



KNIGHTDALE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

950 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale, North Carolina 27545

July 20, 2016

The Knightdale Public Safety Committee met at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber Room of Town Hall.

PRESENT: Councilor Randy Young, Councilor Mark Swan

ABSENT: No one.

Staff Members Present: Lawrence Capps, Police Chief; Tim Guffey, Fire Chief.

Meeting called to order by Councilor Swan at 6:10 p.m.

ITEM I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

...Motion by Councilor Young to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2016 meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Swan and carried unanimously.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Department

Chief Lawrence Capps

1. Review of Recent Legislation

Chief Capps briefly reviewed recent legislation passed by the General Assembly pertaining to the release of video footage, needle exchange programs and immigration.

The new law regarding video footage – such as that captured by a body-worn camera – clarifies that the video is not a public record, nor is it part of the officer's personnel record. The law also distinguishes between the concepts of disclosure and release, and involves a superior court judge in the decision making process for the actual release of video footage.

As a part of this same law, the general Assembly has granted government and non-government entities the authority to establish and operate a needle exchange program. The intent behind the law is to mitigate the health risks associated with needle sharing and accidental exposure. As part of these programs, entities would be required to provide educational and treatment options, as well as work with local law enforcement to establish security procedures for the exchange facilities.

Chief Capps also provide an overview of the immigration law passed in late 2015. Under SL 2015-294, government entities are required to vet employees and

contractors through the E-Verify system. The law also deems forms of ID issued by a consulate office as an unacceptable means of personal identification. Town, cities and villages are also prohibited from passing ordinances to create sanctuary cities under the new law, and it mandates strict adherence to the federal times lines established for a person's eligibility to received food and nutritional benefits.

2. Discussion of Citizens Speed Enforcement Program

The police department's Traffic Unit is currently researching and vetting a project that would allow local residents to participate in a non-punitive speed enforcement campaign within their neighborhoods. This program is already identified as an acceptable means of mitigating traffic concerns in the Town's Traffic Calming Policy (adopted 2007). The department has already received input from the Community Policing Advisory Board, with a recommendation to determine exactly how successful such projects have been in other jurisdictions. The agency's Traffic Unit will continue to conduct research and compile additional information to determine the benefit of such a program in Knightdale neighborhoods.

3. Feedback on Selection of Police Vehicles

Chief Capps informed the committee that the police department has developed a capital item purchasing plan for its new police vehicles. The plan teams agency administrators with the Town's purchasing agent to ensure that the acquisition of new police vehicles is cost effective and efficient. As part of the selection process, Chief Capps asked for the committee's feedback on allowing personnel to select between 2 approved fleet vehicles – the Dodge Charger or the Ford Explorer Interceptor. The ability to choose would create an additional degree of ownership on the part of the officers, as well as ensure the longevity of fleet vehicles. Chief Capps noted that while the Charger is a less expensive purchase initially, the Explorer provides more space and is slightly more fuel efficient. The agency is working with the Public Works department to gather additional information on the long-term cost of ownership for both types of vehicles as well.

B. Fire Department

Chief Tim Guffey

1. EOC/EOP Training

An Emergency Operations Center training exercise is scheduled for Town staff on August 12, 2016. Chief Guffey noted that the training exercise will be coordinated by Wake County Emergency Management, and will involve a simulated exercise to test the readiness of field staff and the EOC team. The exercise will also test the Town's ability to effectively utilize the WEBEOC tool, as well as evaluate various components of the Town's Emergency Operations Plan such as Operational Coordination, Situational Assessment, Operational Coordination, and Protective Shelter and Mass Care. The scope of the exercise is not finalized and these areas may be subject to change.

2. Announcement of Live Burn Training Exercise

Chief Guffey announced that a live burn training exercise has been scheduled for September 14, 2016. The exercise sessions are designed to test fire crews

response to structure fire scenes, and their ability to meet fire ground benchmarks such as water supply, search, ventilation, and fire attack. In order to run the training in the most effective manner, Chief Guffey stated that it would be necessary to shut down First Avenue from Knightdale Station Run to Oakwood Street. The fire department intends to place signs and message boards along those roadways several days in advance in an effort to inform motorists of the closure. Plans have been developed to notify the affected property owners as well. Chief Guffey requested support from the Public Safety Committee in seeking approval from Council to close the roadways, if needed.

3. Update on Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Chief Guffey informed the committee that the fire department has not received official notice of award (or denial) for this FEMA supported grant. Recent correspondence from the FEMA grant administrator indicated that the Town's banking and direct deposit information has been verified – an important and necessary prerequisite to receiving the award. Chief Guffey reminded the committee that this grant would fund the additional firefighter positions added in FY2017, and that a formal response from FEMA is expected in the coming weeks.

4. Specification and Selection Process for Fire Engine

As part of the purchasing process for the new fire engine, Chief Guffey and his staff member are pulling together the specifications for the apparatus. The process is designed ensure the engine is built to a specification that will allow it to operate effectively over the next 20 years. The specification process must precede any other steps in the purchasing process, and is expected to be completed within 30 days.

ITEM IV. ADJOURNMENT

...Motion was made by Councilor Swan to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Young and carried unanimously.



Councilor Mark Swan, Public Safety Committee Co-Chairman.



Clerk for Public Safety Committee