

ARLINGTON POLICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2007

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

Members present: Chairman Lensing, Swenson, Rose, Deputy Sheriff Nienaber, Councilmember Vrklan, Councilmember Wills, Mayor Kreft

Members absent: Police Chief Rovinsky, Scharping, Kloeckl

Also present: Administrator Jaunich

It was the consensus of the Committee that the minutes from the July 23, 2007 meeting stood approved as presented.

Lensing read a letter from Snap Fitness and Wendy Solomonson regarding police coverage. Both letters expressed concern about not having a full-time police department. Nienaber commented on the letter from Solomonson. He stated that the Sheriff's Department has assisted the Arlington Police Department and citations have been issued. Lensing commented that the Council should be given copies of all letters that come in and they (the City) should send a letter which states they have been made aware of the complaint. Wills suggested that Chief Rovinsky should check his records to see what documentation he has (number of times called to residence and citations issued) and report back at the next Police Committee meeting. It was agreed that Chief Rovinsky should also be personally contacting the complainants, plus keeping a written record of all contacts. Some discussion was held on creating an ordinance implementing a procedure on how to handle problem properties (warnings, fines, criminal action, etc.). It was suggested to start with a stronger Police and Sheriff's Department presence before creating an ordinance.

The July-September Sheriff's Department reports were reviewed. Rose questioned what the average response time was for the Sheriff's Department. Nienaber commented approximately 10 minutes.

Swenson commented that in lieu of not having a full-time police department anytime soon, that the Contract with the Sheriff's Department should be revised to include more hours. Wills made the suggestion that maybe the Sheriff's Department and Police Department could vary their hours of coverage (don't start/end at the same time every day). Nienaber stated that this could be done with advanced notice. He has also spoken briefly with Chief Rovinsky about doing this. Mayor Kreft commented that the 2008 Budget for the Police Department was based on having 3 full-time officers; reiterating that it was only preliminary figures.

It was agreed to hold a monthly meeting regardless if agenda items are submitted to the City Office or not. The next regular meeting is November 26, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Technology Center.

Mayor Kreft asked some questions about the Drug Task Force and Nienaber answered them. Nienaber asked that the Council refrain from discussing problem properties at Council meetings. He stated the Drug Task Force was in the process of working an active investigation and after a Councilmember made some comments during a meeting, all activity ceased. He encouraged the members to contact the Drug Task Force or any officer if they suspect drugs on a property; it will be investigated.

Swenson had some concerns about the new smoking law. Brief discussion was held.

The meeting was adjourned.

Chairman Bill Lensing

Secretary Vicki L. Pomplun