



**CITY OF PARK RIDGE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Mayor's Conference Room**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

Draft

Members Present: Chairman F. Wsol & Ald. D. Bach, & Ald. J. Allegetti

Staff Present: Acting Police Chief T. Swoboda, Acting Fire Chief C. Gjelsten, Police Lt. R. Hanson, & S. Patras

Others Present: Mayor H. Frimark, City Manager J. Hock, L. O'Connor, F. Buscitti, M. Cavallo, B. Young & S. Kiss

Chairman F. Wsol called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ald. Bach made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2008 meeting. The motion carried.

II. NON-COMMITTEE ALDERMAN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
None.

III. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. F. Buscitti inquired as to whether or not a traffic study had been conducted at Maine South; with Chairman Wsol answering he would check with Public Works. Mr. Buscitti believes, due to heavy traffic, that the area on Dee Road by Maine South is very dangerous. Mr. Buscitti would like to see an officer at Maine South Monday through Friday throughout the school year from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Acting Chief Swoboda answered he would look into availability. Ald. Bach asked about the possibility of the School Resource Officer directing traffic. Acting Chief Swoboda answered that the problem is more a bottleneck issue.

Ald. Bach inquired as to the possibility of a no left turn sign coming out of the lot, and Mr. Buscitti suggested speed humps and/or a parking garage. The question of whether or not an officer can write a moving violation on Maine South property was raised which Acting Chief Swoboda will research. Mr. Buscitti believes this issue is a safety issue, and in conclusion Ald. Bach asked Mr. Buscitti to submit a list of his concerns to him, and he will follow up with Public Works; with Chairman Wsol requesting Mr. Buscitti address his concerns with Maine South as well.

Mr. O'Connor inquired about the idea of equipping a bike with GPS in order to attempt to decrease the number of stolen bicycles. This has been done at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison with good results. Acting Chief Swoboda will look into this.

Mr. O'Connor inquired about the effectiveness of the "stop means stop" signs, with Acting Chief Swoboda answering that per feedback from area residents, the signs are usually effective for awhile. Mr. O'Connor inquired about the stop signs that flash, with Chairman Wsol answering he will refer this to the Public Works department.



IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Renewal of Private Parking Enforcement Contract (Cumberland Green Homeowners Assn.)

Acting Chief Swoboda stated this is a renewal contract, located at 1050-1200 Higgins, 1055-1205 Peterson for (53 spaces). Staff has inspected the site and the appropriate fees have been paid. There being no further discussion, Ald. Bach made the following motion: **"MOVE THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL (VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA), THE RENEWAL OF THE PRIVATE PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT AS PRESENTED, AND THE RECORDING OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE RECORDER OF DEEDS."** The motion carried.

B. Renewal of Private Parking Enforcement Contract (Nanrek Holdings LLC)

Acting Chief Swoboda mentioned this too is a renewal contract for Nanrek Holdings, for 6 spaces, and is located at 229-235 N. Northwest Hwy. Staff has inspected the site and the appropriate fees have been paid. There being no further discussion, Ald. Bach made the following motion: **"MOVE THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL (VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA), THE RENEWAL OF THE PRIVATE PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT AS PRESENTED, AND THE RECORDING OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE RECORDER OF DEEDS."** The motion carried.

C. Approve Ordinance for Automated Traffic Law Enforcement Systems

City Manager Jim Hock inquired as to whether or not the committee would like to go ahead and approve the ordinance necessary authorizing the city to enter into an agreement concerning the automated traffic law enforcement system and related services while waiting for the contract to get ironed out. Chairman Wsol asked committee members to consider waiting until all questions have been answered regarding the contract with Red Speed before going forward with the ordinance, with members in agreement and recommending both items return as action items at the next meeting.

D. Approve Installation of One Red Light Camera at Oakton & Dee Road

Acting Chief Swoboda referred to the contract from Red Speed, which city attorney Kathie Henn has reviewed. Some questions were asked regarding certain terms of the agreement, such as right turn on reds, dispute resolution, municipality obligations, \$5.95 per ticket charge, and others, with committee members deciding to submit their questions to the chief for him to try and get answers prior to the next meeting. Committee members would like to have Mr. Mike Liebert from Red Speed and city attorney Kathi Henn attend the next Public Safety meeting to answer any additional questions and for clarification purposes. If necessary, the meeting could be scheduled prior to a city council meeting to discuss the contract. In the interim, Chairman Wsol & Ald. Bach requested expanded enforcement at Oakton & Dee Road.

Ald. Bach questioned the possibility of asking Red Speed to study the five other intersections Red Flex had previously studied for possible red light cameras.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

VI. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

None.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. City's Response to the Flooding/Public Safety Perspective

Acting Fire Chief C. Gjølsten discussed his report on the recent flooding mentioning that the city's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was opened at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13th. The Mayor and elected officials were at the EOC, with the mayor staying on with staff from the fire, public works, and police departments in order to develop an Incident Action Plan. It was determined that the first course of action was for resident safety. The Communicator system was used to notify residents of important information. Cathy Doczekalski & Cheryl Peterson assisted at the EOC, staffing

phone lines, taking notes, and posting information on the city's website. Everyone did exceptionally well. In addition to using the city's website the decision was made to set up an automated phone line.

Additionally, Police & Fire personnel were assigned to go door-to-door in the Mayfield Estates area to check on the well being of residents, stated Acting Fire Chief Gjelsten. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was activated to provide additional assistance to first responders. A temporary shelter was established at Maine East High School to provide shelter for evacuees until approximately 10:00 p.m.

Sunday morning, the Mayor and Acting Fire Chief Gjelsten surveyed the worst areas around Talcott, Cherry and Boardwalk. Additional pumps were put into place to mitigate the rising floodwaters. Once again, the Communicator was used to notify residents of sandbagging operations.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, September 23rd, Acting Fire Chief Gjelsten stated he was notified that Cook County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) wanted all municipalities in Cook County to complete an independent flood damage assessment and to submit this data by Sept. 25th. As of 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 24th, 543 homes were visited. Of the people that were home, 183 reported some level of water in their residence as a result of the flood.

In summary, Acting Fire Chief C. Gjelsten stated the following things went well: **a.** the EOC, **b.** communicating information to the residents via the Communicator, website and recorded information line during the response as well as the recovery phase; **c.** coordination between staff of Fire Department, Public Works, Police Department and Administration; **d.** cooperation between Mayor, Council, and city staff; **e.** CERT team; **f.** communication with elected officials; **g.** customer service (staff was returning voice mails left by residents as late as 8:00 p.m. on Saturday evening).

Acting Fire Chief C. Gjelsten listed the following areas that could be improved upon: **a.** ran out of sand and sandbags on Saturday; **b.** consider sandbagging operations sooner; **c.** perform our own independent comprehensive damage assessment earlier after an event due to a severe lack of cooperation between federal, state and county government entities; **d.** add feature to city website to allow residents to report damage using an electronic fillable form; **e.** need additional equipment in EOC such as laptop, printer, and radar weather station; and **f.** purchase a sandbagging machine to maintain at the PWSC.

A brief question and answer session ensued with Acting Fire Chief Gjelsten recognizing there is a need for a list of volunteers that could assist senior citizens in clearing their basements/homes of flood damage. Apparently there are some agencies available but could be quite expensive. This could just be a matter of coordination in getting an organization in touch with those in need, added Acting Fire Chief Gjelsten. Ald. Bach asked about obtaining a list of reputable agencies that could help with these services.

B. Police Facility Update (Review Draft RFQ for Architectural Services)

City Manager Jim Hock discussed the draft RFQ that was prepared by staff, which asks architectural and construction firms to present their qualifications as it pertains to building a police facility. City Manager J. Hock distributed brochures from some of the names on the list presented. City Mgr. Hock asked if the committee wished to modify anything in the draft proposal.

Chairman Wsol stated he doesn't agree with some of the language, believing the city's objectives and site description should be modified. Additionally, Chairman Wsol stated he doesn't necessarily agree with the statement that the design must reflect the results of the needs assessment reports, or that it is necessary to have 4,000 square feet for underground parking. Chairman Wsol added that he would like to list the Courtland property and emphasize that he would be interested only in firms that could work within a fixed budget and then have them tell us what they can deliver. Although the city is thinking about options for green concepts, Chairman Wsol stated he is just not sure the city is prepared to spend money on them. Additionally, we are definitely looking for a long term building, and would like a list

of other public projects of like size, with an emphasis on organizations that have a reputation for remodeling, added Chairman Wsol.

Ald. Bach inquired about the selection process, with City Mgr. J. Hock replying the committee should receive numerous proposals, which would then be narrowed down to three to five architects that would present formal proposals from which the entire city council would then choose. City Mgr. Hock believes this to be part of phase two. Ald. Bach is not necessarily sure city council, as a body, is best qualified to make this choice. Possibly City Mgr. Hock and staff would be best qualified along with a 3rd outside firm to make an educated choice in choosing a firm, noted Ald. Bach. The amount of money to be spent on this project was raised, with Chairman Wsol answering 16.5 million. Soft and hard costs were discussed as was financing, with Chairman Wsol answering the total cost would be 16.5 million plus interest.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Bach asked Acting Chief Swoboda for extra traffic enforcement at Oakton & Dee during the morning and evening rush hours, with Chairman Wsol asking for added enforcement at the start of the school day and after school at Maine South.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.