

ARLINGTON POLICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., Chairman Lensing presiding.

Members present: Chairman Lensing, Scharping, Kloeckl, Swenson, Rose, Deputy Sheriff Nienaber, Police Chief Rovinsky, Councilmember Vrklan, Councilmember Wills, Mayor Kreft

Members absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Krueger, Interim City Administrator Denny Schultz, Code Enforcement Officer Jenness

Lensing welcomed the new members.

Motion by Kloeckl, and passed by unanimous vote to appoint Mike Scharping as the Vice Chair of the Police Committee.

Motion by Scharping, seconded by Vrklan, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2007 meeting as presented.

Brief discussion was held on changing the date and time of the monthly meetings.

Motion by Wills, seconded by Scharping, and passed by unanimous vote to hold the Police Committee meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Technology Center.

Chief Rovinsky presented his monthly and assist other agency reports.

Mayor Kreft asked Chief Rovinsky and Code Enforcement Officer Jenness to work on putting a protocol together for ordinance enforcement. Chief Rovinsky stated that the Police Department would handle vehicle violations and Jenness would handle the zoning side of things. Various scenarios were discussed and how they should be handled (investigation, letter, citations, etc.). Some discussion was also held on vehicles, campers, boats, and trailers parked on a property or street for lengthy periods of time.

The Committee reviewed the request from the Sibley County Fair Race Committee and Arlington Raceway asking for temporary relief from the requirement that they have to have a security officer present during the races. They also reviewed a section of Ordinance No. 187-Regulating the use of the Sibley County Fairgrounds grandstand and racetrack area that pertained to the security officer requirement. Chief Rovinsky commented that some of the provisions in the letter are not true, the main one being that they have not had any liquor violations. He stated that the individual (acting security officer) has been doing a great job and finding violators, at which time the police department has been notified and taken over the situation. Lensing commented that the Raceway Employees also help with security/crowd coverage. Wills questioned the financial drain on the operation and why the cost wasn't being passed onto the Raceway since it is their event. Scharping stated that it is a spectator event and therefore it is the Fair Board's responsibility. He added that the individual was quitting and they are having difficulty finding a replacement. Vrklan felt that if the Raceway was getting all the profit from the liquor sales that they should also have to cover the cost for the security officer as this person is there because of the liquor. Scharping stated that the cost for the security officer is being split because he is also supposed to patrol the fairgrounds during the races. Swenson felt that the amount being paid was not necessarily a financial burden considering the number of people at each event and security should not be cut back, but increased. It was suggested to allow a Raceway Employee, who for the most part is busy taking tickets at the beginning of the evening and free the remainder of evening, to do security as long as the majority

of time was being spent on security operations and not other duties on a trial basis or until a new individual can be hired.

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to deny the request from the Sibley County Fair Race Committee.

Nienaber gave an update on how things were going since the Sheriff's Department took over the police service day call. He stated that there had only been about a half dozen minor calls during the first two weeks. He questioned if anyone has been hearing any comments (good or bad) since they started; he hasn't heard anything. Swenson and Kloeckl commented that they had heard a few comments from people at the hospital, fire department and other businesses regarding the change in police service. Swenson stated that she was looking into having a security system installed at her business and so were a few other businesses, including Kloeckl's. Kloeckl added that the comments were not against the job the Sheriff's Department was doing, but were against the process of going to the Sheriff's Department for police service when we already have a police department. Some discussion was held on the overall police coverage for the city and who is liable/responsible over the course of a day. Mayor Kreft stated that if the public has complaints, compliments, or questions about the service the Sheriff's Department is providing, they should be directed to the Sheriff's Department so they may address them directly; the City does not assume responsibility for the Sheriff Department's actions. Lensing stated that from a legal stand point the City is not obligated to provide full-time police coverage even though this is something the residents feel they should have (ethical stand point). Mayor Kreft stated that the City's only legal obligation is to have a police chief (per the city charter). Mayor Kreft commented that the entire process for police service is to be re-evaluated in 90 days.

Considerable discussion was held on how to educate the public on which number to call, the Arlington P.D.-5200, the Sheriff's-800 or 911. Administrator Krueger suggested putting something in either the paper or with the utility bills that would explain to residents where they should be calling for non-emergencies. Lensing was opposed to an insert of any kind; it will only confuse the public more. It was also suggested to put the numbers on the city's web site. It was agreed that the only numbers to be advertised are the Arlington P.D.-5200 and Sheriff's 911. The message on the Arlington P.D. answering machine will direct the public to the Sheriff's-800 number if they need to speak to an officer and do not want to leave a message.

Motion by Kloeckl, seconded by Scharping, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Bill Lensing

Secretary Vicki L. Pomplun