



Yeadon Borough Committee Report

Committee Name: Public Safety Committee

Committee Chair(s): Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Chair; Dr. Delores McCabe, Vice-Chair

Meeting Date(s): Saturday, January 27, 2018

Attendees: Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Councilor Delores McCabe; Chief Anthony Paparo; Chief Michael Melazzo; OEM/Dir Mary Nixon; Tom Abrams

Summary Narrative:

Public Safety Statement of Purpose:

"Cohesively managing all Departments of Public Safety to prevent, protect and safeguard any and all threats that endangers the quality of life of our Residents and Community"

The Statement of Purpose was discussed and unanimously agreed upon by acclamation

The question was asked to the Chair as to why we do not start our Legislative Meetings with prayer - that every branch of National, State and County does so. It was noted that the Reorganization Meeting was started with prayer. It was noted by the Mayor that this was something that he felt led to do on his own; it was also noted that it has been a long standing practice of Yeadon Borough to start Legislative Meetings in prayer, which was done unabated for many decades - but stopped a few years ago because one person complained about prayer. It was discussed that rules and changes to protocol should not be made for the opinions of the minority, and would be beneficial to invoke the blessings of the Almighty; and that prayers could be general enough so as to not offend other religions. The Chair agreed to discuss further with the Council President.

It was established that Mayor is the "Operational" head of **Public Safety** as is consistent in every other Borough (as well as in Upper Darby as was asked Chief Paparo who hails from U.D.) and also written in State Borough Code. It was also established that The **Public Safety** oversight representative to Council will be: Dr. Delores McCabe. It was understood that Dr. McCabe as Council's representative would provide a written report - as well as the Mayor. However, the report of Council Rep will be different from Mayor's in that Council Rep would highlight issues that came up in the Public Safety Meeting, while the Mayor's report would highlight issues in particular, that the Mayor deems of particular public interest from the standpoint of **The Office of the Mayor**.

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It was discussed by the Chair that part of re-establishing the **Public Safety Committee** was to better accomplish the above Objective/Statement of Purpose of the Committee, wherein meeting across the lines of all three departments into one cogent whole, would greater identify and harness a robust **Public Safety** team and response, which would create more synergy and efficiency to meet the combined **Public Safety** needs of our Residents.

It was discussed that **Public Safety** has a Vision for making Yeadon the safest, cleanest Borough in Delaware County and a place of destination for would-be Residents - and that it starts with **Public Safety**. If people don't feel safe, guess what? - They won't be moving in. We want to have a reputation of being a safe borough, and a sense of the **Public's Safety**, is the number one need in the Borough.

It was brought up that there is a current community concern that we only have Two (2) Police Officers that are on duty at night, which is not enough. Chief Paparo responded that he is working on redeploying shifts - including using more part-timers to enhance our night time coverage. Full coverage of vacancies would greatly mitigate this...However, in the interim, more specific details are to follow.

It was also brought up that we've been experiencing an alarming amount of car break-ins at night - which has also been occurring in other neighboring boroughs. Chief Paparo stated that he will deploy some undercover officers to try to catch the culprits. Other methods and camera systems coordination with police was also discussed to enhance our reach.

It was discussed that some folks can be reticent to report crime due to feeling they may become a victim themselves, if criminals find out that they were reported by said resident. Chief Paparo discussed having a Crime Tips on web to solicit feedback from residents and to ensure confidentiality whenever suspicious activity is reported. It was then mentioned by the Chief that it would be good to create a crime corner in the **Borough Newsletter** for greater visibility and awareness and to solicit resident cooperation.

It was discussed by Dir of OEM that we need to move on Red Cross training to be an authorized provider of first aid training, which includes CPR. PECO has provided the Borough \$5000 for these training classes to begin. Ms. Nixon was prepared to give a presentation to Council.

It was suggested that **The Yeadon Town Watch Initiative** has not worked in the recent past due to changes in demographics and leaders. It was suggested that we may need to have a paid person to manage and oversee this effort in order to get it to work again.

A Citizen's Police Academy/Academy was also suggested by Chief Molineux that would assist in training residents - similar to what was done for Youth Police Academy in the recent past, for this type of role.

It was discussed that the Chief of Police would take care of Borough Keys for elected officials and employees, as well as the timing of door openings for public events.

Chief Paparo stated that he is looking at possibly installing a light or other traffic control at 6250 Baltimore Pike where there is reported speeding.

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It was discussed by Fire Chief that the department could use two (2) Full Time Employees...discussions ensued as to how best to accomplish this.

There was also talk of the Fire Dept (YFD) and Police Dept (YPD) coordinating certain **Public Safety** interactions with schools such as “Active Shooter” or “Evacuation Incidents” (for both training and live situations). This is the type of coordinated synergy and efficiency that would be tactful in helping forge a greater **Public Safety** response team that would benefit residents.

It was suggest that we need a paid **Grant Writer** in the Borough that would probably earn his/her salary many times over in that so many grants are available - but go untapped because we do not have someone available to readily tap into these available grants. It was mentioned that perhaps we could obtain a college student or semi-retired person that has the experience to do this at a small salary, which would more than pay for itself were we to enact this position.

The **NIMS** (National Incident Management System) mandate was discussed. This mandate written by then Governor Rendell in 2014 (and still in compliance), was handed out. It was noted that we must be in compliance in order to meet certain requirements for State and Federal aid. This was further discussed by OEM Representative Mary Nixon.

The YPD Staffing Needs were discussed. We are currently: 1 Sergeant & 1 Lieutenant down. Chief Paparo and Mayor Hepkins will work with **Civil Service Commission** to fill. If we fill from within, we would be two (2) more officers down. So we are effectively four (4) FTE Officers down. The Mayor will propose hiring Four (4) Full Time Officers, with the understanding that two (2) stand to be promoted. The accrual in vacancies would offset the hiring so that at no time would we be over budget during the fiscal year in salary expenditures. It would also greatly help in our staffing needs and especially our night shift coverage. It was also noted that we've had problems helping officers pass the respective promotional tests. Chief Paparo discussed assisting officers with various courses/classes and available on-line help so that we can move this forward and get back up to full/adequate staffing. Between the Chief and Mayor, we will approach **The Civil Service Commission** to start posting for these positions.

It was also discussed to suggest a change to the **Civil Service** requirements from 5 years to 2 years for Sergeant, which would help success rate and enhance promotional opportunities.

Super Bowl Sunday and Super Bowl Parade preparation issues and oversight were discussed.

The Chief shared that he was going to create a more robust "**Coffee with a Cop**" at Yeadon Public Library which he will publicize, as part of community policing, to strategically partnership with students and the WPSD.

Action Items from Previous Meeting(s)

- N/A

Current Action Items

- N/A

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Formal Motions to the Council

- It was mentioned that we could use 2 or 3 more members on **the Public Safety Committee**, as so far Tom Abrams is the only current Resident. The Mayor will make a motion to formally add Resident: **Tom Abrams** (and asking now to also add Resident **Emite Dorsainvil**)
- A motion will be made to Council to hire Four (4) Full Time Officers.

Rationale: We are currently vacant – One (1) Lieutenant and One (1) Sergeant. We also have current vacancies for Two (2) Full Time Patrol Officers. By hiring four (4) Officers now, two would be promoted from within, while two (2) new hires would fill those promotional vacancies; and the other two (2) new hires would fill the regular current Patrol Officer vacancies. By the time this hiring process is completed in the summer, the vacancy accrual would more than offset the four (4) hires and we would still be way under budget in our salary expenditures, but would be more efficient and safer overall than if we did this piecemeal in obtaining full police coverage sooner rather than later.

Next Meeting Date:

Saturday, March 3, 2018 9:30 am – 3rd Floor Conference Room Borough Hall

We established Monthly Meetings for Public Safety Committee to be: 9:30 am every First Saturday at Borough Hall on third floor Conference Room. It was noted that all meetings will be advertised on the borough website and will be open to the public.

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