department was strained to address the number of requests. He believes that citizens requiring constant power for oxygen supply really do need to get their own portable generators. The same should apply for assisted living facilities such as Bristol Manor. He noted that City portable generators are not really purposed for food preservation, etc., just for medical safety.

Emergency Management

Behrns had nothing to report.

Protective Inspection

Behrns reported that he has now issue 12 housing unit permits for the year and at least two more are close to submittal. Two houses await implementation of demolition permits. One of these is on a subsidy contract. One more, an eye-sore on Barr Street, should be submitted soon. Its owner has already directed utility disconnects and started paperwork for the \$1,500.demolition subsidy.

Economic Development

Mike Rodgers sent a copy of the minutes of the last CREDI meeting as his report. They were included in the agenda packet.

Also included was a copy of a memo from Ginny Zoellers states that there will be no Chamber of commerce meeting in May, but details work on Anchor Festival

Park Department

The Park Board agendas and minutes for past meetings were in the Committee agenda packet.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No report. Meeting scheduled for this week to address concerns about mowing and dandelions.

Behrns discussed the existing contract with James Lee for maintenance of the A. B. Chance Mausoleum. It has not changed since 1993 and calls for the City to reimburse Lee for the actual cost of worker's compensation insurance This cost has raised to about \$3,000 each year. Jed Angell had suggested that City include the mausoleum labor on the City's policy, but Behrns had been reticent. A new suggestion has come from Bill Miller, proposing that the contract be reassigned to the Chance Foundation. Mr. Lee is already an employee for the Foundation, tending to Chance Gardens and the rose garden. Similar work and low extra salary should add only a small amount to the Foundation's insurance premiums. The Foundation is willing to accept the contract, since it has a have special interest in mausoleum care. Committee members thought this was a good idea and directed staff to prepare an ordinance and new contract for the next Board meeting.

Tree Board

No written report.

Library Board

Minutes and agendas for the Library Board were included in the agenda packet.

Finance

Financial statements for April were in the agenda packet. Behrns had no comments and Committee members had no questions.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Due to absence of the Deputy Clerk, explanatory vouchers were not available. Questions were deferred to the regular Board meeting..

Other

Behrns asked for the names of those who would be attending MML District meeting. All aldermen tentatively said they would. Mayor Grenke suggested that Dudgeon and Rusch also attend. Behrns will have reservations for them set to the MML office.

Behrns reported that Simon Associates had prepared cost estimates for some of the City Hall repair. The basic work was within the budget allocation. Behrns said that the City will have deal with interior work, ramps and awning in the next year. Bid packets will be prepared for separate contracts for masonry and roof repairs. Committee agreed it would be preferable to do all work at once, rather than piece meal; so the roof bid should be for a sealing membrane to be installed on the entire roof from the beginning. Simon is also preparing bid packets and cost estimates for the Park Board to schedule construction to bring ADA access to the gazebo on the square.

Mayor Grenke suggested that Aldermen Vollrath and Ward may want to attend the Newly-elected Officials Conference in June,.

As May Arise

Mayor Grenke said he should have names for Park Board directors to appoint at the next Board meeting.

Committee adjourned about 8:05 p.m.