

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Special Called Meeting

Thursday, March 17th, 2016 – 5:30 PM

Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

Committee Members Present: Maurice Jones, Chair, Council Member
Mac Morrow, Vice-Chair, Council Member

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, City Manager
Craig Budzinski, Chief of Fire
Phil Harris, Chief of Police
Mark Norton, Assistant Chief

A. Welcome & Call to Order

The Chair, M. Jones, called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. It was decided that the meeting's agenda would be chronologically rearranged and that although minutes were absent from the Agenda, they would be reviewed. No additional items were added to the Agenda.

B. Introductions

The Committee determined that introductions were unnecessary.

C. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified

D. Minutes

The minutes of the 1/20/16 meeting were approved unanimously and without correction.

E. Budget Discussions

a. Fire

i. Apparatus Replacement

The Committee discussed a Rescue Truck replacement. C. Budzinski and M. Norton presented issues with the truck and J. Fatland explained that the tax rate would have to increase to cover the truck this fiscal year, but that it would not increase if they got the truck next fiscal year. He also offered to seek a deferred payment when financing the apparatus. M. Jones expressed concern for fire fighter safety when using the apparatus and accepted J. Fatland's offer.

The Committee was also informed that all “Jaws of Life” extrication equipment is being replaced in the FY16-17 proposed budget. J. Fatland explained that it is cheaper to purchase all four at once than it would be to purchase one set per year.

ii. North Transylvania Fire District Proposal

J. Fatland proposed a substation of Brevard Fire Department and explained the tax based particulars. C. Budzinski clarified that this would not cause a change our fire rating as both North Transylvania and Brevard fire departments are rated as fives. However, it would allow Brevard Fire Department to better respond to calls near Pisgah Forest. J. Fatland will be bringing this possibility to the company performing the County Emergency Services Evaluation.

iii. County Emergency Services Evaluation

C. Budzinski provided an update and informed the Committee that the County is meeting on April 25th to review the recommended changes to Emergency Services in Transylvania County. The Committee discussed the potential for a County wide tax and staff recommended against it.

b. Police

i. Retention Strategies

P. Harris explained the difficulty in staff retention and said he was looking into options to incentivize.

ii. Animal Services Officer Position

The Committee discussed the need for an Animal Services Officer. P. Harris explained the benefits of having one, while J. Fatland explained the financials. J. Fatland also indicated that the vacant Planning position would not be filled in FY16/17, and that the Officer position would cost the City less than the Planning position would.

iii. SRT (SWAT)

P. Harris informed the Committee that he will be sending 2 officers to the Sheriff’s SWAT training and explained the benefits of this.

iv. Body Cameras

The Committee was informed that they are working well.

F. Set Next Meeting Date

The Committee will meet again in May.

G. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

X

Maurice Jones
Chair, Council Member

X

Kerry Lindsay
Secretary