

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Special Called

DATE OF MEETING: June 30, 2020

PRESENT: Susan Kovas, Annie Reid, Mayor Wanda Stringfellow, Chief Eric Williams, Carlos Williams, and Stephanie Jackson
Meeting was called to order by: Susan Kovas at 3:04pm

Prayer: Prayer was led by Annie Reid.

Purpose: Mrs. Kovas stated the purpose of the meeting. She stated that she wanted to formulate a recommendation that she can take to council and formal decision. She stated that the final recommendation will be submitted to the labor attorney and the Municipal Association.

I. **Item Discussed:** New Business---Standard Operating Policies---Police

A. Use of Force--- Mrs. Kovas shared her screen with the Committee that had the SOP from the Police Department. She discussed the elements of deadly force as it states in the policy. Mrs. Kovas asked Chief Williams to explain item #3 under deadly force. Mrs. Kovas stated that the Municipal Association graded the Police Department SOP with a grading percentage of 100%. Mrs. Kovas stated that she wanted to look at item# 12 (off-duty weapon carry). Chief Williams explained that every person is assigned an off-duty weapon. Each person is certified each year with a firearms instructor. Mr. Carlos Williams asked if an officer is still held under the state law and the oath under the City of Chester during the time of the incident. Mrs. Kovas wanted to know if medical treatment was followed, and she stated that the video showed the officer rendering aid to the person. Mrs. Kovas stated that she wanted to look at item#21 which was Administrative Leave. Chief Williams stated that he has an officer on Administrative Leave. Mrs. Kovas asked what psychological services were sought to assist the officers, and Chief Williams explained that the Police Chaplain, Eric Skidmore from a State Agency, and EAP were all beneficial in the services.

B. Body-Worn Camera Policy

Chief Williams stated that each officer has been issued a BWC. Chief Williams explained that the BWC will exonerate you or prosecute you. Mrs. Kovas asked are Detectives wearing BWC now and Chief Williams stated that they were wearing them. Chief Williams explained that the new cars came with the new technology to have BWC begin recording immediately. Chief Williams explained that the Police Department uses Watchguard at this time, but that he had completed some research on a company called Axon. He stated to fit the Department would be half of a million dollars. Mrs. Jackson asked that the Chief make a correction in his previous statement. She stated that the Chief stated that he had one officer on Administrative Leave. Chief Williams corrected the statement and said that he has an officer on Administrative Duty. Mrs. Kovas proceeded with Item# 5, and J in the BWC policy.

Item Discussed: New Business---Sled Report

Mrs. Kovas stated that she wanted to share the SLED Report on the screen, and Mr. Williams advised that he did not think the report could be released to the public because names of witnesses are in that report.

II. **Item Discussed:** New Business--- Attorney General Report

Mrs. Kovas shared the screen from the Attorney General findings on her screen during the meeting.

Executive Session---4:16pm

- A. Personnel---Police
- B. Public Safety Recommendations to Council

Meeting was adjourned at N/A PM

These minutes were prepared by: MaKeesharia Tobias – July 1, 2020