



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 27, 2015

Board Members in Attendance:

Jan Davis, Cecil Bothwell, Chris Pelly

Staff in Attendance:

Deputy Chief Chris Budzinski, Paul Fetherston, Lieutenant Gary Gudac, Christina Hallingse, Assistant Chief Wayne Hamilton, Chief Tammy Hooper, Janet Lampkin, John Maddux, Jeff Moore, Deputy Chief Wade Wood

Guests in Attendance:

Jonathon Robert, Dee Williams

Welcome to Chief Hooper by the members of the Public Safety Committee.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 6/1/2015 were approved on Councilman Cecil Bothwell's motion, Councilman Chris Pelly's second on a 3-0 vote.

2. STAFF UPDATES

a. Narcan Training and Utilization – Lieutenant Gary Gudac, Police Department

Lt. Gudac provided an overview of the background, research into calls for service and the current status of the use of Narcan by the APD, information reflected in the attached staff report. Narcan is used to counter the effects of an opium derivative overdose, such as heroin, with no adverse side effects. Law enforcement personnel have been approved for use of the Narcan nasal mist.

Councilman Pelly asked if APD considered being trained to administer Narcan a low priority, an issue more for the paramedics and EMS. Lt. Gudac suggested that APD take six months to track how often an APD officer was first on the scene. Councilman Pelly also questioned if Narcan worked on all pharmaceuticals; Lt. Gudac replied that the only effect is on opium based heroin, with no side effects for any other medical issues.

Councilman Bothwell asked how many lives were saved by administering Narcan. Lt. Gudac replied that up until recently, APD had been not been tracking the use of Narcan, so many reports don't reflect this information. APD has put in place a more accurate way to track heroin overdoses by asking officers to enter heroin overdose information into the narrative of the reporting process.

Councilman Pelly asked if there was a way to accurately track heroin overdoses county-wide. Lt. Gudac replied that this would be difficult, due to such issues as the way 911 calls are directed to the appropriate agencies, as well as HIPPA laws if persons are transported directly to the hospital.

Councilman Davis asked if APD had tracked if Narcan had been used successfully in the 47 calls for service logged in from August 1, 2014 through February 23, 2015. Lt. Gudac replied that APD wouldn't know because that information would not be recorded by the APD responding officer as it was not action that the officer would have taken. Councilman Davis suggested that this was important information to know. He also suggested that the APD officers might not be as attentive as they should be to the job they were there to do if they were also responsible for administering medical assistance.

Councilman Pelly, Councilman Davis and Councilman Bothwell all agreed that it was important to give the Chief and Command Staff more time to look further at the use of Narcan by APD officers.

b. Road Safety Review Team – Example of Application (Kimberly Ave.) – Jeff Moore, Transportation Dept

Jeff Moore, City Traffic Engineer, gave the Committee an overview of the Road Safety Review Team, a multijurisdictional team to review certain roadway safety issues and make recommendations that might involve different departments or agencies; see attached Memorandum.

Mr. Moore shared that the Road Safety Review Team had been used very effectively at the intersection of Fairview Road and Glendale Road, an intersection where there had traditionally been three to four crashes a year. The team determined that the intersection required additional traffic lights for greater visibility. He reported that since these additional lights were installed approximately one year ago, there have been no reported crashes at this intersection.

Councilman Pelly questioned if similar data had been accumulated for the stop sign installed at Kimberly and Hampstead. Mr. Moore replied that the feedback from the neighborhood has been very positive, yet there was no measurable data on the Kimberly/Hampstead stop sign installation. He stated that the all-way stop had definitive traffic calming effects.

Mr. Moore also shared that the PACE car program had been very well received in the areas in which it is being piloted. It is a program that encompasses the areas of enforcement, engagement, and education of the neighborhood and has been very successful. Councilman Bothwell asked if it was still in the "by neighborhood" stage of implementation, to which Mr. Moore responded that it was. However, he did indicate that the stickers, indicating that you are a PACE car, are available to everyone.

Mr. Moore also shared with the Committee the possible concept of a "Shareway," neighborhood roads that have no sidewalks and have little volume of traffic, but where you can expect to see pedestrians walking in the road.

Councilman Davis asked that Mr. Moore follow up with the DOT about the roadside memorial at I-240 and Charlotte Street, as the memorial is distracting, especially late at night. Mr. Moore agreed to do so.

c. Downtown Enhancement Plan Update – Sergeant Jackie Stepp, Police Department

See attached Memorandum. Sgt. Stepp will update the Committee at the August Public Safety Committee meeting to give the full summer update. Councilman Jan Davis expressed his appreciation, of the efforts of the Downtown Unit, especially around the area of Pack Square. He specifically referenced business owners who were very pleased with the way some of the nuisance issues in front of restaurants were being handled.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. DWI Task Force Agreement

John Maddux reviewed the attached Staff Report, DWI Task Force Agreement. Councilman Bothwell asked for clarification regarding the “do not chase” policy and Sheriff’s Department vehicles operating within the city limits. Mr. Maddux replied that if a DWI Task Force member from the Sheriff’s Department was operating within the city limits, that agency’s policies would govern the operation, thus necessitating compliance with the APD “do not chase” policy.

Recommendation to the full Council that it authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) concerning operations of the Asheville/Buncombe DWI Task Force was approved on Councilman Cecil Bothwell’s motion, Councilman Chris Pelly’s second on a 3-0 vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dee Williams welcomed Chief Hooper, expressed the benefits of using body worn cameras, as well as her concerns regarding the use of body worn cameras, and spoke in support of the Civil Service Board.

5. ADJOURN

Chairman Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m. without objection.