

Minutes
Public Safety Committee
June 1, 2020
6:00 p.m.
3rd committee meeting

Members present were Chairwoman Carol King, Committee Members Terry Merritt, and Dale Black. Police Chief Bryan Turner, Interim Fire Chief Brian McHone, and City Administrator Brandon Madden were all present. Administrative Judge Angela Martin was in attendance remotely.

1. Call to Order- Chairwoman King
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Safety Committee Meeting: May 4, 2020
Councilman Black made a motion to approve the minutes with Mayor Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or Communications from City Officers
 - a. Department Reports

Police Chief Bryan Turner

Budget Review- Chief Turner reported the budget looks good.

Chairwoman King asked about the Youth Academy. Chief Turner said there were some concerns regarding COVID-19 and also scheduling. There is the possibility of a shorter academy in July, but the department is not sure yet on the status.

Administrative Judge Angela Martin

Budget Review- The Judicial Department is 18% under budget. Court will resume this Wednesday with a small docket.

Interim Fire Chief Brian McHone

Budget Review- The fire department budget is at 14%.

5. Unfinished Business-

6. New Business

- a. Traffic Calming- Edgewood Drive- In October 2019, a resident of Edgewood Drive relayed a concern to the Public Safety Committee about excessive speeds and residential safety. At the request of the Public Safety Committee, a speed measurement study was completed on Edgewood Drive. The first traffic study started on October 11th and continued until the end of the month. Data collected showed the road met volume requirements to be eligible for traffic calming, and also met the minimum threshold of 32mph at the 85th percentile. The speed limit for Edgewood Drive is posted at 25mph.

At the conclusion of the first traffic study, a digital sign board was positioned on Edgewood Drive to alert drivers of their speed and the speed limit. This display was left active for two weeks. This posting of the signboard on the street was part of Level 1 Traffic Calming methods.

On Tuesday, December 31, 2019 the Digital Sign Board was repositioned on Edgewood Drive to capture data post education and enforcement efforts. This study concluded on January 9, 2020. The following data was provided from the 10-day collection period.

Speed at the 85th percentile has decreased to 24.3mph and the average daily volume on the roadway was 172.8, with a total volume of 1555 vehicles. At this point speeding at the 85th percentile is not considered to be a major factor as it falls under the threshold of 32 mph. In addition, roadway traffic is not considered to be "cut through" in nature.

We have continued to monitor the area periodically through normal patrol efforts. The aforementioned information was provided during the February 2020 Public Safety committee after which the department was instructed to provide the resident with a petition and information for obtaining other possible traffic calming measures. The information was provided to the resident on February 14, 2020 via email.

On March 23, 2020, the petition was returned, and the process began on verifying signatures. On April 27, 2020, a final portion of the petition was provided, and the petition was verified. A total of eighteen property owners have signed the petition requesting traffic calming measures. Although a total of 30 homes comprise the study area, this petition meets the 60% as outlined in the traffic calming policy.

Chairwoman King said the speed percentile was not met. Chief Turner said that was correct, at least 85% of vehicles checked were at or below posted speed limits.

Mayor Merritt said 60% of the 30 homes signed the petition. He asked if there was any feedback from the ones that did not sign the petition. Chief Turner said there are homes on both ends of the street. The ones that did not sign have a stop sign near them. The way the policy is written, the petitioner is provided the documentation, and the petitioner obtains the signatures. Chief Turner does not know if the petitioner went to every home. Some of the homes are rentals as well.

Chairwoman King said over two years ago, there was a resident hit in Knollwood by a vehicle. Chairwoman King said she is active in the neighborhood morning and evening. She thinks the majority of the violators are neighbors. There are small children that live on this street. This is a serious enough issue that Chairwoman King would like some Council discussion. If these traffic measures will slow a car down, she is in favor of them. Councilman Black asked if the quote for less than \$1,000 includes the signage. Chief Turner said yes. This would be a speed hump, not a bump. It would be a gradual hump that emergency vehicles could go over.

Councilman Black asked how many humps would be installed. Chief Turner answered two at a minimum. Mayor Merritt said he is personally opposed to bumps and humps, but if the neighborhood requests it, Council should consider it.

Councilman Black made a motion to send this item to Council for input. Mayor Merritt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

- b. Mutual Aid Agreement- In recent years, the Mauldin Police Department has provided assistance to various SC Law Enforcement Agencies. In late April 2020, a request was initiated by the City of Mount Pleasant to have our officers assist.

Mayor Merritt said his concern is the City of Mauldin pays for our police department. Towns continue to request our help. Mount Pleasant has 106 police employees, a population of 85,000, a larger budget than ours, and is comprised of over 52 square miles. Why do they need our help? Our bordering communities should be helped, but around the coast? Where do we draw the line? He asked if we have requested mutual aid assistance from Mount Pleasant? Chief Turner answered no. Mayor Merritt said we are subsidizing them.

Chairwoman King said this is a compliment to us if we have a specialized, trained officer that can help another agency. Councilman Black wondered if there was someone in Charleston, or somewhere closer that could help.

Councilman Black made a motion to send this item to Council for input with Mayor Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjourn- Chairwoman King adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk