

**CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING
229 MAIN STREET - CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 – 3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Jo Blain-Bellamy, William M. Goldfinch, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Larry White

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Dale Long, Police Chief; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the City Council Public Safety committee meeting agenda for May 13, 2019 as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discussion to restore in-car radios for patrol fleet. Long informed subcommittee members that in-car radios had been eliminated several years ago; however, the portable radios present issues for the officers. The portable radios tend to have outages when officers are in the patrol cars, the radios often will get covered by the officers clothing while sitting and any calls coming in are not heard, and getting in and out of the vehicle can result in the channel being changed on the portable radios. The officers do not have reliable service, and is an officer safety issue.

The Police Department has funds that could be reallocated to cover the costs of 20 new in-car radios. The acquisition cost for the radios would be \$70,000 or \$3,500 per radio, which would be paid over a five-year period. Mayor Blain-Bellamy noted that the technology needed for these radios might not be supported in five years. Goldfinch inquired what the life span of the radios would be. Long was able to contact the vendor during the meeting and reported that the phones would have a ten-year shelf life.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Mayor Blain-Bellamy, to recommend to Council to approve the request to restore in-car radios for the patrol fleet. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Discussion of traffic enforcement. Long informed subcommittee members that a report was generated that provided information on the number of collision, number of injuries, number of properties damaged during each month. The report also details location, time of day, and

contributing factors. While there are collisions on secondary roads, the majority of them are on the major roadways.

In March 2019, there were 78 collisions resulting in 30 injuries, and two reports of property damage. The top 5 intersections that reported collisions were Cultra at Hwy. 501, Hwy. 378 at Hwy. 501, Waccamaw Drive at Hwy. 501, Cox Ferry Road at Hwy. 501, and Cultra Road at Hwy. 701. The top non-intersection collisions reported were on Hwy. 501, Hwy. 701, Hwy. 905 and Hwy. 165. The report shows that failing to yield the right-of-way and following too closely are the cause of the majority of the collisions. April's numbers were slightly higher, but might be because of the seasonal increase in traffic.

Long explained the process of how traffic was checked in residential neighborhoods. Starting with data collection following with enforcement. Long noted that it is hard to do in neighborhoods because the traffic is not generally heavy. There are peak hours usually 1 pm to 5 pm that traffic is heaviest and produces the most speeding issues. During April, Graham Road had a total number of 1,073 vehicles during a one-week period. The posted speed limit is 30 mph. The average speed on Graham Road was 23 mph with the maximum speed being at 58 mph. The percentage of vehicles driving below the speed limit was 68%.

Long commented that the department might do more public service announcements. He also had researched what adding a two-person traffic team would do to assist other officers to be available for other calls.

There was discussion on what type of relationship the City had with the Highway Patrol because the roads that appear to have the most traffic and collisions are state roads. Long will contact the Highway Patrol to assist more. There was also discussion about the 544 corridor and that Coastal Carolina University had officers that could assist more in that area. Long will contact the Coastal Carolina University Police Department.

Proposed reclassification of nine Fire Department position names. Hendrick informed subcommittee members that the City currently had 9 Firefighter II positions. The officers in this position are referred to as the Acting Company Officer because they fill in for the supervisor when needed. Hendrick requested that these 9 Firefighter II position be reclassified as Engineer. This reclassification would be in line with surrounding departments and the reclassify the 9 Firefighter II positions to Engineer. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to recommend to Council to approve the request to reclassify nine Firefighter II positions to that of Engineer. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Proposed reclassification of three Fire Department personnel. Hendrick advised subcommittee members that there are three senior firefighters assigned during each shift as supervisors at Fire Station #2. He requested that these three senior firefighters be reclassified as

actual supervisors with a classification of Fire Sergeant. This rank would give a better balance to the entire City and provide entry level leadership for that station supervisor position.

Hendrick noted that there were currently 13 Firefighter II positions and 8 Firefighter I positions. The proposal not only was to reclassify three of the Firefighter II positions to Fire Sergeant, but to also reclassify an additional Firefighter II position to that of a Firefighter I position. This would then provide three Fire Sergeant positions, 9 Firefighter II positions, and 9 Firefighter I positions for a savings of \$1,583.93 annually. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to recommend to Council to approve the request. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURN: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: this 15th day of July, 2019.



Barbara A. Tessier, City Clark