

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2021, 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 E. BUTLER ROAD
2nd committee meeting

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

1. Call to Order- Chairwoman King
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Safety Committee Meeting: October 4, 2021

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

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

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers
 - a. Fire Chief Brian McHone
 - i. Budget Review- The budget is at 83%. 67% is the ideal remaining percentage.

Chief McHone reported on SCBAs. The department has surplus breathing apparatuses that will be sold. The equipment was originally going to be put on Gov Deals, but a local department has offered to purchase all of them. Chief McHone asked committee if it would be permissible to sell the apparatus to a local department for \$15,000. Committee granted permission to sell the SCBAs to the department.

Chief McHone then said the department is talking to Cloverleaf on a price for the new fire station. He also said he has gotten some questions regarding moving the fire department headquarters to West Butler Road. This location will better serve the newly annexed properties we have in the City and will still serve the citizens in the current area. Response times will not be affected.

- b. Judge Angela Martin
 - i. Budget Review- Judge Martin reported her department is under budget.
- c. Police Chief George Miller
 - i. Budget Review- Chief Miller reported his department is under budget.

Chief Miller was contacted by Make A Wish and will meet with them next week regarding a child who wants to be a police officer for a day. The department was just reaccredited through CALEA. A few officers handed out candy for Halloween in the neighborhoods.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business

a. Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 28

As part of the newly enacted South Carolina Open Carry with Training Act (S.C. Code Ann. §23-31-210 et seq.), local governments have the power to prohibit the open carry of firearms during permitted events taking place on public property, including during protests. The Committee is being requested to forward to Council an ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the City of Mauldin code of ordinances to provide for the prohibition of the open carry of firearms during pickets and other permitted events on public property and to provide additional regulations regarding the issuance of permits during pickets and other permitted events. This was suggested by the City Attorney.

Councilman Kraeling said he would have appreciated the Attorney contacting Council about this beforehand. He feels that it puts a target on us, and where there is not currently a problem, one may be created since it has been brought up. He will not support going against the law of South Carolina and the 2nd amendment and is disappointed this issue was brought up in this manner.

Councilman Black asked how this would be enforced during an event such as the Christmas parade. Chief Miller said the crowds would be monitored. The general fine is \$465.00.

Mr. Madden said this item could be held in committee to get more information from legal counsel.

Councilman Kraeling said while Council is looking at this, it can also look at whether or not to charge for permits for things such as protests. Also, he thought the section about the thirty days was confusing and would like clarification.

This item will be held in committee.

7. Public Comment

Terry Merritt: I live at 214 Fairfield Drive in Mauldin. I appreciate the discussion just held on this amendment. I just wanted to bring a couple of comments to your minds. I am a long-time member of the NRA. I am not standing here unbiased somewhat, though I am not a fanatic. Just so you are clear on what South Carolina did- open carry did not expand the availability of firearms. All it did was allow open carry for people who already have their CWP. Instead of being concealed, it now allows you to wear it openly. That is section 23-31-530 they talked about. It appears part of this proposal wants to expand upon that.

A concealable weapon means a firearm measuring less than 12 inches along its length. It didn't address rifles, shotguns, AK 47s, etc. that are called long barrel. It changes the definition in the firearms and if you want to find all that, you won't find it in open carry. You have to go in-depth. I appreciate what you did tonight and look forward to getting more information from experts as well as legal counsel.

8. Committee Concerns- None
9. Adjournment- Chairwoman King adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk