

# CITY OF CHESTER

## Public Safety Meeting Minutes

DATE OF MEETING: October 21, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Stringfellow, Chief Eric Williams, Susan Kovas, Annie Reid, Chief James Jackson, Carlos Williams, Angela Douglas, and Stephanie Jackson

ABSENT:

Meeting was called to order by: Susan Kovas at 4:48 PM

I. **Item Discussed:** Police Car---Councilman Williams

It was discussed that a company contacted the Chief of Police about a totally equipped vehicle; at no cost to the City at that time. The only challenge he presented during the drop off was that the interceptor must work 120 hours a month. This vehicle comes from a Department named Union Point Police Department. A question was asked if we could use it 120 hours by Kovas. Chief Williams stated that the vehicle would be used more if it was hot seated. Hot seated is when the vehicle is used on all rotating shifts. Kovas mentioned a grant from previous years that brought in traffic officers. Chief Williams was unaware of any City grants for traffic officers. Mrs. Jackson stated that Attorney Edwards would need to take a look at the agreement. Mrs. Jackson stated that Attorney Edwards had reservations concerning the agreement to include other cost that the City cannot predict for this vehicle. Chief Williams expressed that this is a 90-day agreement if the City would like to see how it works. Chief Williams advised the committee that if the vehicle is not used 10 days in one month that the month would be added to the lease. Mrs. Kovas asked did the Police Department have a traffic unit. Chief Williams explained that he has an officer who concentrates on traffic and has several trainings to help in the traffic vehicle. The total of the vehicle is \$27, 500 dollars. It was stated that the lease was for \$2,800 per month. Mrs. Kovas was concerned about the maintenance and insurance of the vehicle in question. The total amount for the vehicle is \$27, 500. Mrs. Kovas asked Chief Williams if he likes this program and would the car be ready to go. Chief explained that the car is equipped and ready to go. It has a push guard on the front and no other city police interceptor has one.

**Action Taken:** Mrs. Kovas requested a recommendation to council based on the information discussed in the meeting. Mrs. Kovas suggested that the City only do the ninety days in the recommendation to council. Mayor Stringfellow stated that Jackson needed to get with Carla Roof and ask about car insurance for the vehicle. A motion was on the floor from Council Carlos Williams. Williams made the motion that council as a whole review the Program concerning the Police Interceptor Program for ninety days. The motion was given a second by Council Annie Reid.

- II. **Item Discussed:** Police Grants---Chief Eric Williams discussed three grants. Department of Justice grant was a 100%, Homeland Security grant was 45%, and the USDA grant was 45%. The Homeland Security grant was now open. The other grants will open in December. Chief Williams discussed the need for grants, and he discussed if the city could maintain the grant. City Administrator Jackson discussed the camera aspect of the sensors and the triangulation system. Ms. Angela Douglas discussed the integration of the system. License Plate Reader's was also mentioned along with equipment grants. Mrs. Reid asked about the radio channels. Chief Williams explained that we do not have the Sheriff's Office channel for a while. Mrs. Reid asked about cost for the channels, and Chief Williams stated that it would be about \$6,000.00 to include some new radios and the radios for the vehicles. Mrs. Douglas suggested that Chief put in for all the grants. Chief Williams stated that he would be applying for the DOJ grant which is 100%.

**Action Taken:** Mrs. Reid made a motion that Chief Williams speak with the County about the radios. Mrs. Kovas second the motion.

- III. **Item Discussed:** Police Chief Report---Chief Eric Williams expressed his appreciation for the way the City responded to the recent shootings. He stated the hard work that his officers put in showed the results that were needed. Mrs. Reid asked the Chief about his grooming and dress code for his officer and requested a copy of his policy. Mrs. Kovas commended the officers for a job well done at Hilarity. A discussion concerning cameras throughout the city was mentioned and many streets were mentioned: Murray Street, Springs Street, Ike Street, Dawson Drive, all exits of the City limits, Saluda Street and the downtown areas.
- IV. **Item Discussed:** Fire Chief Report---- Fire Chief James Jackson stated that he has five people stating this week. He will invite them to Council to be introduced to all Council members. He stated that he is losing to Tega Cay, Fort Mill, and Flint Hill Fire Department. He stated that he is losing people because of the health insurance. He stated that he applied for the OMNOVA grant for \$3,000.00 and it would be due on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October. He discussed the emergency reporting system. He discussed getting tablets in the field for the officers. He stated that he has begun the process of updating the Standard Operating Procedures for the Department. He stated that the policy had not been updated since 1992. He stated that he should be finished by the end of next week. Chief Jackson stated that Fire Prevention week went very well. Chief Jackson stated that he met with the Dispatch Coordinator (911) because they did not receive any information during the shooting incident on Dawson Drive. He stated that he had to pull his guys out until it was clear and safe. He talked about getting body armor vest for his firefighters. He stated that Don Wood is on the committee that is discussing the towers and radio transmission for all county offices.

**No Action Taken for the Fire Department**

- V. Mrs. Reid discussed a company called Court Solutions and wanted to recommend that the city began to utilize them. She discussed what they can offer the city and the user of the program will be charged a fee and not the City. Mrs. Reid made a recommendation to use Court Solutions going forward with Municipal Court. Mrs. Susan Kovas second the motion.
- VI. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Susan Kovas and Mrs. Annie Reid second the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM

These minutes were prepared by:

MaKeesharia S. Tobias

Printed Name

/s/ MaKeesharia S. Tobias

Signature

October 25, 2019

Date