

# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Based on Governor Brian Kemp's declaration of a Public Health State of Emergency existing in the State of Georgia, the City of Waynesboro's Public Safety committee meeting was closed to the public. The meeting was held at the Ice Plant at 260 Barron Street and was live-streamed to allow our citizens to observe the meeting.** Log on to the "City of Waynesboro, GA – Government" Facebook page to watch the live-stream meeting. A decision on holding future meetings will be decided on a case by case basis.

PRESENT: Vice Mayor James Jones, Councilman Tinley, Councilwoman Anderson, City Manager Valerie Kirkland, WPD Chief Burley, Major Cedric Duncan, Fire Chief Robert Parrish, Councilwoman Bates attended via telephone

ABSENT:

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Jones at 4:30 p.m.
2. Councilwoman Anderson gave the invocation.
3. Council Member Tinley led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Vice Mayor Jones lead a discussion which was a follow-up to the Public Safety Meeting held on 2/22/2021. Updates on recommendations to purchase equipment, software and hardware or enter into a collaboration between Burke County and Waynesboro for shared staffing and equipment expenditures were discussed. City Manager Kirkland provided a spreadsheet itemizing the recommendations proposed by WPD to modernize their operations should WPD remain a separate entity from Burke County. WPD Chief Burley explained his concern for potentially losing staff. Fire Chief Robert Parrish stated that the WPD would need the CAD system to be installed as well as new additional equipment, because many of the calls received for the Fire Dept. are already routed through the CAD system used by 911. The Fire Department's current equipment may only need 1-2 laptops to facilitate installation and manage the software. Major Duncan provided insight on how the manual operations are being done. Major Duncan also explained advantages and disadvantages of the current process necessitating the upgrade.

At the request of Vice Mayor Jones and Chief Burley, Major Duncan provided an estimation of \$47,017 per car under a lease program fully equipped for the 5 requested vehicles. Councilwoman Anderson, Councilman Byne and City Manager Kirkland posed a number of questions of patrol car use, feasibility, alternate lease companies and alternate make cars to suit the needs of WPD. Because funding for patrol cars was not included in the 2021 city budget, Chief Burley suggested that the Assistant Police Chief position that was budgeted not be filled and the \$50K salary for that hire be used to finance the purchase of patrol cars. It was decided by Council that further research would be conducted by WPD into purchase alternatives for the

vehicles and that information would be submitted to City Manager Kirkland. After reviewing, the Finance and Personnel Committee will possibly present a decision for vote at the Regular City Council Meeting scheduled for 3/15/21.

5. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.