

MINUTES
City Council Public Safety Committee

Monday, January 23, 2023 – 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Maurice Jones, Vice-Chair, Council Member (arrived at 3:47 pm)

Staff Present Wilson Hooper, City Manager
Tom Jordan, Police Chief
Bobby Cooper, Fire Chief
Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk
Lt. Greg Holden, Police Dept.

Guests: Billy Parrish, Blue Zones Project Representative
Kevin and Linda Gallo, Monica Driscoll and Doug Denton, Residents

Media: Jon Rich, Transylvania Times

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:47 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

City Clerk Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Minutes from December 2, 2022 Meeting
Session Notes from January 4, 2023 Camping Ordinance Listening Session

Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

For information only, the Committee received the City Clerk's session notes from the January 4, 2023 Camping Ordinance Listening Session with service providers. Because there was no quorum present for the meeting, it was a listening session only. No official action was taken and no minutes were prepared.

E. First Responder Stats/Review

Chief Cooper presented the Fire Department's 2022 Annual Report (copy filed with the minutes). He noted that 2022 has been the busiest year in terms of incident volume since the inception of the Fire Department in 1898.

Chief Jordan presented the Police Department's Annual Review for 2022 (copy filed with the minutes). He noted that the crime rate last year represents some of the lowest numbers we have seen in at least a decade.

F. Update re Camping Ordinance

Mr. Hooper informed the committee that staff is still working on a new proposed camping ordinance. He said we took the proposal put forth at the special meeting by Emily Lowery of The Haven, and looked at some other jurisdictions that are doing similar things. We have discovered that it is an approach that is in use and becoming more commonplace across the state. Hendersonville is the closest municipality that is practicing it and Mr. Hooper will be talking with their City Manager tomorrow about how well it is working there and about their contractual relationship with Blue Ridge Health. He noted that even though all the service providers at the meeting agreed that we needed an ordinance to backup this new approach, we didn't get into much more detail on what that ordinance looks like, but through our observations and the work we have done since then, it seems that jurisdictions rely on trespassing ordinances as the legal underpinning of their work. We are working on enhanced language for our trespassing ordinance that would fit in with this new approach we are considering, but should have a recommendation for more discussion at the next meeting.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting – Monday, February 27, 2023

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on February 27, 2023 at 3:30 pm at City Hall.

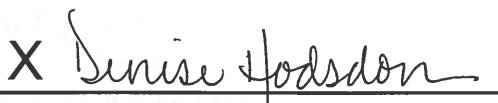
H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 PM.

Minutes Approved: February 27, 2023

X 

Mac Morrow,
Chair, Council Member

X 

Denise Hodsdon,
City Clerk