

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – AUGUST 14, 2023

Members: Buohl, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Barr, Alternate; McKim, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Buohl, Chairman; Ressler, Member; Corey Musser, Thomas Reinhold

Council: Musser, Barr, Martin, Zimmerman

Staff: Randolph; Harris

Guests: EMA Director Randy Gockley; Chief Richard Gehman, Lincoln Fire Company; Joy Ashley, Mainspring of Ephrata

The Public Safety Committee met on July 17, 2023, at 6:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Approval of Agenda:

Sgt. Randolph provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Buohl asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Bouhl asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Reinhold seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. None

Discussion Items:

1. Emergency Management Report - Randy Gockley
 - July 4th activities within the Ephrata Community went well. There were two minor medical incidents during the race; 1 resulted in transport, 1 did not.
 - The Ephrata Recreation Center may be used as a cooling center during anticipated heat emergencies.
 - All plans requiring EMA review/approval have been reviewed/approved.
 - There were no Covid deaths reported in Lancaster County last month for the first time since March 2020.
 - In light of recent fatal flash flooding in the Philadelphia area, Mr. Gockley pointed out officials stated that the people who perished did not drive into water or disregard "road closed" signs, but rather, were caught in a "wall of water."
2. Police Report – Sgt. Randolph provided a summary of the monthly police report.
3. Quarterly Budget Review – The Committee reviewed the 2nd Quarter Budget Report for activities under their purview. Ms. Harris indicated that expenditures were consistent with what would be expected for this point in the year.

4. International Property Maintenance Code Update – Ms. Harris shared that in order to move forward with the “quick ticket” process, all codes for which the Borough wants to be able to write a “quick ticket” will need to be updated. Still lots of work to do to be set up for use of the “quick ticket” program. The goal is to have the ordinance in final draft format next month. Also adding a “temporary structures” section.
5. Security Cameras – Pending the Police Chief and Mayor meeting with the facility security advisor.
6. Patrol Fleet Lease – Sgt. Randolph provided an initial informational presentation on the upcoming Police Department patrol fleet lease proposal. The final payment on the current patrol fleet was made earlier this year.
7. Nuisance Activity – Joy Ashley from Mainspring expressed concern with people spending extended periods of time at the Whistlestop Plaza. She also stated that they have noticed less police presence downtown. Mr. Ressler asked about whether there were consistent foot patrols downtown. Ms. Ashley asked about the definition of “loitering,” to which Sgt. Randolph responded that there is not a crime for loitering in a public. Ms. Martin inquired about the discarding of abandoned property left in public. There was discussion about abandoned property versus stored property.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Council President Reinhold inquired about a sharp increase in arrests for the month of June. Sgt. Randolph explained that it would require an additional review of the arrest data to understand what may be driving that trend.
2. Rich Gehman, Fire Chief, Lincoln Fire Company, shared that the emergency services involvement at the July 4th fireworks event went well and was a very cooperative effort with five (5) total fire companies assisting (Lincoln, Pioneer, Akron, Durlach/Mt. Airy, and West Earl FD’s), two (2) ambulance companies (Ephrata and Rothsville.)

Adjournment: 7:48 PM

Next Meeting: Monday August 21, 2023 – 6:30 PM