

Minutes
Public Safety Committee
March 1, 2021
4th committee meeting

Committee Members: Carol King (Chair), Dale Black, and Jason Kraeling
Others present were Fire Chief Brian McHone, Police Chief Bryan Turner, City Administrator Brandon Madden, and Administrative Judge Angela Martin (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order- Chairwoman King
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Safety Committee Meeting: February 1, 2021

Motion: Councilman Black made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Kraeling seconding.

Action: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers
 - a. Fire Chief Brian McHone
 - i. Budget Review- The department is 7% under budget.

A new pickup has been purchased for the Fire Marshal division.
Councilman Black asked what the fire code is for fire pits since we do not allow burning inside the City limits. Chief McHone said fire pits, outside kitchens, and grills are allowed because they can be used for warmth and for cooking.

Councilwoman King thanked Chief McHone for his department's attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony.

- b. Judge Angela Martin
 - i. Budget Review- The department is 14% under budget.

Court will resume on March 17th. Jury trials will resume in April.

- c. Police Chief Bryan Turner
 - i. Budget Review- The budget is 4% under budget.

Councilwoman King thanked Chief Turner for his department's response as well at the groundbreaking.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business

a. Wrecker Policy

In January of 2021, the police department began gathering information on wrecker fees. This information was gathered due to request from a business currently on the City's rotation list for a new fee schedule for the calendar year 2021. SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) had previously updated their rates for Mauldin area wrecker services who were on the SC Highway Patrol towing rotation. In researching historical information, it was determined the last time the wrecker towing fees were updated was in 2006 and in 2014.

Given that the last fee schedule adjustment was approximately 7 years ago, the recommendation is to change the rates to be consistent with the new rate schedule established by SCDPS. The proposal still contains a stranded motorist fee which has been adjusted to a rate previously associated with a violation during daytime hours. The stranded motorist fee is something which is not covered in the SCDPS version, however due to the City's rotation wrecker services all being within the jurisdiction, Council may consider the adjustment due to the length of travel and overall financial burdens for the residents/motorists.

This is only for dispatched calls through the police department. Chairwoman King asked if there were any changes from the SCDPS 2021 and 2020 sheets. Chief Turner said the change was minimal, \$3.00-7.00.

Councilman Black asked if this is a not-to exceed list, to stop a company from price gouging. Chief Turner answered yes.

Chairwoman King asked Mr. Madden if committee should consider putting something in place where these fees could be addressed every year or every three years. Mr. Madden agreed. He thinks it is appropriate to look at this at least every three years to make sure our fees are not out of line from other municipalities and agencies in the state. Mr. Madden said this also could be included in the budget process.

Motion: Councilman Black made a motion to send this to Council with a recommendation to revisit the fees every three years. Councilman Kraeling seconded.

Action: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns

Councilman Kraeling said he had received a comment this weekend from a citizen that Officer Smith came out to his house and was very professional.

9. Adjournment- Chairwoman King adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk