

ARLINGTON POLICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2007

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

Members present: Chairman Lensing, Scharping, Deputy Sheriff Nienaber, Police Chief Rovinsky,
Councilmember Mike Vrklan, Mayor Kreft

Members absent: None

Also Present: Adm. Assistant Pomplun

The minutes from the January 10th & February 14, 2007 meetings were reviewed and stood approved as presented.

Chief Rovinsky presented his monthly report.

Chief Rovinsky presented 3 bids for a new squad car. He stated that a new squad is really needed. He would like to purchase a new light bar with LED's. He stated that they are brighter and safer, plus there is a lot less maintenance needed for them.

Motion by Scharping, seconded by Vrklan, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend to the City Council to authorize the police department to purchase a new squad car.

Some discussion was held on adding members to the Police Committee. Mayor Kreft stated that he had asked 5 individuals of which 4 said no (due to the Council's recent decision not to hire a 3rd officer) and 1 was very hesitant-Tim Kloeckl. He asked the Committee for recommendations if they had any. Nienaber commented that Jason Ruehling may be interested and is a resident of Arlington. Lensing commented that the general public is not happy with the Council's recent decision, but will not come forward and say so.

The Contract with Sibley County for Law Enforcement Services was reviewed. Pomplun handed out a revised copy that Attorney Arneson had dropped off for the Committee to look over. He informed her that the County had approved the contract the day before. There was some concern about the actual contract itself (it had changed considerably from the draft) and that the appendix was not included. Nienaber explained that the County was hesitant about there being an appendix (not the content of it) because if any services need to be changed, added or deleted, this would affect the entire contract and the whole approval process would have to be done again. Pomplun had contacted Attorney Arneson about the appendix and he informed her that it had been eliminated, but would now be in the form of a "Letter of Understanding" (a separate document). Nienaber explained how the contract works with the City of Winthrop.

Discussion was held on the police chief's job description. Chief Rovinsky stated that there is some confusion as to which description (had 2) was correct. Lensing commented that at the time Rovinsky was offered the chief's position, one of the requirements was to update the job description and the policy manual, which he did do and ahead of the scheduled time he was given. Rovinsky commented that he remembered presenting the policy manual to the Council back in January 2005, which had a revised job description in it, but is unsure if the Council approved it or not. Pomplun will research the Council minutes to see what action if any was taken (if job description was approved). Rovinsky stated that the Post Board has inspected and approved the policy manual as meeting state standards and really can't be tampered with too much. Mayor Kreft will put the job description on the next Council agenda.

The Committee reviewed the police chief evaluation form. Rovinsky stated that he had gotten it from City Administrator Krueger. Discussion was held on the evaluation process and who should be doing it. Mayor

Kreft commented that he does not want to be the sole individual evaluating the police chief. Lensing was opposed to the Committee having any part of the evaluation process; this should be the Mayor and Council's responsibility. However, he feels the Committee can help resolve any issues that may occur between the Chief, Council and Mayor. Rovinsky agreed and would like to see it handled this way. Rovinsky questioned that if the Police Committee was not comfortable with this, if the Employee Relations Committee could do it instead. Mayor Kreft stated that it would be up to the Council to decide. Rovinsky commented that he was not comfortable with the idea of his evaluation being done during a Council meeting (open or closed). Pomplun and Kreft explained that minutes from closed meetings are summarized (kept generic) for the public; the true minutes are kept in the file-not for public viewing. Vrklan explained how they do the City Administrator's evaluation and recommended the same procedure be done for the Police Chief. Mayor Kreft will put this on the next Council agenda (who should do evaluations and how often). Lensing questioned if the Police Committee would be given a copy to review once the Council had done the evaluation. Pomplun commented that during the Joint Police Committee/Council meeting that had been held back in January it was agreed that the Committee would do quarterly evaluations and give them to the Council for consideration when they do the annual evaluation. Lensing commented that eventually the Police Committee will have more members and can help with the evaluation process, but because of the current direction the Council has taken with the Police Department, he feels they should be very involved in the process at this time. Vrklan and Mayor Kreft agreed.

Chief Rovinsky commented that he was going to ask the Council's permission to attend the upcoming Chief's Convention in St. Cloud.

Chief Rovinsky passed around the book that he has printed up for first graders at Sibley East, which is sponsored by local businesses. He stated that this is the second year for this program and there is no cost to the city. The book contains lots of pictures and teaches basic manners, etc. The school has been very supportive of the program in the past. Another officer and/or himself actually go to each classroom and read the book to the students, which helps kids be more comfortable around police officers.

Mayor Kreft commented that Bruce Pinske (on behalf of the Railroad Authority) had been at a recent Council meeting and expressed concern about the snowmobile ordinance and how it can be enforced on the railroad property going through town. Chief Rovinsky stated that the ordinance reads that snowmobiles are to take the most direct route. It was noted that postings have been put up along some of the railroad's property going through town. It was also noted that snowmobiles had been allowed to ride parallel to the railroad tracks for years and in recent years this has changed. Mayor Kreft asked Chief Rovinsky to meet with Bruce Pinske on this to see if a compromise can be made at least for the remaining portion of this season. Scharping commented on what he has seen in other cities where the railroad runs through and what is or is not permitted for snowmobiles. Nienaber commented that he doesn't believe there is a problem between towns, as there is a trail system. Chief Rovinsky commented that it would fall under the private property issue and the police department can attempt to make stops and issue citations. Scharping commented that the snowmobile club intends to distribute new maps next year. Chief Rovinsky suggested publishing it in the paper also.

Brief discussion was held on ATV's.

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

Chairman, Bill Lensing

Secretary, Vicki L. Pomplun