

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:43 P.M., MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

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*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 Denise D. Adams

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and stated that without objection, the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed to be removed for discussion. Council Member Adams requested to pull Item C-1. Council Member Montgomery requested to pull Item C-2. No other items were removed.

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

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- C-3. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *June 13, 2011.*
  
- C-1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-122(f) OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMITS ON CITY STREETS - *Manly Street; Leight Street; Flatrock Street; Saint Marks Road; Neighborhood Limits: Spach Drive, Orchard View Drive, and Peach Avenue.*

Council Member Taylor noted that he received a number of complaints regarding speeding on Leight and Flatrock Streets and expressed thanks to staff for completing the necessary traffic engineering studies to reduce the speed along those streets.

In response to Council Member Adams' questions, Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, stated that it is typical to regularly see these types of ordinances come before City Council. Sometimes the ordinances will address one to two streets and sometimes they encompass an entire neighborhood, but he indicated he has not seen an increase in the number of requests. He also stated there may be some seasonality to the requests as more may come forward in

the spring and summer months. He further stated this will be a continuing trend for residential neighborhoods and the speed can only be mandated within the City on a street by street basis as approved by the City Council.

Council Member Montgomery encouraged enforcement from the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) so residents know the speed limit has been reduced, other than just a posting, so they don't continue to speed.

Council Member Merschel advocated for speed bumps on public streets as a speed reduction device.

In response to Council Member Montgomery's question, Mr. Turner noted there are various tools within the City's traffic calming tool set, such as speed bumps, speed humps and rumble strips but residents would have to specifically request them from the traffic calming tool set.

Chair Burke noted that communities should contact their Community Assistance Liaison to request additional information on these traffic calming devices.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Merschel and carried unanimously.

**C-2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPANSION OF THE BONNER-REDD-SURRATT-DAVIS JUSTICE STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

In response to Council Member Montgomery's question, Mr. Scott Cunningham, Chief of the WSPD, stated that in the last year, one student went through the program and took advantage of the scholarship and there are two applications currently being processed that hope to begin in the fall term. He also stated that one student successfully completed the program and is now an officer.

Council Member Montgomery requested updated figures on the number of minorities in the WSPD.

Chief Cunningham noted that there are challenges to recruiting minority officers, but he does feel the WSPD is making progress.

Council Member Merschel made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Taylor and carried unanimously.

**GENERAL AGENDA**

**G-1. ORDINANCE WITHDRAWING THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF BANNER TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FOR THE OPERATION OF ONE LIMOUSINE IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.**

In response to Council Member Taylor's question, Mr. Turner indicated he assumes the certificate is being withdrawn due to the current economy.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by

Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried.

G-2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA AND THE COUNTY OF FORSYTH, NORTH CAROLINA TO SHARE A 2011 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AWARD.

Chief Cunningham stated the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program funding is annually provided based on crime statistics and is evenly split between the City and County, each receiving approximately \$110,000. He also stated the WSPD is requesting to spend its allotment on protective equipment and computer server upgrades to provide additional protection for citizens.

In response to Council Member Montgomery's question, Chief Cunningham noted these are the current top needs within the department and they are compliant with the guidelines imposed by the grant.

In response to Council Member Taylor's questions, Chief Cunningham stated that the storage area network provides for accessibility to tools, records and dispatch in the event of a catastrophic failure. He also stated the County has upgraded its system and this will allow the City to function in conjunction with them. In regards to outdated equipment, it will be used for testing and training purposes or destroyed, but it will not be released to the public market.

Council Member Merschel noted that she would not be supporting the funding portion for SWAT items and questioned what other items the WSPD might be in need of.

Chief Cunningham noted that the SWAT equipment includes vests, helmets, shields and other protective equipment to keep the officers safe. He also noted that if needed, he could develop an additional needs list before Monday, to meet the time constraints for the grant.

In response to Council Member Taylor's question, Chief Cunningham stated that if the grant is awarded, the equipment will be utilized and worn by SWAT officers. He also stated it is imperative that the department receive this equipment as its current equipment will no longer be certified and has reached its useful life. He further stated that there has been a low number of officer-involved shootings in the City for a community of its size.

Council Member Adams noted that as the city grows, there will be instances where citizens have to be protected and it is important that officers have sufficient equipment.

Council Member Merschel expressed concern that officers may handle a situation differently with different equipment and may escalate a situation that is not warranted. She also wanted assurance that there are sufficient policies and procedures in place for use of force.

Mr. Lee Garrity, City Manager, noted that he understands the Committee Members' sensitivity, but the SWAT items included in the list are all defensive. He also noted that unfortunately, SWAT teams are being called out more often than ever before as emotions run high, and the WSPD needs to have the safest protective equipment.

Chief Cunningham noted the items requested are merely to replace those pieces that can no longer be certified as safe and effective.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Montgomery.

Chair Burke stated that by consensus, this item would be forwarded to the full Council without a recommendation and requested that information requested by Council Member Merschel be provided.

In response to Council Member Taylor's question regarding the approval of funding and allocation separately, Mrs. Angela I. Carmon, City Attorney, stated that the action presented to the Committee was one motion, but staff could bring the item back as two separate items if the Committee chose.

Chief Cunningham noted that the grant requires not only the funding amounts to be specified but also the allocations.

Mrs. Carmon noted that City Council could make any final changes to the allocations at Monday's meeting.

Council Member Montgomery noted that he attended a ride-along last week and applauded WSPD officers on the job they do, their efforts day in and day out to keep the City safe, and extended his thanks.

Council Member Merschel extended her thanks and support to WSPD officers.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:22 p.m.