

**CITY OF BYRON
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, 6:00 PM
BYRON CITY HALL**

Alderman Hobbie called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alderman Chairman Zeke Hobbie, Alderman Mike Gyorkos, Alderman Cheryl Metz, Alderman Christy Hanlin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Alderman Jessica Nehring, Alderman Todd Isaacs, Alderman Emily Gerdes, Clerk Caryn Huber, Police Chief Todd Murray, Attorney Aaron Szeto, Director Aaron Vincer

- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 –** Alderman Hanlin motioned to approve, as presented, the September 15, 2021, Public Safety Committee meeting agenda. Seconded by Alderman Gyorkos. Roll call vote: Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE; Metz, AYE; Hobbie, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT –** None
- 4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 21, 2021 –**Alderman Hanlin motioned to approve, as presented, the July 21, 2021, Public Safety Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Alderman Metz. Roll call vote: Hanlin, AYE; Metz, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0.
- 5. SQUAD CARS –** Chief Murray updated the committee on squad cars. A vehicle that was ordered in April has not arrived yet. He is hoping to receive it by the end of the month, but it still has to be outfitted. One of the Chargers is being used by two officers and the miles are increasing rapidly. The other Charger is at Bemis waiting for the engine to be replaced. The repair is under warranty. The 2015 Explorer needs a new transmission soon. The 2013 Durango that the Chief drives has 85,000 miles on it. At one point last week, three squad cars were down and only one was operating. With Garrett's absence (military deployment) until 2023, he is saving approximately \$70,000 per year in salary and benefits. He would like to purchase a vehicle, if he can find one, by moving these funds. Alderman Isaacs asked about overtime. Chief Murray said it will affect it somewhat, but not much. Other accounts have funds available, but not enough for a squad car purchase. A check for \$45,000 is being held for the squad car that is on order. Alderman Hobbie asked if some of the utility tax was designated for the police department. Alderman Hanlin said it was talked about when we were discussing providing a school resource officer, however, once the county started providing the school resource officer, the money went into the general fund. Traditionally, Chief Murray has purchased cars using funds from the department's 25% of the Telecom tax, however, these funds are decreasing, and he now only receives approximately \$2,000/month from the tax. Chief Murray would like to purchase one car this

year. He anticipates we will need repairs to the municipal building as well as additional cars in the next fiscal year. Alderman Gyorkos asked what the total cost of the car is with the equipment installed. Chief Murray estimated that to be \$40-\$45,000. Rather than wait an additional two months for the Public Safety Committee to meet again, this item will be put on the Administrative Committee and Council agendas. Alderman Isaacs will look at budget vrs. expenditures for the first four months of this fiscal year, and see what might be available to be transferred from salaries to equipment. Chief Murray will check additional dealerships to see what is available. Alderman Isaacs suggested that Chief Murray should proceed with the purchase if he finds a vehicle available.

6. **POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET**– A current budget analysis as of September 1 is included in Dropbox. The department is close to 33% after the first four months of the year.
7. **POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY & UPDATE** – Administrative tows are up from last year for the month of August. • There was an accident on Mill and Tower Road where a car hit a pedestrian. The teen on foot started to cross the road without looking (according to a witness) and was hit by the mirror of the oncoming car. Another accident occurred near the same location - a car missed the curve and continued straight. The passengers were ok. • The department has distributed about 30 applications for the open police officer position, and 13 have been returned. Testing will take place on October 2, then background checks will begin. The officer will start in mid-January.
8. **SOCIAL MEDIA** – Clerk Huber reported that our Facebook page has between 1,500 and 1,600 followers at this time. A post regarding downtown murals received 56,000 views with over 450 shares. She thanked council members for post ideas.
9. **ADJOURN** - Alderman Metz motioned to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Alderman Gyorkos. Roll call vote: Metz, AYE; Hobbie, AYE; Gyorkos, AYE; Hanlin, AYE. Motion passed: AYE, 4; NAY, 0; ABS, 0. Alderman Hobbie adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm. The next regular Public Safety Committee meeting is November 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, *Caryn A. Huber*, City Clerk of Byron, Illinois