

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 5, 2023
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5 E. BUTLER ROAD
4th committee meeting

Committee Members present: Carol King (Chair), Frank Allgood, and Jason Kraeling
Others present: Administrative Judge Donna DeRado, Police Chief George Miller, and Fire Chief Brian McHone.

1. Call to Order- Chairwoman King

2. Public Comment-

Jimmy Vissage: 314 Maple Drive. I am here to talk about the heavy-duty truck traffic through the neighborhoods of Maple Drive and Rosewood Circle. There are very large trucks that are not obeying the signs that are over three tons travelling our roadways. We are having road degradation and five water line breaks. We got a new one yesterday at the intersection of Rosewood and Maple. I talked to someone about this. We need a solution and I know we can't have a patrolman out there all the time, but we need something. Some kind of method to contact these trucking companies and letting them know what the problem is and the law they are breaking. The previous Chief Turner told me that is a four-point violation for the driver and would result in the loss of a CDL license. I need some help there and also with signage.

We have a sign laying down at a 30-degree angle at Maple Drive off of Ashmore Bridge. We are a cut-through neighborhood and can't do anything about that, but with all the construction off of Ashmore Bridge Road, it is just going to get worse. I am looking for some help. Maybe moving the sign, so we would have to deal with the state. I have talked with Captain Hodrea about this also, but if citizens could call him and we could let him know when we see a truck and tell him where they are travelling, what they are carrying. We had a truck come up Rosewood Saturday carrying sod. A 53-foot flatbed truck, probably 50,000 pounds. They can't make the turns and they can't stay in their lane. We had a truck today from 84 Lumber carrying trusses. A year and a half ago, a truck like that took out a mailbox on the corner. I don't know if we could get help from the highway patrol on that to get the word out, but it is a problem. Myself and a neighbor have been calling these companies and if we had a way to let the police department know and have them call. We don't want anybody to lose their license, but we need to restrict the traffic. If it came from a police department, with a warning...

Chairwoman King said she would have Mr. Duncan follow-up with Mr. Vissage.

Jimmy Vissage: That's good. The weight limit sign is down. The other problem we are having is the excessive noise from the performance exhaust on some of the cars. They race from speed hump to speed hump. About 2:30 a.m. in the morning I woke up and heard them and it sounds like NASCAR. There is no reason for that.

I talked to Terry, and he said the noise ordinance only pertains to music or loud parties. It is not written for vehicles. We need to look into changing the ordinance. Some of the cars now that are stock, or factory, they have some noise, but they are not that bad. One guy, and I have his license plate number, I am going to give it to you, Chief. He has it tuned that when he backs off, it sounds like firecrackers. People drive on Ashmore all the way to Bonnie Bray. There is no reason for that. Maybe

we can start looking at an ordinance.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Public Safety Committee Meeting: May 1, 2023

Motion: Councilman Allgood 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

Overall, the budget looks good.

Concrete is being poured at the new station this week. Council will be given a tour soon. The new tower trucks are having some warranty issues. Chairwoman King asked if there was an issue with bad tires.

b. Administrative Judge/ Clerk of Court Donna DeRado

i. Budget Review

Judge DeRado said the online payment system will go live on June 16th. A preliminary calendar for next year has been sent out. The department is in the final stages of working with the public defender's office.

The budget looks good.

c. Police Chief George Miller

i. Budget Review

The budget looks good. Overtime is a little over budget as well as gas and oil.

Chief Miller said signs are being looked at for Mr. Vissage's neighborhood. A work order has been put in with the County. Captain Hodrea has run traffic and given out warnings. This problem is being worked on. Chairwoman King asked how long it would take to get the signage. Chief Miller will find out and let Mr. Vissage know. Mr. Duncan said some earlier warning signs could possibly be posted on Ashmore Bridge Road or on Maple.

The Police Youth Academy started today with nine students.

The department's air cards will be switched from Verizon to FirstNet. There is no contract to sign. Emergency calls are given priority.

Councilman Kraeling said his son is in the academy and he loves it.

Councilman Allgood asked if Rosewood Circle and Maple Drive are City roads. Chief Miller answered yes. Councilman Allgood then asked if the department has any big flashing signs. Chief said there is one that they can put out there. Captain Hodrea has called when he gets the names of the trucking companies to let them know it is not a cut-through.

Mr. Duncan said that staff will work through the BDS Department to let the contractors know they cannot use the neighborhood as a cut-through.

Mr. Duncan said First Net is a first responders channel. When the cell towers get jammed up with activity, first responder phones are given priority.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business

- a. ID Scanners Donation- The police department has an abundance of spare ID scanners that are at the end of life and have been replaced with new scanners. They would be typically used as spares or destroyed. Travelers Rest Police Dept. needs 10 scanners. The police department would like to donate the old scanners to them.

Chairwoman King commended staff for thinking outside the box and helping other agencies with these donations.

Motion: Councilman Kraeling made a motion to send this item to Council with Councilman Allgood seconding.

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

- b. Fire Turnout Gear Donation- Staff is requesting that our outdated turnout gear be donated to Ukraine or the Dominican Republic by way of a non-profit group based in Spartanburg. We have 25-30 outdated sets.

NFPA standards for fire apparatus and gear specify service lifecycles, gear must be retired from service 10 years after the date of manufacture. Mauldin Fire department would like to donate our outdated turnout gear to help under-resourced fire departments in poor and developing countries.

Councilman Allgood asked what the non-profit was. Chief McHone said one is a church and the other is Boiling Springs. Boiling Springs sends items to the Dominican Republic. Council could state if they have a preference. Chairwoman King said she would like to leave that decision up to staff.

Motion: Councilman Kraeling made a motion to send this item to Council with Councilman Allgood seconding.

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

Mr. Duncan said there will be a single resolution for the two donations at the Council meeting.

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- Chairwoman King thanked the departments for participation in the various City events.

9. Adjournment- Chairwoman King adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk