

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**
Via videoconference
February 15, 2021

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chairman Jason Fendrick at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 15, 2021, via videoconference. A quorum was present, and attendance was noted as follows: Committee members Steve Holum, Mike McNall, and Cathy Scott were present; Committee member J. Jackson was absent. Police Chief Doug Vierck and Village Administrator Nic Owen were also present. Tracy Lien served as recording secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by C. Scott, seconded by M. McNall, the Committee

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021, regular meeting as corrected to indicate on page 2, Goals for 2021, second paragraph, that C. Scott inquired about the Police Department response to traumatic calls, not the Fire Department response.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests to speak at this time.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Vierck provided an update on activities and plans for the Police Department.

COVID Vaccine Update

By the end of this week, all Department staff members will be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 except two members who have opted not to receive vaccinations at this time.

Policy Update (Use of Force Certification)

The Department Use of Force Policy must be approved by WILEAG (Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group) to receive federal funding. Chief Vierck has received notice that the Policy is within standards, and the Department has been certified for three years.

Annual Report

Chief Vierck stated that the 2020 Annual Report has been released. The Committee commented favorably, stating the report was very well done, contains a wealth of information about the Department and its goals/activities, and shows what the Department does.

Sidewalks

The Department has received complaints through social media about sidewalks not being cleared of snow and ice. The Community Service Officer was actively sending notices, contacting offenders about getting compliance, and issuing tickets where needed prior to social media complaints.

Masks

The Department received an anonymous complaint letter a few weeks ago regarding officers not wearing masks during traffic stops. The Chief and Lieutenant spot-checked officers on various shifts and did not observe any violations; officers wore masks and/or maintained an appropriate distance during all stops. Chief Vierck has reminded officers to wear masks when in close proximity to others. The Committee agreed that it is important to keep vigilant regarding Covid-19 measures and also that anonymous complaints do not warrant much response.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Alleys in the Downtown Area

In response to direction at the January 19, 2021, meeting, Chief Vierck gathered 15-year data for incidents at and near alleys in the downtown area and stationed officers to monitor the area. He received no reports of dangerous situations or safety concerns from officers. Data indicates (1) there was a crash in 2010; a vehicle pulled out from an alleyway and struck another vehicle, causing injury; and (2) there was an incident in 2017 where a building balcony was damaged.

Chairman Fendrick stated he had been in contact with Public Services Committee Chairman R. Czyzewski, who watched the Public Safety Committee meeting recording, and Public Services Director J. Gorman. He reported that R. Czyzewski and J. Gorman recommend no action at this time except perhaps installation of a panoramic view mirror and/or some signage.

C. Scott suggested mirrors be installed since the cost should be relatively low. After discussion, and recognizing that the alley will be closed for the summer beginning April 15, 2021, for Skal Public House use, the Committee AGREED to table the matter for now.

Village Parking Lot Time Restrictions

In response to direction at the January 19, 2021, meeting, Chief Vierck assigned officers to count vehicles parked overnight in the downtown area during the past two weeks. He displayed a chart showing the number of vehicles parked on the street and the number parked proximal to municipal lots each day for nine days beginning January 22, 2021. During that time, there were 2,043 total cars parked and 43 total parked proximal to municipal lots; the average number per night was 227 cars parked and 4.77 cars parked proximal to municipal lots.

After viewing the data, the Committee AGREED there is no need to open parking in municipal lots overnight; parking will continue to be banned from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.

Permits for Parking in Lots

Chief Vierck displayed Ordinance 7.07(6)(c) Exceptions (1) Winter Parking Permit, and recommended the following changes:

A person may obtain a permit from the ~~Village Administrator~~ Public Services Director and Police Chief to park a particular vehicle in a municipal parking lot ~~or on the public streets~~ during the times prohibited under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection. Such permit shall be issued under guidelines adopted from time to time by the Village Board. Such guidelines shall consider, among other things, the availability of alternative parking on private property, commuter ride sharing situations and individual special events involving late night or overnight visitors. To help offset administrative and enforcement costs, the following annual permit fee shall be charged per vehicle: \$30 if issued on or before February 1 and \$15 if issued after February 1.

Chief Vierck displayed a draft parking permit application.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft application and the proposed changes to the Ordinance. The following comments were noted:

- The application fee should be refunded if the request is denied.
- Verbiage should be added to the effect that the purpose is not to allow people to circumvent parking rules but is meant to provide a remedy where no other solutions exist.
- There should be a flat annual fee and not a reduced fee for permits issued after February 1.

After discussion, the Committee AGREED to establish the annual fee of \$75.00 for parking in municipal lots and further AGREED to issue permits to park during November through March at a fee of \$30.00.

On a motion by S. Holum, seconded by M. McNall, the Committee

VOTED: To offer parking permits with two fee structures, yearly and wintertime parking, and to amend Ordinance 7.07(6)(c) to state parking permits will be issued by the Public Services Director and Police Chief.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Fendrick asked the Committee members for future agenda suggestions. C. Scott noted that the January 19, 2021, meeting minutes stated there would be a campaign to inform citizens regarding dog license requirements and enforcement would start six months after the start of the media campaign. She asked about the enforcement start date. Chief Vierck stated that a media release was done in late January and more are planned for late February and March. He suggested the Committee assess the success on April 1, which is the license due date, and determine whether additional educational campaigns are needed. The Committee AGREED to add the topic Dog Licensing to the April 2021 meeting agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee is set for Monday, March 15, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by C. Scott, seconded by S. Holum, this regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Jason Fendrick
Chairman
Public Safety Committee