

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2019**

Members Present: Alderman Will Krause
Alderman Janet Stack
Alderman Chris Farrar

Other Present: Jay Keeven, Director of Police
Rick Welle, Fire Chief
Emily Fultz, Public Works
Ryan Zwijack, City Engineer
Charles Bolinger, Intelligencer

The regular meeting of the Edwardsville Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chairman Will Krause at 5:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers with a quorum present: Chairman Will Krause, Alderman Chris Farrar and Alderman Janet Stack.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Alderman Stack, second by Alderman Farrar to approve minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting held Monday, June 24, 2019. Motion carried.

Police Department:

Informational Items:

- Discussion regarding the survey of residents on H Street/No Parking limitations
Chief Jay Keeven reported that there are eight (8) residential homes on H Street. Initially contact was made with six of the residents, and the opinion was split down the middle with three (3) residents wanting parking limited just the north side of the street and three (3) residents wanting the parking to remain unchanged. Another resident was then contacted, but that resident was asking that there be no parking at all on H Street. The eighth house was determined to be unoccupied. Ald. Farrar asked if parking could be limited on just the east end of the street. Ald. Stack stated that she has parked along there during parades with no problems created. Chief Keeven noted that there is some ground clearing going on at the west (dead end) portion of the street, but no one from Public Works was aware of any specific project going on in that area. Ald. Farrar stated that maybe the parking situation should be left alone for now, and anyone in the future could contact him if a problem arises. Chief Keeven stated that he hates to see any parking restricted in the downtown area in particular. He also stated that anyone blocking access could be cited. The Committee members all agreed that no action should be taken at this time and the issue removed from the agenda.

Fire Department:

Action Items:

- Approval of a contract with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) for testing services in an amount not to exceed \$15,360.
Chief Welle explained that the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners (BFPC) in 2018 began looking at revamping the tests used for promotions in the Fire Department. The same vendor has been used for more than 10 years and the Board indicated it believes the tests needed to be updated. The Board directed FD staff to look at options that would meet the criteria called for in the Illinois Board of Fire and Police Commissioners Act for promotions. Three vendors were identified; one was extremely costly, and a second was the current vendor, which proposed no real changes. Ald. Farrar questioned why this was needed; Chief Welle explained that the BFPC

Act has some stringent rules on who can be assessors and how the testing is to be conducted. He said most Boards therefor use a third party source to conduct the testing to maintain fairness in the process. The Act requires testing be done every three (3) years for each rank in the bargaining unit. The Board's recommendation then was to move ahead with the IFCA professional services division for both the assessment center and written examination for the lieutenant's exam this year. This was budgeted for in the 2019-20 Board's budget. Motion by Ald. Stack, second by Ald. Farrar to approve the contract with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association for an amount not to exceed \$15,360, carried unanimously.

New Business:

Action Items:

- Approval of an Ordinance creating "No Left Turn" from East College onto North Main Street/IL 159.

City Engineer Ryan Zwijack stated that this would just need to be an amendment to an existing ordinance creating "No Left Turn" zones. The ordinance amendment codifies what was previously discussed in Committee. Signs will be clearly posted and initially flagged to alert drivers. Ald. Farrar asked if there was any concern about drivers cutting in behind the Wildey Theater and through the side parking lot to avoid the restriction. Chief Keeven stated that if someone is seen doing this the driver can be cited. The Committee all agreed this likely won't be a problem. Motion by Ald. Stack, second by Ald. Farrar to approve the amendment for consideration by the Public Services and the Administrative and Community Services Committees prior to moving to City Council, carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

- No Parking Zone request for the south side of Randle Street near the Madison county garage parking lot


Chief Welle stated that he received a call from the Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) requesting a No Parking Zone for a strip along the south side of St. Louis Street, across from the Madison County Jail lot. This has not yet been measured out or clearly delineated by city staff, but Chief Welle was looking for input from the Committee to see if there was any support for limiting parking there. According to the request, large equipment (including a tractor/trailer needed for deployment to stricken areas) rolls out of the lot behind the jail. When cars are parked across St. Louis Street, it can make moving out the equipment difficult. Chief Keeven stated that there is a parking lot immediately across the street that could be utilized as a way out in an emergency, and that the cars parking in this area are likely sheriff's department employees. The Committee members indicated there was not support for a no parking area at this time. In a related matter, members questioned the normal size of a parallel parking spot (approximately 20 ft. according to Public Works). Ald. Krause asked if the parking spots on Main could be better delineated for individual parking spots rather than the long blocks of parking laid out now. Mr. Zwijack stated it could be done at the city's expense. Chief Keeven stated that even if the spots are painted for individual spots, it wouldn't be enforceable if someone parked across two spots. Mr. Zwijack stated that you see this more often when the spots are metered, but that he would look into this further.

- Discussion regarding the local impact of new State of Illinois marijuana laws. Ald. Farrar wanted to explore what local ordinances may have to be considered given the state's move toward legalizing recreational marijuana. Chief Keeven stated that he has read the new statute. He said that law enforcement has been seeing this coming for years, going back to when medical marijuana was first legalized, and the police chiefs have opposed its legalization. He said the city will now need to decide if ~~smoking in public places will be allowed~~ and that this council will need to also look at whether or not the City will allow the sales of cannabis. If the city does not allow the sales, it will miss out on the 3% local sales tax that can be added and still cannot ban its use. Chief Keeven stated that a person who is approved for medical marijuana is

allowed to grow 5-6 plants but not for recreation. Ald. Krause asked how this can be regulated. According to Chief Keeven, one healthy plant will produce about one pound of product, but this will be difficult to regulate. The cannabis has to be stored away from children's access and can't be given away or sold to others. Up to 30 grams is allowed. Advertising of the product is also regulated in the statute. Ald. Krause stated that it looks like the city will need to look at how far the sales have to be from churches and schools, restrictions on advertising, zoning, and other issues. Ms. Fultz stated that when zoning the city has to consider not "what" is being sold, rather what modifications can be made in terms of zoning. Ald. Krause asked if there is an expectation that, at least initially, there will be crowds and long lines. Ald. Farrar asked if the sales could be limited to special areas. The Committee agreed this is something for the city attorney to be involved in making that determination. No action was taken at this time.

Old Business: None

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. With no further business at hand the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.



Will Krause, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Rick Welle, Fire Department