

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

6:39 P.M., MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

---

*MEMBERS PRESENT:*      *Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair*  
*Council Member James Taylor, Jr., Vice Chair*  
*Council Member Wanda Merschel*  
*Council Member Derwin L. Montgomery*

*OTHERS PRESENT:*      *Council Member Molly Leight*  
*Council member Denise D. Adams*  
*Council Member Dan Besse*

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and stated that there were citizens present and a representative wanted to make a comment about the Silk Plant Forest case, although the item is not on the agenda for discussion again until January's meeting.

Ms. Lynn Boyd, 4719 Leinbach Drive, stated that she appreciated clarification about the meeting in January and hopes that there is time at that meeting for public comment. She noted that some information had been shared in the *Winston-Salem Journal* but it may have been unclear in the article. There is an independent review of the Silk Plant Forest investigation and case being conducted by former FBI Assistant Director Christopher Swecker. Mr. Swecker is only reviewing the Silk Plant Forest case and no other cases or other information within the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD). Mr. Swecker is entirely independent of the citizens who are funding this investigation and he does not represent them, nor does he represent Duke Law School or Calvin Michael Smith. The City has no involvement in this investigation, be it monetary or staffing.

Chair Burke stated that without objection, the Committee would now consider the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed to be removed for discussion.

Council Member Taylor requested to pull Items C-5 and C-6. No other items were pulled.

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Montgomery and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-122(f) OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMITS ON CITY STREETS - *Angelo Street, Horace Mann Avenue, Wiley Avenue, Rockford Street, and Moravia Street.*
- C-2. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 42 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.
- C-3. ORDINANCES RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF FIVE LIMOUSINE SERVICES AND THREE TAXICAB SERVICES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
- a. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF BAREFOOT TRANSPORTATION FOR THE OPERATION OF TEN LIMOUSINES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - b. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF BLACK TIE LIMOUSINE FOR THE OPERATION OF EIGHT LIMOUSINES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - c. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF FANTASY LIMOUSINE, INC. FOR THE OPERATION OF TEN LIMOUSINES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - d. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF READY LIMOUSINE FOR THE OPERATION OF FOUR LIMOUSINES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - e. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF TOP OF THE WORLD LIMOUSINE FOR THE OPERATION OF TWO LIMOUSINES IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - f. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF LA RAZA TAXI FOR THE OPERATION OF FIVE TAXIS IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - g. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF LOTT'S TAXI SERVICE FOR THE OPERATION OF THIRTY-FIVE TAXICABS IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
  - h. ORDINANCE RENEWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF WILLARD CAB COMPANY FOR THE OPERATION OF FIFTY TAXICABS IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.

- C-4. RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER AND FIRING RANGE FACILITY. *[Remanded by the City Council at its November 15, 2010 meeting.]*
- C-7. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *November 8, 2010.*
- C-5. SMART POLICING GRANT INFORMATION.

Police Chief Scott Cunningham stated that the West Salem neighborhood was chosen by a team consisting of members from the WSPD, the Center for Community Safety and a researcher from Winston-Salem State University. Based upon a review of crime data, partnerships with community groups and the diversity of the residents, West Salem provides an area reflective of the city and any data received from surveys and community participation in that area will only help to develop community-based solutions to crime issues. In response to Council Member Taylor's concern, Chief Cunningham stated that this is simply an additional program in the area of West Salem and WSPD will not remove resources or programs from any other area of the community.

Council Member Montgomery requested that next time this type of grant or program is available that more information be made available to Council Members, as well as when the grant has been awarded and to what area.

Council Member Taylor made a motion for approval. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Merschel and carried unanimously.

- C-6. RESOLUTION CHANGING THE NORMAL MEETING TIMES FOR CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Council Member Taylor stated that he would like to abstain from the vote on this item.

The Deputy City Secretary read the proposed start times presented in the Agenda book and read the motion as was proposed at the Finance Committee meeting. As no motion was entertained, the Public Safety Committee will forward the same recommendation as the Finance Committee which was to flip Tuesday Committee meetings with Public Works starting first and CD/H/GG starting second and to forward the meeting start time without recommendation so there may be further discussion at Monday's meeting.

#### GENERAL AGENDA

- G-1. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CODE RELATING TO BEGGING OR SOLICITING ALMS, ACTIVITY ON CENTER MEDIANS AND CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS:
- a. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO RESTRICTION OF ACTIVITY ON MEDIAN.

- b. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 34 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO LICENSES AND BUSINESS REGULATION.
- c. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS.
- d. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO SOLICITING OR BEGGING ALMS.
- e. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 62 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO SANITATION.

Mrs. Angela I. Carmon, City Attorney, reviewed the memo as contained within the Agenda book and the proposed changes relating to begging or soliciting.

In response to Council Member Taylor's question, Mrs. Carmon confirmed that a violation of the ordinance would only apply to begging and soliciting alms.

In response to Council Member Montgomery's inquiry, Mrs. Carmon stated that an officer would use criteria similar to those outlined in the workplace violence policy to determine if someone was mentally unstable.

Ms. Lori Sykes, Public Safety Attorney, noted that officers go through crisis intervention training and learn to evaluate individuals, so they may consult other officers if there is a question about an individual's mental stability.

In response to Council Member Taylor's question, Ms. Sykes stated that to determine if someone was accosted, usually the situation was observed at a particular intersection or area and an officer has first-hand knowledge or saw the occurrence, so they do not have to rely on hearsay.

In response to Chair Burke's inquiry, Mrs. Carmon stated that officers will not physically be seeking individuals committing these acts, but this will provide provisions in the ordinance to address these situations should they occur.

In response to Council Member Montgomery's question, Mrs. Carmon indicated that newspapers will not be affected by these amendments.

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve Items G-1 (a-d) and to keep Item G-1(e) in Committee for further discussion. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Taylor and carried unanimously.

Council Member Besse stated that on behalf of concerned constituents, he would like to express his support of Item G-1(e). Many citizens find items littered into their yards that were once placed on their mailboxes or doors and this can become a security issue when citizens are away from their homes for a period of time. He also noted that when unsolicited materials are placed under windshield wipers of cars, particularly in inclement weather, it can cause damage to the vehicle.

## G-2. REPORT ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM EXPANSION.

Chief Cunningham stated that the pilot program has been in operation in four schools, Wiley and Northwest Middle Schools and Reynolds and North Forsyth High Schools. Information can easily be transmitted into the surrounding neighborhoods due to the officer's presence and increased communication, which helps the WSPD to better serve the children and in some situations, assist in cases. WSPD staff would like to enter into additional discussions with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System (WS/FCS) to expand the School Resource Officer (SRO) program to the remaining schools in the system, with the support and guidance of the City Council, so that subject to an agreement, the County will know that these discussions are in good faith.

Mr. William T. Schatzman, Forsyth County Sheriff, stated that the SRO program was crafted in such a manner that the schools and everyone involved with them would be protected. He also stated that he has confidence that the WSPD and WS/FCS Superintendent Dr. Don Martin can assume the duties of the SRO program and keep the welfare of the children and the teachers at heart. He further stated that he sees a benefit in having WSPD personnel in the schools given the beat systems they work. Sheriff Schatzman noted that funding resources may not allow the three entities to partner in the SRO program but citizens are the main concern and as long as they are taken care of, that is what matters.

Dr. Martin stated that the SRO presence in schools provides safety and the ability to encourage kids to be more respectful. The WS/FCS works not only with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) and the WSPD, but with the Kernersville Police Department as well and the level of service received from all agencies has been excellent. There have been some jurisdictional issues and some communication issues and anything that can improve the overall logistics of the SRO program within the schools will be helpful. The WS/FCS is willing to work with any entity with the funding that is available.

Council Member Merschel commended all three gentlemen for working together and expressed hope that all entities can continue to work together in the future.

Council Member Taylor stated that he is a proponent of the SRO concept and will continue to support it going forward.

Council Member Montgomery noted that partnerships between these agencies will only continue to open doors for future opportunities.

Council Member Leight noted that many times, problems or concerns within schools spill out into neighborhoods and with WSPD personnel on the inside, their presence will only help to enforce rules and regulations to ensure a safer educational experience and life for the students and surrounding community.

Council Member Adams noted that as the program continues to go forward, she hopes the reported numbers of occurrences where officers have to intervene will decrease.

Council Member Besse expressed his thanks to Chief Cunningham, Sheriff Schatzman and Dr.

Martin for their efforts and noted that as the survey results show substantial differences between the schools, he requested to know the number of surveys returned to better understand the percentage responses and requested further information on the relationships and interactions between the students and the SROs.

Council Member Montgomery noted that some officers may not know how to develop a rapport with the students as a friend and a law enforcement official. He questioned where the 22 additional officers will come from, should the program be expanded to the remaining schools in the system.

Chief Cunningham stated that funding the positions will be a concern. He also stated that it would be a good opportunity to have a WSPD SRO and a FCSO SRO but neither agency wants deputies or officers to lose their jobs, especially in this economy. Given that the FCSO has SROs who have built a rapport within their schools, the WSPD may be in a position to offer that deputy transition into the WSPD so long as it does not create a staffing issue for the Sheriff's Office. Any additional positions needed will be filled by skilled officers and those positions then backfilled by new patrol officers. A full item will be brought to the Council in February.

Council Member Taylor noted that Officer Gordon has done a great job at Parkland High School and has a good relationship with the students and would be an asset to retain in the program.

Council Member Merschel encouraged staff to bear in mind that federal funding for 25 officers will be lost in 2013-2014 so the City will have to make up that difference.

Chief Cunningham noted that the biggest concern is an agreement that will be financially sound for all involved parties.

Sheriff Schatzman noted that the main priority of each entity is to ensure that everyone is protected. He also noted that at this point, no deputies are being transferred to WSPD, nor are any WSPD personnel being transferred to the FCSO, rather options are simply being explored. He further noted that funding for the positions and program is the biggest factor.

Chair Burke asked Mr. Damon Sanders, Deputy County Manager, to stand and be recognized.

Mr. Garrity stated that the SRO program is a great example of the partnership between local government entities and gave other examples as well: a shared evidence storage facility between the WSPD and FCSO, the County has recently passed an agreement on a joint firing range/fire training facility, which the City Council is scheduled to pass on Monday and hopefully break ground on in the spring, and the County is currently funding the SRO program, which WSPD personnel are now helping to operate.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:41 p.m.