

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 4, 2024
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5 E. BUTLER ROAD
5th and last committee

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

1. Call to Order- Chairwoman King

2. Public Comment

- a. Mark Steenback from 24 Trailstream Drive commented on the no parking regulations. Today he was once again forced to the middle of the road by oncoming traffic. This happens multiple times a week. He has four young boys who cross the road to use the sidewalk and he is worried about the blind spots that are there.
- b. Ken Hizer of 316 Ocala Trail. He is on the board of the Towns at Whispering Meadows. The development has narrow streets. If cars are parked on both sides of the streets, other traffic cannot get through. There have been several instances where the neighbors have been contacted by public works and not had their trash picked up because the trucks cannot get through. If garbage trucks cannot get through, police and fire vehicles cannot either. Mr. Hizer is asking the City to adopt a no parking on the streets restriction in the neighborhood.
- c. George Dowling of 204 Fieldgate Court agreed with Mr. Hizer and said Planters Row has the same problem. It is hard for an HOA to enforce no parking on the streets because the streets are owned by the City of Mauldin. The neighborhood used to have contact with a police officer as a liaison between them and the City, but they have not seen an officer in a while.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- a. Public Safety Committee Meeting: January 2, 2024

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

Chief McHone said everyone is now in the new fire station. The grand opening will probably be held in April.

Two QRVs have been ordered.

Two generators have been purchased to run the entire station in case of a power outage.

b. Administrative Judge/ Clerk of Court Donna DeRado

Administrative Judge DeRado reported bond forms have been set up electronically.

Ms. DeRado gave a presentation to a group of Municipal Judges and Magistrates regarding Mauldin's judicial duties and practices.

Ms. DeRado is working with the Solicitor's Office on a mental health referral program. This will allow for defendants to get mental health treatment while they are dealing with any court issues they may have.

c. Police Chief George Miller Camp Worthy

Chief Miller reported the Police Explorer Group went to Winterfest and won several awards.

Cocoa With a Cop and Fist Bump Friday were held in our schools last week.

Officer Harley Grant helped save the life of a man speeding through Mauldin who had been shot in the leg. He administered a tourniquet to save him.

Officer Keitt helped a lady who had been forced to get in a car to be released.

10 new vehicles have been purchased.

There are only two positions open in the department and they are receiving applications every day.

Officer Claudia Bonds gave a presentation on Camp Worthy, which is a proposed camp for at-risk girls to help them discover their self-worth and get on the right track in school and later in life. The camp will also offer a mentoring program when they age out of the camp.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business

a. Police and Court Operations Security Updates

The Police and Judicial Departments are asking for the reallocation of \$45,000 in ARPA funding for Police Department and Court Operations Security Upgrades.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, several important safety systems are beyond repair and need to be replaced. Some of these systems are more than a decade old or are necessary to ensure the safe operations of Court Administration and MPD. These include security cameras in sensitive areas throughout the building and the City's metal detector.

Additionally, Court Operations have been hampered as of late due to limited visibility out of the counter windows, and staff are unable to securely serve customers that are using a wheelchair. Currently, Court Administration must take customers one at a time, even though the counter window system was built for two access windows. Therefore, staff is requesting the reallocation of ARPA funds to reopen the second counter to provide better and ADA compliant services to customers.

Security Cameras Replacement \$20,000
Metal Detector Replacement \$5,000
Court Administration \$20,000
\$45,000.00

Councilman Allgood asked if the metal detector would be the same or is it new technology. Chief Miller said it was new technology- top of the line.

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

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

b. Discussion on No Parking Regulations

The City currently has few on-street parking restrictions in subdivisions throughout the City. Where restrictions do exist, they typically are located in designated turn-around areas for municipal vehicles and emergency response vehicles. Recently, staff received requests from two separate subdivisions to evaluate the possibility of expanding restrictions to additional roadways to ensure access for municipal vehicles and emergency response vehicles.

A review of municipal code found that the power to restrict on-street parking currently exists within municipal code. According to Sec 38-48 of Mauldin Municipal Code, parking

may be restricted in the following ways:

When signs are erected giving notice thereof, it shall be unlawful to park a vehicle at any time upon any of the streets so designated. The city administrator may designate such areas with the recommendation of the traffic engineer or by direction of the city council.

Though the ability to restrict has been codified, no policy currently exists to receive such requests, evaluate requests received, implementation requirements, nor an enforcement plan. Staff would like to ask for feedback on a draft policy to administer the code section.

Chairwoman King said this discussion has been held before. She thanked the neighborhood representatives for coming and voicing their experiences. She challenged staff to come to committee with an ordinance that is enforceable. We need to look at parking on a certain side of the street. The signage for enforcement does concern her.

Councilman Kraeling wants to keep it simple. He does not want to overthink this issue.

Councilman Allgood said this issue goes back to the comprehensive plan and how we are building our roads. He thinks this should be done by community, like speed humps. If this is what the community desires, then it makes sense.

Mr. Duncan said it would be structured like the traffic calming policy.

7. Public Comment

George Dowling on 204 Fieldgate Court commented that Planters Row solicited the Mayor and were able to get stop signs for traffic calming and that did help. He said the NTSB helped with the process. When he was on the HOA board from 2006-2009, he was told if No Parking signs were paid for and installed by the neighborhood, the Mauldin Police Department would enforce them.

Councilman Matney thanked Officer Bonds for her efforts as SRO at Mauldin High School and her presentation. Law enforcement is important to keep the kids safe in school.

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjournment- Chairwoman King adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk