

Committee on Public Safety

Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair

Councilor Jesse M. Adams

Councilor William H. Dwight

Councilor David A. Murphy

Committee on Public Safety **Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building** **212 Main Street, Northampton, MA**

Meeting Minutes

10/5/2015 - Minutes

1. Activate NCTV Camera To Record Meeting
2. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting
Councilor Adams announced that the meeting would be audio and video recorded.
3. Members Present/Absent

Present were: Councilors Dwight and Adams. Councilor Adams chaired the meeting

Councilor Carney and Councilor Murphy were absent.

4. Public Comment

Louise Martindell of 198 Nonotuck Street spoke about two accidents at that location in the past three months.

For both accidents, cars were traveling westbound on Nonotuck Street. Causes include speeding and construction. To avoid construction, cars are traveling into eastbound lanes.

The first accident was due to a drunk driver in combination with excessive speed. The second accident happened when the driver, traveling at a high rate of speed, lost control after swerving to avoid traffic cones in the construction zone.

Many neighbors are concerned about the issue. Residents request emergency measures and ask for immediate remedy such as: temporary speedbump; more frequent police control; speed monitoring

DPW signs and cones are constantly getting hit. A temporary speed limit, perhaps 20 miles per hour was suggested by the resident. The primary concern is where Maple St. intersects with Nonotuck Street.

Councilor Dwight explained that the authority of Council is limited; we can make requests and make issues known, but the Council does not have the authority to demand administrative measures.

Councilor Klein presented the issue at the Public Works Committee of the City Council ; it is her understanding that there is precedence where emergency measures have been taken.

5. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

5.I. Meeting Minutes Of July 6, 2015 And August 3, 2015

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Councilors Carney and Murphy).

6. Discussion Regarding Nonotuck Street (See Above)

7. Departmental Presentations

7.I. Presentation By Northampton Police Department

Chief Kasper spoke about recent promotions within the department. She has actively worked to fill special assignment positions, including "Drug Recognition Experts". The department currently has two DRE's on staff; they will be adding one more.

Northampton High School has added School Resource Officer Josh Wallace as a result of a 15-month grant received by the Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security. He is a Crisis Intervention Team member.

Three officers are wrapping up field training; 7 are currently in the Police Academy; this will make department fully-staffed.

Chief Kasper talked about President Obama's executive order to establish a task force to look at policing in the 21st century. Its mission was to identify best policing practices; the task force's final report was released in May. The report identified 62 recommendations; 91 action items. Many recommendations are already being done. Some recommendations are fairly easy to implement. The department's work is on-going.

The Chief has identified 25 goals for the department. The list is posted internally. They include: research possibility of national accreditation; e-citations; addition of community services ; employee fitness program; firing range; oui roadblocks; taking department photo, etc.

The department has implemented new police detail software that is web-based. Time of the records bureau has been freed up as a result of the new methods.

Three officers will be patrolling Florence and downtown as community outreach officers. Two are already part of the bike patrol unit; they will maintain their regular patrol duties, but will be assigned to the same geographical area when on duty.

The department has updated its website with the help of Webtactics of Easthampton.

The department has recently updated its promotion policy. The policy is on line.

On Oct. 20 at the Walter Salvo House a police officer will be on hand for a "coffee hour with cops"; a new initiative that will be on-going in the community.

The Chief is continuing to work on the area heroin problem and prescription drug problem; she is involved with the Hampshire Hope Committee that focuses on these important community concerns.

The Chief talked about an inter-agency communication and response plan; the goal is to have a plan in place for large scale events. Open communication is key.

The department has a new fingerprint scanner that it has installed.

8. New Business

None

9. Adjourn

Councilor Dwight moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm; Councilor Adams seconded the meeting. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Councilors Carney and Murphy).

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