Safety Committee Meeting of Council  
City of Richmond Heights  
October 15, 2019

Chairman Lentine called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Roll Call:  
Present:  Alexander, Lentine, Lewis, Ursu

Other Council present:  Kumin, Hurst

Approval of minutes from September 17, 2019 – motion by Lewis, seconded by Lentine; passed 4-0

Reports:

Mayor David Roche/Safety Director:  Comment as we go along.

Fire Chief, Neumann:  On Sat the 12th we partnered with Red Cross and Selman Co. for a smoke alarm detector event, with 45 volunteers.  It provided home safety inspections and smoke alarms for residents.  There were 8 teams of 4 people out in the area and we installed 222 smoke alarms in 83 homes.  We will continue to follow up with people on the list and install more.

Police Chief, Tom Wetzel:  The K9 fundraising is up to $16,000 and waiting on more money with the grant.  The City will need a new SUV vehicle to be outfitted.  It is estimated that we need is $65,000.  We hope to get in the spring class with a dog for training.

Special Guest—Andre Simenauer, from Lexipol, portfolio leader on law enforcement and corrections:

- Chief Wetzel said that this program has built in tracking and testing.  It is tied in with Police 1 website training center.  This is a premier arrangement and we hope to do this.
- Chief Neumann said this is all about policies.  It should be our goal to improve operation excellence.  The PD and FD struggle to get by with ill-fitting policies and it puts our city at an increased risk for liability.  We should be following a script.  The time is right.
- Mr. Simenauer presented a slide show on his company.  There are 3,700 public safety depts. they work with.  It provides policies for law enforcement and local govt's.  They work with Ohio law and fire manuals and also have training on the policies.  If state statutes change, they incorporate those into updates and have new training on them.  Everything is legally updated.  Will tailor policies to fit exact needs of the city.  Updates twice a year.  30 training bulletins per month.  Give sample scenarios and discuss options and issues with each scenario with the officers.  There are 415 agencies in Ohio and a large number in Cuyahoga County.
- Chief Neumann said that Northfield Village and some communities in the Hillcrest area use this, as well as Painesville.
- Ursu asked about when State legislature makes a change and do you change it right away?  Mr. Simenauer said that yes, there will be an update and email sent out to all, to see if applicable to them and it will be incorporated.
- Lentine wondered if the Law Director, Todd Hunt, works with Lexipol at all in his work with other cities.
The fee goes by the size of the depts. and number of employees. We would just be looking at police and fire depts.

Ursu asked how easy this is to use if police have a question. There is an app, and also verbal/phone calls to call in with questions on the scene.

Kumin said it is a good idea to standardize and have a fresh set of eyes on our policies. The training program is a significant benefit to us that keeps up with current law.

Alexander asked what other local Hillcrest area cities are doing this.

The fee for the city is $10,181 for police and $7,445 for fire.---$17,626 total

This is an annual fee the city pays and can opt out after each year, if they want to.

Chief Neumann said that the retired Chief Rowe had given this vendor to them to look at. This is the first step in the process and look to put in the budget for 2020. This is just an introduction to Council on this.

Lentine said he would like to talk to the Law Director, Todd Hunt about this.

**City Engineer, Lee Courtney:** Comment as we go along.

**AUDIENCE:** -none-

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grants Updates:** Chief Neumann said the AFG grant for $49K (tools) was accepted and we are writing up a bid now. Hoping for a match from the county.

**Police Cars:** Chief Wetzel said they are waiting for them, and waiting on what will transfer over from the old cars in the outfitting process. $26,909.68 for 2 vehicles.

**Awning for Fire Dept:** Final plans complete, awning up in November said Chief Neumann

**Street Lights:** Hold on for more discussion.

**K-9 Initiative:** Chief Wetzel said a company gave them a $1,483 check last week and we are just shy of $12,000. PetSmart agreed to give food for life for the Police K9 dog as well.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sound the Alarm**—see Neumann’s report.

**Safety training:** It is coming up this week, per Chief Neumann.

**Safety police dept (motion to recommend to Finance)**

- **MOTION for the Outfitting of cars in the amount of $26,909 for 2 police cars not to exceed $27K by Lentine, seconded by Ursu; passed 4-0.**

- **MOTION for an additional $1200 for bullet proof vest appropriation, which covers 2 vests purchases coming up by Lewis, seconded by Lentine; passed 4-0.**
MOTION for the ammo order just under $9,000 for Tasers, holsters, ammo, less lethal rounds, as covered in the budget, $8,246.04 total, so not to exceed $8,250 by Lentine, seconded by Lewis; passed 4-0.

Kiwanis Lodge police program on building mutual respect and community trust: It is a 4 hour class on Nov 4 8am-12, run by the police dept.

Replace 3 MTD units—police dept: Over 5 years old and need to replace those. Just under $7,000. Need for traffic stops. It was in the budget for 2019.

MOTION to recommend to Finance the replacement of 3 MTD units not to exceed $7,000 by Lewis, seconded by Alexander; passed 4-0.

Watch guard camera systems: police
- We have 2 cameras from 2013, and at point that is costs more to warrantee them each year. Looking to get 2 new cameras in the 2 Tahoes. Also looking at body cams in the future and will tie in with these. $10,440 for 2 cameras.
- MOTION to recommend to Finance the purchase of 2 watch guard cameras not to exceed $11,000, by Lewis, seconded by Lentine; passed 4-0.

Cell phone use: Chief Wetzel would like to prohibit use of cell phones while driving. Hands free is allowed, but not holding the phone. Would like to promote this on FB and website and he would like to make this a misdemeanor. Exceptions made for emergency calls. Passed out info on this.

Alexander commented on cell phones and how this is already illegal in the state of Ohio, under the “Full time attention” law. Chief Wetzel said this additional ordinance would give the instant teeth needed on this. Alexander said he doesn’t like making rules/laws and not enforcing them. Will keep on for further discussion.

Dangerous Dogs: Declared the resident dog (pit bull) from last meeting a dangerous dog. Added more info on the ordinance. Looked at options, like fluorescent collar, sign in yard, microchip and training for the dog. Look to add this to the ordinance to strengthen the law in the city. Dog must be muzzled in public. Met with household who had the vicious dog and gave them info on the ordinance. There are penalties in place under the Ordinance 505.17, which addresses violations and prohibitions. Will keep on for discussion.

Audience/Residents:
Sharronea Jackson, 394 Harris Road—She talked about how she is going into crime prevention, and also is a volunteer at The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. She would like to know what’s going on and how to help in the city.
Lentine said she should meet up with both of the Chiefs and get more information on how to help.
Alexander added that she might be interested in becoming an auxiliary officer.
Kumin also added to check out the Neighborhood Block Watch program

Becky Frozier, Harris: She commented on how the coyotes are back and to please watch your small dogs, as it seems most of the feral cats in the area are gone.
Julius Jackson, 394 Harris Road: He asked if there are any plans on doing something with the number of deer in the city.
Kumin said the city has been looking into this, on the non-lethal alternatives, as well as the culling. We have been looking at the non-lethal methods of birth control and are hoping we can see money freed up in county to be part of a pilot program for the catch, neuter and release program.

**Chairman Lentine adjourned this meeting at 8:40 pm**

*Meeting Minutes taken by Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council*