

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
First floor conference room
8 Linsley Street
March 22, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joseph F. D'Errico, Commissioners, Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, and Walt Spader, Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Jonathan Mulhern

Absent: Commissioner David Monz

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the February 23, 2016 meeting both Regular and Executive sessions.

Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lazaroff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for February 2016.

The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Lazaroff; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A thank you letter was received from Clintonville School thanking Officer Cantele and his K-9 partner Koda for a recent visit during "Television Turn off Week".

Chairman's Report:

Chairman D'Errico said he received a phone call and was asked about the proposed Homewood Avenue development. He stated that he told the caller that he knew nothing about it. Chairman D'Errico then asked Chief McLoughlin if he signed off on the zoning board sight plan for the proposed Homewood Avenue development, and if so, why didn't Chief forward this to the Board of Police Commissioners, as they are the sole traffic authority for the town.

Chief explained that he is the representative for the local traffic authority and receives these zoning requests on a regular basis. It is an administrative task and his position is to review it for any traffic concerns as far as roadway and driveway sight line issues. Chief explained that if there are none, then he has no comment and accepts the plans. The Chairman, in a follow up question and statement said, "So you're taking it upon yourself to make the decision without talking to us about it. Since we are the sole traffic authority, is it a reflection back on us?"

In response, the Chief explained that he reviews the plans, and as long as the plans fall within the traffic engineers study of recommended feet where they want to put the road, without any obstructions and the plan does not create a traffic or site line issue then he signs off and that is it. Chief said he would be more than happy to share each submitted plan with the Board however, if the Board of Police Commissioners were to act on everything that came from Planning & Zoning, the P & Z meetings and decisions would be delayed for at least a month if not longer.

Chairman asked Chief if he attended the recent Planning and Zoning meeting. Chief said he did not go to the meeting and he did not make a recommendation on the Homewood Avenue project, he simply had no comment.

There was some confusion between the Board members regarding the questions brought forward by the Chairman to Chief McLoughlin, as Commissioner Lazaroff and Commissioner Calafiore were unaware of the proposed Homewood Avenue residential development. After a brief explanation of the proposed plan, the Chief stated that we don't get involved supporting or condemning any projects because of politics.

The Chairman told Chief to "be prepared, because he's already been told that at the next P & Z meeting either one of the Board members or Chief will likely have to appear." The Chief replied, the Planning and Zoning could subpoena him and he would be happy to attend.

Chairman D'Errico said he was concerned about being blindsided. To which the Chief responded that it is a P & Z decision to be made and they (P & Z) are trying to bring the Police Department and everyone else to make the decision. If the members of P & Z don't want to make the decision, then perhaps they should leave the board and find a position on another Board. The Chief added that people are trying to insert the Police Department and the traffic authority to help make a decision on whether the Homewood Avenue plan should be voted up or down.

Commissioner Spader explained that this is an administrative task, adding that the Planning and Zoning requires the signatures from the Police and Fire Chief for these types of proposals.

Chairman D'Errico asked if the DARE program has been established at the Middle School. Chief referred the question to Commissioner Lazaroff who is part of the DARE subcommittee. Commissioner Lazaroff stated that he would reach out to the other committee members tomorrow and get a status update.

Chairman D'Errico asked Chief for a status update on the body cameras. Chief said that the body cameras are still on hold at this point.

Chiefs Report:

Chief McLoughlin acknowledged the recent passing of Retired Detective Don Olson who passed away on February 27th after a long battle with cancer. Don started his career with the department as a supernumerary Police Officer in 1962 and he later became a regular member of the department in October 1963. Don became the first Youth Officer for the department in 1971 and was assigned to the Detective Bureau in 1977 where he remained until his retirement in January of 2001.

Chief reports that vehicles continue to be entered during the overnight hours in various neighborhoods throughout town and said these crimes could be easily eliminated if residents lock their vehicles as well as locking garages and sheds.

Budget

Chief reported the budget is trending about 3.5 - 4% under budget.

Chief explained that the Board of Finance has removed the lead remediation project from the capital request for the next fiscal year. The Finance Department has advised Chief that there is some unused town grant money from another town project that will be repurposed for the range remediation. Chief expects the project will go out to bid in April.

Chief shared the Town's upcoming financial calendar of events:

Public hearing- April 5th
Annual Budget meeting- May 9th
Referendum- May 17th

Professional Standards and Training

Chief reports the department is now fully staffed.

Currently there are 10 officers attending recertification training, and department wide training was held using the Use of Force simulator in Milford.

Also we are currently undergoing department wide recertification for CPR and blood borne pathogens.

Support Services/Traffic:

Sergeant Bob DePalma has secured a State DOT Grant in the amount of \$15,000 for Distracted Driving enforcement. It is a two part exercise composing of added enforcement in April and August.

Chief has been notified by the State DOT regarding the reconstruction of the crosswalk at Route 5 and Blakeslee Avenue. A pre-emptive traffic light will replace the existing light for fire and emergency vehicles as well as the addition of a pedestal crosswalk unit.

Support Services/Traffic continued:

The speed sign was recently repaired due to malfunction, and it has now been placed on George Street per the request of a resident who had previously expressed concerns about the speeding.

The traffic division was recently re-contacted by a resident near the Hartford Turnpike/ Bishop Street intersection regarding traffic congestion blocking access to her driveway. This concern was turned over to the State DOT last year to no avail. Sergeant DePalma of the Traffic Division reached out to the State and a “Do not Block Driveway Sign” has been installed.

Town Attorney Jennifer Coppola is drafting a proposed change in the town ordinance as it relates to parking. The change she is considering involves the designation of certain streets to be “Resident Parking Only”. Because the Board of Police Commissioners is the sole traffic authority for the Town, the Board of Police Commission would need to approve the language before it moves on to a town meeting. Attorney Coppola expects to have this draft ready by the next Police Commission meeting in April. Chief states the genesis behind this is Collet Street for the following reasons:

- The street is narrow.
- The homes are relatively close to the street and there is minimal off street parking.
- There are several seniors that reside on the street.
- There is an adjacent commercial establishment that has reportedly overtaken the street parking.
- The business in question is an auto repair shop and auto sales center.
- There are reports of auto sales and repairs being conducted in the street
- The residents on the street have been more than tolerant and need some relief. It has become a quality of life issue for these residents.

Uniformed Services

There has been a slight uptick in calls for service and traffic enforcement.

Investigative Services

February was another busy month for the Investigative Services Division. They have been active with drug investigations which resulted in two significant heroin seizures and arrests.

The Chief reports that detectives have experienced a great deal of success with identifying suspects involved in several vehicle thefts through DNA.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

Officer Richard Hannon has asked for reimbursement for two graduate courses. Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to grant the scholarship, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.

Miscellaneous/Building Updates

Detective John Wilcox recently participated in the Read across America at Clintonville School.

The town highway department has repaired the railing on the ramp fronting Police Headquarters.

Chairman D'Errico asked Chief to contact Brian Crouch to assess the floodlights at the bottom of the flagpole fronting headquarters.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn for the purpose of moving to executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Spader made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lazaroff seconded. All were in favor. The time was 7:55 p.m.

At 8:06 Chairman D'Errico reconvened the meeting back to regular session. Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to make a correction to the minutes dated February 23, 2016. These minutes read; by Commissioner Larry Lazaroff, however it should have read minutes by Commissioner David Monz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.

With no further discussion, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Larry Lazaroff
Secretary

Minutes by P. Clafin

Board of Police Commission
Executive Session
March 22, 2016

Chairman D'Errico called the executive session to order at 7:56 p.m.

Present: Chairman D'Errico, Commissioners Larry Lazaroff, Walt Spader and Marc Calafiore. Also Present; Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Mulhern.

Absent: Commissioner David Monz

Personnel matters were discussed.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Spader seconded. All were in favor.

The time was 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. McLoughlin
Chief of Police