

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Dustin Bingham, Joseph McElroy, Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Darlene Battle and Glenn McLeod. Police Chief William Baldwin, Fire Chief Peter Towey and Trinity Health EMT Mark Zarrella were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held January 8, 2020.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Nicholas Tella requested that the City establish a noise ordinance. Commissioner Benedetto requested additional clarification and Mr. Tella explained that he had been in touch with Police about excessive noise coming from the Woodland Hills Apartments late at night but nothing could be done because there was no noise ordinance in place.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Chief's report. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the status of FD trucks and equipment. Chief Towey reported that Truck 1 was back in service and stated that the issues with Engine 4 were resolved.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Deputy Fire Chief Tripp's report.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Shopey's report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management report.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief's report. Commissioner Bingham requested clarification regarding the calculation of revenue from parking ticket violations. Chief Baldwin explained that the figure presented in the report represents the total collection of parking ticket violations, including meter violations and several other types of infractions.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to table acceptance of the Traffic Operations Unit report because no report was submitted for their review.

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS Provider Activity report. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the transition from Campion to Trinity Health. Mr. Zarrella reported that the crews increased and the transition has been good. Commissioner McLeod asked if the ambulance service would ever pick up a patient with only one EMT present. Mr. Zarrella stated that it would never happen and he explained that it would be illegal unless the patient was picked up by a wheelchair van.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the volunteer fire departments. Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous discussed the lack of funding for the Drakeville and Tarringford VFDs.

Chief Maccalous explained the benefits and savings that the VFDs provide the City and the impact that insufficient funding has on the departments. He requested that the Drakeville and Tarringford VFDs budgets be restored to \$81,000 a year, which would include \$21,000 for Worker's Compensation Insurance, fuel, physicals, and truck testing and \$30,000 for each department to make their budgets. Commissioner Benedetto asked how many members served each VFD. Chief Maccalous reported that Drakeville has nine firefighters and Tarringford reported that it has seven firefighters. Commissioner Conforti requested that Chief Maccalous attend the budget meetings and he discussed the importance of getting support from the Board of Finance and City Council. Chief Maccalous remarked that he would attend any budget meeting(s) that he is invited to and stated that he plans to present his request to the Board of Finance and the City Council.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SALES TAX ON PARKING METER REVENUE

Mayor Carbone informed the Board that the CT legislature agreed to start charging municipalities sales tax on parking meter revenue and Chief Baldwin presented a plan to replace and reprogram meters throughout the City. Mayor Carbone commented on the cost to recalibrate the parking meters and Commissioner Bingham suggested that the City absorb the cost of the 6.35% sales tax rather than replacing or reprogramming the City's meters. Chief Baldwin cautioned that parking meter revenues fluctuate from year to year and advised that the meters should be reprogrammed to account for the tax. Commissioner Benedetto questioned whether the revenue gained from the parking meters is worth the cost of parking enforcement. Commissioner McLeod pointed out that the purpose of the parking meters is not to make money, but to support the businesses downtown by moving traffic through. He expressed frustration that the City charges different rates in different locations and Mayor Carbone suggested placing an item on the next agenda for the purpose of discussing a possible increase to the parking meter rate. Commissioners Benedetto and Bingham requested information regarding parking enforcement costs. Chief Baldwin stated that he compile a complete report of enforcement and maintenance costs before the next meeting.

Section B Added to the Agenda

Mayor Carbone requested to add a Section B to agenda for purpose of authorizing the acquisition of new digital meters to replace the old mechanical meters. On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted with four votes in favor and two opposed (Commissioners Benedetto and McLeod), to add Section B to the agenda.

Section B – New Digital Meters Approved

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted with five votes in favor and one opposed (Commissioner Benedetto), to waive the City's bid process and approve the purchase of parking meters from sole source vendor Take A Powder Inc. DBA Meter Products Co., Inc. in the sum of \$14,535, as presented in quote #129, contingent upon approval by the City Council and Board of Finance.

Commissioner Benedetto expressed his concerns about the cost of replacing parking meters and suggested eliminating the parking enforcement officer position. Mayor Carbone explained that the meters allow the City to collect additional revenue from tickets and Chief Baldwin explained that the parking enforcement officer helps businesses by preventing visitors from taking up preferred parking spots for extended periods of time. Commissioners McElroy, Battle, and McLeod expressed their support for purchasing the new equipment and Chief Baldwin stated that he would report on parking enforcement costs at the next meeting. Commissioner Benedetto suggested tabling the vote until the next meeting, but no other commissioners expressed interest. Lastly, Mayor Carbone suggested having a discussion at the next meeting on how to best use the revenue from parking meters to reinvest in the City.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Chief Towey reported that he is working on multiple Assistance to Firefighters grant applications.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY


On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety. Commissioner McElroy expressed his concerns regarding signage for the non-operational Burrville Fire Department and the old firehouse on Water Street. He requested that the old signs be removed and new signs posted to correctly signal the current firehouse on Water Street. Chief Baldwin stated that he would have the Traffic Operations Unit Supervisor look into his request. Commissioner McElroy also requested an update on the City's efforts to prevent future property damage at the Cook Funeral Home. Chief Baldwin reported that the Traffic Operations Unit Supervisor contacted the CT DOT but was not granted permission to restrict vehicle traffic on Summer Street. Lastly, Commissioner McElroy expressed concerns regarding an absent left turn arrow at the intersection of East Main Street and Tarringford West Street. Commissioner Benedetto recalled that there was a lot of red tape for the CT DOT to change the intersection and Mayor Carbone informed the Board that the City received a \$400,000 grant through the NHCOG to develop an access management plan for all of East Main Street including that

intersection. Commissioner Benedetto also requested an update on the City's plan to help protect the property at 398 Migeon Avenue from future vehicle collisions and Mayor Carbone stated that she needs to follow up with Engineering Department. Commissioner Conforti thanked the VFDs and expressed his concerns regarding the damage caused by large trucks at the Cook Funeral Home. Commissioner Benedetto also questioned whether the City goes after the truck companies for any damage caused to City property. Chief Baldwin reported that he spoke to Mrs. Cook. and encouraged her to reach out to the Police Department immediately when damage occurs so the PD can conduct a proper investigation. He reiterated that nothing could be done to prohibit large trucks from driving on Summer Street and stated that the City does file insurance claims when they are able to identify a company or individual responsible.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK