

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Carswell, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilwoman Bates, City Manager Valerie Kirkland, Assistant City Manager Trinetta Skinner, Waynesboro Police Chief Willie Burley, Fire Chief Robert Parrish, Lewis Blanchard

ABSENT: Councilman Tinley

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vice Mayor Jones at 4:03 p.m.
2. Councilwoman Bates gave the invocation.
3. Chairman Vice Mayor Jones led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.
4. Waynesboro Police Chief Willie Burley provided an update for the police department. Chief Burley spoke about the purchase of two used vehicles to be used as patrol cars at a combined cost of \$28K. Chief Burley detailed that there currently are three officers per shift for a total of 12 officers. He also stated that there are two investigators, two road lieutenants, one community service officer, one officer overseeing maintenance of police vehicles and one officer on workman's compensation restricted to light duty, four dispatchers and one administrative assistant. Chief Burley provided an update of overtime expenditure of last year compared to year to date. In 2020 overtime expenditures totaled \$109,130.87 mainly due to the pandemic. 2021 year to date overtime expenditures total \$16,509.50. Chief Burley states that should overtime expenditures remain consistent the rest of the year, the department will have a 42% reduction year over year compared to 2020. Chief Burley stated that Major Duncan, who was overseeing the state certification process, tendered his resignation and will be leaving as of April 2, 2021. Major Duncan stated that the department is ready and prepared to successfully complete the state certification in his absence. Chief Burley provided the committee members images of the new police uniforms and the new logo for the city that will adorn the uniforms of police officers.
5. Mayor Carswell introduced ex-Chief Deputy Lewis Blanchard of the Burke County Sheriff's Department recommending that Mr. Blanchard be hired on as a consultant to help oversee the reaccreditation process in Major Duncan's absence. Mr. Blanchard would be working for six weeks at a cost of \$3K. His consulting fee would be taken from the budgeted salary of Major Duncan. Mayor Carswell also stated his intent on bringing before the entire council that the police department is returned under the supervision of the City Manager. Councilwoman Bates questioned Mr. Blanchard about his ability of assisting the Waynesboro Police Department with obtaining recertification. Mr. Blanchard stated his previous experience with quickly and successfully achieving certifications for both the Richmond County and Burke County Sheriff's Office during his tenure. He also spoke to having had \$4 million in grant funding awarded to the Burke County Sheriff's Office as well as several thousand dollars in grants and resources to the

Waynesboro Police Department. Chief Burley stood in agreement with Councilwoman Bates in assessing that the consultation of Mr. Blanchard is important to the success of the department.

6. Fire Chief Parrish provided an update on the Fire Department:
 - a) 2020 there were 316 incident responses (35 more than 2019) and of those there were 15 building fires.
 - b) 82 incident responses year to date for 2021 which was 30 more than last year. Three of those were building fires.
 - c) 15K feet of fire hose was tested last week with four failures. This is not unusual and are all fixable.
 - d) All SCBA passed annual service testing in February.
 - e) Dustin Doyle was promoted to Deputy Chief.
 - f) Benjamin Aldridge was promoted to Captain.
 - g) Applications are currently being reviewed for new hires.
 - h) Approximately 75% of the cadets are through their training process. This will have five new hires certified.

7. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.