

Public safety meeting

February 20th 2014

Mayor's conference room

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rivera at 10:01.

Members in attendance 4th Ward Councilwoman Stacy Szukala. Missing 1st Ward Councilman Michael Michalski. Other attendees Steve Puro Animal Control Officer, Mike Porpiglia Public Works, Samantha from the Evening Observer, Chief Ortolano, Chief Ahlstrom, City Attorney Ron Szot, Councilwoman at Large Stephanie Kiyak, Sue Chapone from the Buffalo news and special guest Tim abbey and Gary Cerne from Dunkirk Senior High School.

Chief Ortolono was asked by Chair Rivera on an update on the shared services with the town of Dunkirk. Chief Ortolono explained that they are going very well. The town seems to be very happy with the services. Chair Rivera noted that he has received compliments for the Chief and the officers on the job.

Chair Rivera asked Chief for an update on the pick- up time in school zones citing school 5 as the school that is of concern and the issues pertaining to parking that they are having over there. Chief Ortolono explained that he is well aware of the it who received a ticket for parking in an area they were not supposed to be parking in. Chief Ortolono further explained that before any tickets were issued that people were explained to by the officers and given warnings first. Superintendent of Schools Gary Cerne explained that he is also aware of the situation and is looking to add parking spots. Tim Abbey Grounds Supervisor explained what is happening in the neighborhood that people who live in that neighborhood are not able to leave their driveway because of the congestion caused by people waiting to pick up their children. Chair Rivera thanked everyone for their attention to the matter.

Chair Rivera stated that recently he has received calls of concern pertaining to registered sex offenders in the City living so close to the schools. To get the matter covered and on public record he wanted to bring the matter up at this meeting. Chief Ortolono explained that the City of Dunkirk has an actual officer on duty to track all registered sex offenders in the city. Sargent Chris topher Witkowski is in charge of keeping track of all activity going on in the City. Chief continues to explain last fall we participated in a program with the U.S. Marshalls pertaining to registered sex offenders in the City and that the City was 100% compliant with reporting on all persons who have a registered sex offender Status. Chair Rivera also cited that in 2006 the City Council passed a resolution that sex offenders of a certain status may not live within a thousand feet of school property. Chief finished by stating that all City residents can come to the police station and review a book of all sex offenders that are registered.

Chair Rivera asked the Chief to introduce his guests. Director of Grounds at Dunkirk Senior High School Tim Abbey and Superintendent of Schools Gary Cerne. Chief began to explain a new program that has been sent down from the Governor's office concerning the pedestrian safety issue in the City. The name of the program that has been sponsored by the national traffic safety board is called "see and be seen". The chief went on to explain that the program will be rolled out within the schools and that they have posters that will also be distributed throughout the City. Councilwoman Szukala inquired if there could be some kind of incentive program to have kids have their parents sign the paperwork and bring in back to the school.

Chair Rivera also took this opportunity to bring up the safety issue that is currently present at the High School. There is a designated crosswalk but it is too far down the side walk and none of the kids using the student parking lot are using it. Rivera went on to explain of the concern he has for the issues of the kids and congestion. Tim Abbey started to explain that the next phase of the school project is going to be beginning soon and improvements to help with this issue are going to be a part of the next phase. Councilwoman Szukala asked about the problems with the lights at school 3 and whether the issue has been addressed and Tim Abbey stated that the timing issue with the lights has been fixed.

At this point Chief Ortolano, Tim Abbey and Superintendent Cerne departed the meeting for photo shoot opportunity for the paper.

Chair Rivera also took this opportunity to welcome Councilman Michalski who has been conference in via speakerphone for the meeting. Chair Rivera also asked for a motion at this point to approve the meeting minutes for December 2013 the last public safety meeting. Michalski motioned for the approval of the minutes and Councilwoman Szukala seconded for approval.

Chair Rivera continued the meeting by welcoming Steve Purol to the meeting and asking for an update from his office. Steve started off by noting that this has been the best year yet in terms of compliance issue in the city. He did note that ticket issuance is down. He also noted that weather has a lot to do with the matter. Steve did also say he is seeing an alarming trend of dogs being dumped off just outside the City limits. Pit bulls seem to be the kind of dog that this is happening to. Steve continues to explain that he will take a call requesting that he take or refer a specific kind of animal to the humane society. Unfortunately he is not able to do so. Then a day or two later he will get calls on animals that are being abandoned just outside City limits. Steve explains how he continues to work with the local humane society location here in Dunkirk and in Jamestown to house as many animals as they can. Steve also explains that it has not been an easy year at the shelter. It has been so cold electrical problems with the heater and freezing water lines have all been issues.

Steve continued to talk about how difficult it has been this year when we get a lot of snow at once. The alternate parking becomes an issue. At this point Chair Rivera refers to an issue that was brought up at a council meeting that Stephanie Kiyak has been dealing with in recent days. Stephanie referred to Councilman Michalski on the phone to give us a little background on the matter. Michalski begins to explain that a City resident, Rosamond Burns, had made the request that the alternate parking time be changed from 5pm to 4pm. Mike continued to explain that he had multiple conversations with

department heads, the Mayor and other council persons on the matter and it was discovered that there was no reasonable time change that would allow the City to do what it needs to do at that interval of day. He continued to explain the phone conversation he had with the Ms. Burns but he now believes that something in writing may be the best means of explaining to the resident that no change is going to be made at this time. Steve Purol continues to explain the issue with people moving their cars too soon. He also determines that there is no way to completely address the issue for everyone and Chief Ortolano agrees. He states that the way the law is written in the book as 5pm they do give a little room before and after but having an official grace period written into the law would really make it hard for City workers, Firemen and the police to do their job. Steve and Chief continue to explain the the 5pm rule is what is best for the City overall. Mike Porpiglia explains that the biggest issue we have in the City right now is people moving too early. Mike also explains that changing times would also mean changing signs all over the City. Steve Purol also states that for the first two weeks of the season they give warning notices to get people back into compliance. So at this time Chairman Rivera determines, with the assistance of all City Officials that no change to the alternate parking time shall be made at this time. Rivera also States that he will reach out to Rosamond Burns via written letter and will send her a copy of the meeting minutes for her records.

Chair Rivera at this point asks Chief Ahlstrom for an update. Chief Ahlstrom at this point notes what an interesting meeting this has been to this point. Rivera asks him for an update on the building study. Chief reminds everybody that in January Council approved the contracting out with firm of Pacheco/Ross to do a study of the three buildings. The plan is that the firm will be here in the beginning of April to start the study pending on that the snow is all gone so they can see everything that there is to see. The Chief explains that the study will take about three days to finish initially. Other return trips may be made to gather more information. There will also be a time where the firm may wish to meet with council to gather information and then there will be a public presentation made to the council as well. Chief states that the study will entail cost for bringing three current buildings up to code as well as cost of eliminating one building and renovating remaining two structures to fit all of City equipment and the Cities needs as well. Chief Ahlstrom continues to explain the firm of Pacheco/Ross deals with only fire halls. Chief explains that he is hoping for September for the firm to be able to get back to the City with a completed study ready to do a presentation.

Chair Rivera asks Chief to update third party billing. Chief notes numbers are down. He alludes to changes to the medical system as to the number of transports going down. Revenues are down. We took in \$152,000 in 2012 and we took in \$118,000 in 2013. Average reimbursements are down as well due to change in payer mix. We are also seeing an increase in non paying customers as well. \$318,000 in revenue has been taken in so far too date in two and a half years.

Councilwoman Szukala asks if we are still in position to move from the BLS service to the ALS service. Chief Ahlstrom thinks it something that the City should look at. He believes ALS will become the minimal service standard in the industry. Councilwoman at large Kiyak asks Chief is he is developing a spreadsheet that shows the cost effectiveness of moving to ALS versus BLS. Chief states that no additional personnel would be need just some extra training courses would be required. He also states that he hopes this will be an issue on the table when it comes time to contractual talks. Chief continues

to explain to the group that he would like council to request the information of cost comparison. Chief explains that when the Mayor requests information with the intent of making the change he will spend the 15 hours compiling the information. Councilwoman Szukala states that she will be writing a letter to request the study. Chief continues to give some general numbers as to what revenues could be generated if we made the change at which point Councilwoman at large Kiyak suggests making the change seems like a no brainer. Chief continues language changes within the contract to cover any contractual issues.

Chair Rivera asks both Councilman Michalski and Councilwoman Szukala if there is anything else they would like to discuss. Councilman Michalski states at next meeting he would like to bring up subject of insurance reimbursement and eludes that we need to have a policy or procedure in place to make sure the city is reimbursed for demolitions done in the City. Chair Rivera explains it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair Rivera asks for motion to adjourn. Motioned by Stacy and Second by Mike. Meeting adjourned at 11:15.