

Minutes

**Asheville City Council Public Safety Committee Meeting
January 26, 2015
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Training Room, Municipal Building**

Council Members: Jan Davis, Chris Pelly

Guests: Tim Sadler

Staff: Interim Police Chief Steve Belcher, Interim Fire Chief Chris Budzinski, Asheville Police Department Strategic Operations Plan – Project Facilitator Scott Burnette, Executive Assistant Alex Carmichael, Assistant City Manager Paul Fetherston, Chief Wayne Hamilton, Chief Barry Hendron, Director of Communication & Public Engagement Dawa Hitch, Assistant City Attorney John Maddux, Director of Transportation Ken Putnam

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order.

1. **Approval of the October Minutes:** Councilmember Pelly motioned to approve the October minutes. Chairperson Davis seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.
2. **Staff Updates:**
 - a. **APD Update –**
Paul Fetherston, Assistant City Manager
Interim Chief Steve Belcher, APD
Chief Scott Burnette, Interim Strategic Operations Plan Facilitator

Assistant City Manager Paul Fetherston informed the Committee that Matrix Consulting Group is on track to complete the organization assessment by February or March. Fourteen firms responded to a request for proposals (RFP) for an executive search for the chief of police. A seven-firm shortlist was selected for interviews and staff is still hoping to meet the June 1st start date for the selected chief.

Interim Police Chief Steve Belcher said that implementation groups are meeting and working. The key is to keep the process on track. Asheville Police Department Strategic Operations Plan – Project Facilitator Scott Burnette said that the number of employees participating in the implementation teams has increased to 70. The six teams were active even

during the holidays. There is a common enthusiasm for improving the department.

The Committee asked staff to update the full Council every other month.

3. New Business:

a. 2015 Home Safety Grant and Assistance to Firefighters Grant –
Interim Chief Chris Budzinski, AFD

Interim Fire Chief Chris Budzinski presented for consideration two resolutions on grant funds. The 2015 Home Safety Grant is a nonmatching grant offered to Asheville from the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshall that includes smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, hearing impaired smoke alarms, educational materials, and installation supplies valued at \$10,180. The Asheville Fire Department would work with WNC Safe Kids to target neighborhoods based on fire losses for distribution of the supplies.

Councilmember Pelly moved to recommend that the full Council consider the acceptance of the 2015 Home Safety Grant. Councilmember Davis seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

The second grant presented by Interim Fire Chief Chris Budzinski was the FY14 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. If approved, the Asheville Fire Department would apply for the \$655,700 from the US Department of Homeland Security to obtain funding of 83 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The grant requires a match of 10%, or \$65,570.

Councilmember Chris Pelly moved to recommend that the full Council consider the application for, and acceptance of, the FY14 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Chairman Davis seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

b. Consideration of Local Amendment to Record Retention Schedule for Law Enforcement Audio and Video Recordings –
John Maddux, Assistant City Attorney

Records retention in North Carolina is regulated by the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR). Local governments must obtain DCR approval to destroy records. The records retention schedule is the primary method DCR approves destruction. Currently there are no schedule entries for videos other than felony or in-car systems. DCR has asked for a 30 day local minimum requirement.

Under the current system the City of Asheville cannot dispose of unnecessary video records. The proposed local amendment would allow

for the destruction after a 30 minimum, as set by Asheville Police Department policy. DCR anticipates adding video destruction in the new schedule and this amendment is in line with those expected changes.

Councilman Pelly moved to recommend to full Council. Chairman Davis seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

c. Complete Streets – City of Asheville Ordinance Revisions –
Ken Putnam, Director of Transportation

Staff recommends two ordinance changes as part of the implementation of the Council's Complete Streets Policy. The first would ban parking in bike lanes and the second would allow for reversed-angled in designated areas. Councilman Pelly asked if a driver could choose the direction they park. Mr. Putnam answered that they could not. Designated reversed angled parking would be mandatory. Chairman Davis asked if the bike lane parking would affect Haywood Rd. parking. Mr. Putnam replied that most of the complaints received by City staff originate in the Cox Ave. area.

Councilman Pelly motioned to recommend the ordinance revisions to the full Council. Chairman Davis seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.