

Minutes
Public Safety Committee Meeting
February 11, 2019
6:00 p.m.
1st committee meeting

Members present were Chairman Scott Crosby, Committee members Taft Matney and Larry Goodson. Police Chief Bryan Turner and City Administrator Brandon Madden were also present. Fire Chief Bill Stewart and Administrative Judge Angela Martin were not present.

1. Call to Order- Chairman Crosby
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes- January 7, 2019
Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes with Chairman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (2-0). Councilman Goodson abstained from voting for the minutes since he was not in attendance at the meeting.
4. Reports or Communications from City Officers
 - a. Budget Review- The budget is doing well in the police department. Some vehicles will be purchased in either March or April and that will be the large purchase for this budget year. Brandon mentioned that both the fire and judicial department budgets were trending well.
 - b. Department Reports
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Noise ordinance- This has had first reading in council and has been through a few changes. There was a suggestion from council that staff look at the possibility of adding a C scale. The Police Department ordered new reading equipment to ensure the dB(A) and dB(C) readings obtained were valid. The current ordinance uses the A scale. PD staff evaluated the levels in December 2018 and January 2019 to prepare ranges for possible violations. A new scale was provided by the City attorney, along with the evaluation numbers. The police department took some residential readings in the back of Butler Station and then a few checks in the back of Knollwood from Muirwood back to the pool. The equipment runs for one minute and the results were charted.

Chief Turner said it is the recommendation of PD staff this item be forwarded back to full Council for second reading. PD staff suggests the readings for the dB(C) scale be removed from the ordinance as there was no definitive proof such scale could provide benefit to the City ordinance due to Residential, Commercial and Industrial composition and overlap. Violations were happening in the 40 range at 2:00 a.m. with nothing going on in the neighborhood. C scale catches bass, but also catches HVAC and overhead equipment noises. Officer's discretion is built into the ordinance as well, so the C scale does not have to be included. If council decides to keep the C scale, the attorney will have to develop some adjustment in the ratings.

Councilman Goodson asked about CF Sauer. Chief said the measurements were done at 12:02am. The max recording was 75 and minimum was 63. The measurement was taken at the corner of the property. Councilman Goodson said those numbers constituted a violation. Chief said the traffic noises bouncing off the building have to be taken into consideration.

Carolina Fashions and VLS shows more of a true picture if there is no traffic involved on how the numbers would run. Chief said he doesn't know how a C scale would benefit the City. We do not have a lot of calls about noise but you have to look at what is going on. What time is it? Is it a school night? What is the weather doing? A lot of this is left up to officer's discretion. You want to be able to have parties in cul-de-sacs and backyard barbecues. Councilman Goodson said if this passes with the C scale, there will be a lot of violations. Councilman Matney said the C scale is generally about 10 points below A and he agreed there will be a lot of violations. Nature is above the scale. Who would you charge?

Chief Turner said the A scale we have used seems to work. There will still be a written notice if there is a violation and this will be a compliance measure. Councilman Matney said the problem with the C scale is that it will register the hum of HVAC units and vibrations from cars on Hwy 276.

Chairman Crosby said he doesn't want to send anything to council until committee is clear on what they want to do. Councilman Matney said he was thinking about making a motion to send this to council without a committee recommendation to get council discussion. Also, he thinks we should ask the attorney to potentially adjust the numbers. If council wants to add the C scale, it can be done. Councilman Goodson said he would go along with that, but is apprehensive about the C scale.

Chairman Crosby said we are in the winter months now, but in the summer when everyone's air conditioners are running, you can hear a hum that surrounds everything. He would rather that not be something you could cite for. It is normal background noise.

Councilman Goodson made a motion to send the noise ordinance to council for second reading with no recommendation and with the C scale portion being removed from the ordinance.

Councilman Matney said he wishes he knew what the answer was. He doesn't want a police state, but he also wants people to be able to enjoy peace and quiet in their neighborhoods. Chairman Crosby said he has no problem picking this back up at a later date if it is determined the C scale might be beneficial. This ordinance as amended does have a lot that wasn't included before. Councilman Matney seconded the motion to send the ordinance with no recommendation and with the C scale removed. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

Councilman Goodson said he walked to Beachin' Fridays one time last summer through Springfield Park and down Mauldin Circle. When he left, you couldn't hear the singing at Mauldin Circle, but when you got down to Springfield Park, you could hear it as loud as if you were still there. Topography and how the buildings are laid out affects noise and he thought it was odd.

6. New Business

a. Automatic Aid Agreement and Resolution (South Greenville Fire District)

During its January 22, 2019 meeting, Council gave first reading approval to an ordinance for the proposed annexation at Quartz Circle and Standing Springs Road. The annexed properties are located within the South Greenville Fire District (SGFD) and are outside of a five (5) mile travel distance from the nearest Mauldin Fire Department (MFD) Station. To make sure quality and expeditious fire protection are provided to the annexed properties, the City will enter into an automatic aid agreement with the SGFD for all calls for service for structure fires occurring within the designated areas of the MFD. This means that for all calls for service for structure fires occurring with MFD and SGFD will be responded to by a City of Mauldin engine company with a crew of at least three personnel, a MFD ladder company and a South Greenville Fire Department engine company with a crew of at least three personnel.

To make sure that all other emergencies services (e.g., non-structure fires) are provided, the City will enter into a separate agreement with the SGFD for the annexed properties located within their District. This means that for the non-structure fire related emergencies occurring on the annexed properties, the South Greenville Fire Department will respond.

Additionally, since the SGFD has an outstanding General Obligation (GO) bond issued in 2018, secured by a portion of the property tax revenues from the real properties located within the Fire District including the properties annexed by Mauldin, the City, pursuant to State law, is required to remit the portion of property tax revenues that are generated to the SGFD to be paid for the annual bond payments until the bond matures in 2043. To address this requirement, the City will enter into an agreement to codify this obligation.

To address all three issues, there are three separate agreements with SGFD.

Councilman Matney made a motion to send all three agreements to council with a recommendation for approval. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjourn- Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk