



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**July 31, 2021**

**Members Present:** Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Police Lieutenant Sean Burns, and Public Works Director Jeffery Wilkinson

**Absent:** Council President Latoya Monroe, Councilor Delores McCabe, Councilor Liana Roadcloud, Finance Director Nafis Nichols, Fire Chief Michael Diienzo, Tax Collector Julianne James, Solicitor Charles M. Gibbs, Code Enforcement Director/Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Marshal Rufus Stokes, Thomas Abrams, Antoinette Truehart, and Denise Stinson

**Other Attendees:** Donna Samuel and Mrs. Bradford

**The Public Safety Committee Meeting was held via Zoom and started at 9:32 a.m.**

**Mayor Rohan Hepkins opened the meeting with a prayer.**

**Mayor's Rohan Hepkins discussed the following five (5) items on his agenda -** Delta Variant of COVID-19 and re-opening update in the Borough, speeding issues (specifically on Church Lane & Chester Avenue), Fernwood/Yeadon fencing update, Nile Swim Club update regarding the neighbors, and cyber security.

The number one issue in the nation and locally is how to handle the resurgence of the variant. Due to that, the mandate of mask wearing requirements has not been rescinded in the Borough. Schools will require masks in September. It is unknown if the Library will still require masks to be worn indoors in September.

Church Lane & Chester Avenue has become a "hot-bed". We've had occasions where there is a crash almost every day. Cars have crashed into the same resident's house multiple times; they have re-fenced only to have people crash into it again. Another resident had a car crash into their yard, up the embankment and into her living room. The Chief said that 9 times out of 10 it's drunk driving. It is believed to be due to the people drinking at the tavern in Darby on Church & MacDade and then driving and crashing by going straight instead of turning. At least twice a car has come into the Mayor's driveway and hit a wall. The state has been notified to either put speed bumps or another traffic device in that area. The Mayor is concerned that those two residents will move out of Yeadon because that intersection is intolerable.

There was a report of a hole in the fencing SEPTA is aware of the fencing issues at first, they were neglecting to correct the situation but later agreed to get it done. The Mayor asked Jeff Wilkinson to keep an eye out on the progress.

There was a meeting with the Nile Swim Club and its neighbors to forge a conversation on how they will manage some of the problems that may arise as the Nile becomes more successful. Some of these issues are parking, noise complaints, and the area being impassible at times. Their ideas included increasing the

parking areas by using adjacent lots such as the surrounding Church lots, Yeadon Community Park, and in-house spaces by their tennis court for staff parking. They're discussing closing down earlier at 9 or 10 pm and shutting some events down earlier.

The Borough has been having some cyber security issues like problems that you see across the nation. Criminals have gotten more sophisticated where they've commandeered things such as capturing people's emails and then impersonating them. This has happened to the Mayor as well as others asking for money different things. A conversation needs to be had with Nafis to mitigate and that we must have a plan and a good cyber security plan. For example, a lot of people are vulnerable because of the respect for the office you can get a lot of people that do a lot of things if they think something's coming from the Chief of Police, the Mayor, or Councilman Ron Francis. For example, someone received an email supposedly from the Mayor and Ron asking for instructions to have gift cards or something sent to us because we're in trouble or whatever it's unseemly. Waytek needs to be aware and have a plan they can't just fix things; they must have a plan to make sure that it's harder for those types of things to happen. The committee is aware of that and we are working on that with Management with a security vendor to make sure that we're being responsible.

**Police Department** - Police Lieutenant Sean Burns stated that the Police Department is aware of the issues at that intersection and have placed police cars on the corner of Church & MacDade which seemed to slow things down. The Police Department has been speaking to PennDOT and are in talks about redoing that intersection. There have also been a lot of DUI arrests recently, it is unfortunate, but the YPD is working on it and will keep on it.

The Police department will be providing a detail such as patrolling and traffic control for a Cabaret event at the Nile tonight (7/31/21) in order to have a police presence available. National Night Out will not be held this year. The Police Department has held events in the past but the turn-out has been extremely low the last couple of years, but it can be revisited if the residents really want it.

About two weeks ago there was an incident where someone abducted someone from Delaware, shot that person and dumped the body in the park at 6250 Baltimore by Philadelphia down at the bottom there trolley tracks at that end trolley. It is not believed that the suspect(s) are residents of Yeadon nor the victim. They just thought that was a convenient place to dump the body, so we're involved with other jurisdictions Delaware police, state police and the FBI. There's no threat to the community on this one now our biggest issues are traffic speeding and the parking that's our main issues right now

**Fire Department** - No report given.

**Public Works Department** – The COVID-19 cleaning protocols when the numbers were high consisted of cleaning once a week or once it started peak it was decided to drop them back to once every other week starting this week. Tuesday the library will be sprayed with our electrostatic sprayer cleaning solution. Wednesdays the Borough hall is cleaned. It's better that everything is as clean as possible and always disinfected.

Public Works has been working closely with the contractor from B&L to get things straight with trash pick-up. One of the things we came up with was instead of rolling one truck he now has 2 trucks. One truck does one day the other truck does the other day that it matches. Since this has been implemented there have been fewer complaints which is always a good thing. There's been an increase in tonnage we just want to remind everyone try to be as patient as possible. Sometimes trash days are a little bit heavier than others and it might slow things down so just be patient. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Public Works and we will work with you to handle the situation as soon as possible.

The third the common trend has been speeding around town. Public Works and the Police Department are working together to come up with ways to handle these problems such as putting out traffic calming devices. The thing that I'm looking into is to get the yellow lines painted from all the way down Bailey Road down towards the shop all the way down Lansdowne Ave. Also, the yellow lines painted in the middle as well as the MacDade Blvd because that is another hot spot as well. Public Works would also like to get a test done by the engineer to possibly get that speed reduced from 35 mph to 25, that's the only street down grading travel from 35 mph.

**Code** - No report given.

**Emergency Management** - No report given.

**Meeting ended at 10:12 a.m.**

**Mayor Rohan Hepkins ended the meeting with a prayer.**

Respectfully submitted by Quiana Braxton