

City of Crestview Hills

Safety Committee Minutes

July 24th, 2018

The Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chairman Bill Dorsey. Members present were Councilmembers Dave Kramer and Joe Roesel, Bill Rowekamp, Stephanie Rowe, Brian Baumgardner and J Zang and Charlotte Volpenhein. Guests present were Councilmember Sharon Gronotte and Annie Gronotte. Mayor Paul Meier and City Administrator Tim Williams also attended the meeting.

Chairman Dorsey opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Following a roll call of members, he started the meeting with approval of the minutes.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes from the March 5th, 2018 meeting was presented. A motion was made by Joe Roesel and seconded by Dave Kramer to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor of the motion to approve the minutes.

Updates on Equipment and Staffing at Fort Mitchell Fire Department

Chairman Dorsey welcomed Chief Adam Fuller to the meeting. He then referred the discussion to Mr. Rowekamp, who had questions following a recent apartment fire incident in Ft. Mitchell about staffing and equipment.

Mr. Rowekamp asked Chief Fuller to review his current staffing levels, the staffing available for the apartment fire and the status of the Department's equipment.

Chief Fuller noted that there were a number of incorrect rumors related to the major fire at the apartment complex. Those rumors include the notion that Crescent Spring/Villa Hills Fire Department beat Ft. Mitchell to the fire with manpower and equipment, that Ft. Mitchell has inadequate personnel to fight the fire, and adequate equipment was not available for the fire attack from Ft. Mitchell. Chief Fuller dispelled each of the rumors.

According to the Chief, Ft. Mitchell was the first on the scene with a pumper truck. A ladder truck was dispatched from Crescent Springs, with backup trucks coming from Edgewood and eventually Ludlow. The Ft. Mitchell unit #10 (ladder truck) is currently out of service with a pump and hydraulic issue. Ft. Mitchell had four full-time firefighters that day on shift plus the Fire Chief and Asst. Fire Chief. There were also two volunteers responding to the fire.

Chief Fuller proceeded to explain the fire scene and how the various departments attacked the fire. The Crescent Springs ladder truck was pulled up alongside the Fort Mitchell pumper truck. Personnel from Fort Mitchell and Crescent Spring FD pulled the hose lines at the initial attack. The fire broke through the roof of the structure, at which the Chief pulled out the firefighters and attacked the fire with the ladder truck. Once the flames were pushed back, the firefighters were then able to re-enter the building to complete extinguishing the fire.

Based on the potential severity of the fire, the Chief was very happy that the resulting damage was to only three units, and they did not lose the entire building. He stated this was a good stop.

Chief Fuller then reviewed the staffing at the Department based on a follow-up questions from Mr. Rowekamp. The Department is currently down one firefighter, but he will be replaced next month with an experienced firefighter from Ohio. He also indicated that the new intern program is up and running with Beechwood H.S. The Department hopes that this new program will develop a greater interest in the fire service and hopefully develop future firefighters. He noted that one intern that went through their program is now fulltime with the City of Newport. The Department has also started a junior firefighter program recently, also in conjunction with Beechwood H.S. Chief Fuller stated that it is becoming much more difficult to find new people to enter the fire service, and with Gateway C.C. closing their paramedic training program, training new firefighters is even more difficult.

There ensued a good deal of discussion about volunteers in the Department. Chief Fuller acknowledges that overall numbers had decreased substantially over the past couple of years, and the Department is now actively looking to recruit new volunteers to improve staffing. The Chief noted that there were 299 total hours of volunteer time logged in June and two new volunteers were added recently to the department. Volunteer shifts have been reinstated. The Department currently has 15 volunteers. Finally, the Department will be adding two new part-time firefighters (Monday-Friday) over the next few months. (In an analysis of the Department's call volume, their busiest times are M-F between 8 am and 6 pm.)

The discussions concluded with an extensive conversation on equipment. Chief Fuller noted that Engine #10 was beyond its useful life and is currently scheduled to be replaced in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Mr. Rowekamp asked what that would cost. The Chief stated that replacing the unit in a comparable fashion would be about 1.2 million. However, he is looking closely at a new unit that runs on a single axle but retains the ladder size and greater pumping capacity than the current Unit #10 that is a 1994 model. He believes the new quint unit would run much cheaper (perhaps \$850,000) and provide better maneuverability.

There was also discussion about the City of Erlanger no longer owning a ladder truck. Chief Fuller noted that ISO (Insurance Service Offices) rating systems have been changing recently, and a fire department can get credit for a ladder truck with another jurisdiction provided it is within 5 miles of the jurisdiction's boundaries. The Committee discussed this at length, including the ramifications for cities that maintain the cost of a ladder truck and those that rely on mutual aid for this equipment. Chief Fuller noted that the ISO would be conducting a review of the agency for rating purposes later this year. He also noted that Engine #1 (rescue pumper) would be the frontline response truck while Engine #10 was out of service.

Chairman Dorsey thanked Chief Fuller for attending the meeting and providing more information on the Department to the Committee members.

Discussion of City's On-Street Parking Restriction Ordinance

Chairman Dorsey noted that a resident from Summit Lakes attended the June Council meeting and voiced objections to the City's on-street overnight parking restrictions. She provided a few options for the City Council to consider, including providing parking passes to residents each year to use as needed throughout the year.

Chairman Dorsey noted that the resident brought up several points in the meeting that he believed were inaccurate, but did not want to interject as she was making the presentation. Those included the belief that the parking tickets were a money generator for the City. Mr. Dorsey noted that it cost more money to issue the citation and collect the fee than the \$5.00 cost. He also noted that as a retired police officer, he believes it is indeed valuable to have officers patrolling the residential streets at night rather than spending most of their time within the retail and business areas.

Dave Kramer noted that he first became aware of the overnight parking restriction back in the 1990's when he received a ticket. At first, he did not understand the reasoning for the restriction, but has since come to appreciate the regulation for the following reasons; a deterrent to crime, preventing residents from storing excess cars on the street, aesthetics to the community, improved ability to clear streets during snow events, and ease in street cleaning. He spoke in favor of retaining the existing ordinance. Mr. Kramer noted the suggestions of the resident to provide pre-approved passes, but was concerned about the logistical issues of the system. Committee discussion ensued on parking passes.

Brian Baumgardner spoke in favor of the current ordinance. He believed that eliminating use of the city streets for storage of extra vehicles improves the aesthetics of his neighborhood. He also believes it is better for the safety of the streets (children not running out from behind vehicles).

Chief Schutte made an observation on the safety of the ordinance. He stated that based on his analysis of the statistics, that there was no more residential crime in Crestview Hills than Lakeside Park, even though on-street parking was allowed in that community. He also related that year to-date, the Police Authority has issued a total of 277 violations in Crestview Hills, of which 259 were for overnight parking violations. (117 had been paid, and 114 were outstanding)

Sharon Gronotte noted that she felt like \$5 was a small price to pay to ensure the safety of visitors that may be attending gatherings at someone's home and need to stay the evening. Ms. Gronotte continued by noting that she was concerned about residents that have single car garages in her neighborhood with single lane driveways. This could pose an issue of space if they have several teenagers that drive. She wondered if we could supply a regular yearly ticket to those individuals if they could prove a need for parking on the street. More discussion ensued from the Committee. Mayor Meier noted that in his neighborhood, he has observed many residents that are unable to utilize their garages for vehicles since they are using it primarily for storage.

Joe Roesel then made a motion to not alter the existing ordinance due to the reasons stated previously by the committee members. The motion was seconded by J Zang.

Stephanie Rowe commented that parking during other times of the day in high traffic areas could be a safety problem if children are playing in the adjoining yards. She also noted that she liked the resident idea that each household would receive one permanent street pass each year for homes that had more than three registered vehicles.

J Zang stated that he thought the City could do a better job of communicating the ordinance and explaining its purpose to residents. He noted that some new residents may not even be aware of the overnight parking restriction.

Mayor Meier clarified that parking on the street does not in his opinion negatively impact street sweeping. He stated that Florence personnel swept the streets on the weekend during the day and there were some cars on the street.

Mayor Meier inquired if the no parking on streets 3 am to 6 am sign was put back up on Legends Way. Mr. Williams stated that it had been installed several weeks ago.

The Committee further discussed the existing ordinance. Mayor Meier noted that the residents at the June Council meeting cited a possible inconsistency in the ordinance in sections (a) and (b). David Kramer suggested that the Committee might want to alter the existing language so that there were not conflicts between the "no parking for more than 24 hours" requirement, and the ban on vehicles on the streets between 3 am and 6 am. After more discussion, Mr. Roesel agreed to amend his motion to instruct the City Attorney to clarify the ordinance. Amended motion was accepted by J Zang.

Chairman Dorsey called for the vote. All in favor of the motion to recommend to the City Council no change in the overnight parking restriction. The Committee supports changes to the ordinance that would better clarify the restriction.

Being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Joe Roesel to adjourn, seconded by Dave Kramer. All in favor of the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.