



Rochester Hills Minutes Public Safety Committee

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Jim Duistermars, Louis Eble, Gregory Formanczyk, Victoria Gates, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Andrew Roscoe, Bob Smith, Gregory Walterhouse

Monday, February 2, 2004

7:30 PM

750 Barclay Circle

**Meeting location changed to conduct tour of new Sheriff's Sub Station,
750 Barclay Circle, Rochester Hills, MI 48307**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Duistermars called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Duistermars, Raschke, Eble and Formanczyk

Absent: Robbins

Non Voting Members Present: Roscoe, Smith, Walterhouse

Non Voting Members Absent: Gates

Members Robbins and Gates provided previous notice of their absences and requested to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2004-0027 Regular Meeting - January 12, 2004

Attachments: 011204 DRAFT Public Safety Minutes.pdf; Master Summary.pdf

A motion was made by Raschke, seconded by Formanczyk, that this matter be Approved.

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting for January 12, 2004 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Eble and Formanczyk

Absent: Robbins

COMMUNICATIONS

2004-0028 Memo from Clerk's Office - Fire Response Time and Five-Year Plan

Attachments: 011204 Req 5 Yr Plan & CEMS.pdf; 020204 CEMS Response Times.pdf

Chief Walterhouse briefly explained that the Fire Department's average medical

emergency response times fall within the standards set by the County of eight (8) minutes ninety percent (90%) of the time. He did note that the response times occasionally will fall beyond the eight (8) minutes depending on location, time of day and traffic.

Mr. Duistermars noted that this information would be passed along to Mr. Robbins who had requested the information but was unable to attend the evening's meeting.

Received and Filed

2004-0029 Memo from Clerk's Office - New Agenda/Minutes Format

Attachments: 012604 new agenda min format Legistar.pdf

Received and Filed

2004-0030 Memo from Clerk's Office - Amendments to Bylaws

Attachments: Committee Bylaws Amendments 012104.pdf; PS Bylaws Final 01-21-04.pdf

Received and Filed

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004-0032 Discuss False Alarm Program

Attachments: 020204 False Alarm info.pdf

Captain Smith introduced Deputy Dan Clark explaining that Mr. Clark had previously worked for the City of Troy Police Department where he implemented and administered a program which significantly reduced the number of false alarm calls.

Mr. Clark, noting that nearly ninety-nine percent (99%) of alarm calls to police departments are false, explained the program used in Troy as well as many other municipalities throughout the United States. The program, as he described it, uses the following techniques:

- The City ordinance is written to require that all homeowners and businesses with monitored alarm systems register these systems with the City and pay an annual registration fee.

- The ordinance clarifies that the City and its Police Department are under no obligation to respond to alarms, especially in the case of repeated falls alarms.

- The ordinance defines a fine structure to be implemented in the case of repeated false alarms. For example, a \$100 fine for the third and fourth false alarm, \$200 for the fifth and sixth false alarm, \$500 for every false alarm thereafter.

- A sworn officer ~~must~~ should be assigned to this program to add authority and weight to the implementation of the program.

- A clerk ~~will~~ may be needed to build and maintain a data base of alarm system registrants.

- A properly maintained data base will also function as documentation to be presented in court were litigation brought by a homeowner or business in the event of the police not responding to an appropriate alarm.

- The program, after approximately five (5) years of consistent implementation, will yield significantly fewer false alarms.

Mr. Clark stressed that the program is not designed to "pay for itself" through fines and registration fees, but rather to reduce false alarm calls to the police department, thus freeing officers to respond to more pressing duties.

Following in-depth discussion of the program, Committee members reached a consensus to move a resolution to have a presentation of this program made before City Council at a future Work Session.

A motion was made by Raschke, seconded by Formanczyk, that this matter be Recommended for Approval to the City Council Work Session.

Whereas, significant problems are caused in Rochester Hills by a large number of Police responses to false alarm systems. These false alarms cause man power problems, costs, liability issues and greater harm by reducing the credibility of all alarms.

Whereas, other communities have instituted programs involving alarm registration and a scale of fines for repeat false alarms.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council Public Safety Committee recommends that City Council invite Captain Bob Smith and Deputy Dan Clark to a future City Council Work Session to present both the problems and proposed solutions.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Eble and Formanczyk

Absent: Robbins

NEW BUSINESS

2004-0047 Tour of New Sheriff's Department Sub Station, 750 Barclay Circle

Capt. Smith provided a tour of the new Oakland County Sheriffs Department Substation located at 750 Barclay Circle

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Malfunctioning Fire Station Traffic Lights

Ms. Raschke indicated that she had received a complaint from a resident who claimed the traffic lights at the Fire Station's on Livernois and Walton were not functioning properly and, thus, were not stopping traffic when the fire engines were exiting the stations.

Chief Waltherhouse explained that the lights are engaged differently depending on the time of day and the amount of traffic on the roads. He noted that this is more so the case for the Livernois Fire Station, and he would look into the matter at the Walton Fire Station.

Narcotics Task Force

Mr. Formanczyk asked Mr. Duistermars when the participation in the Narcotics Task Force issue would be added to a City Council meeting agenda.

Mr. Duistermars explained that the City Council meeting agenda is set by the Council President and that the matter has been brought to his attention.

Mr. Duistermars and Ms. Raschke assured their fellow Committee members they would make every effort to influence the Council President to move forward with this issue.

NEXT MEETING DATE

March 1, 2004 - 7:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 10:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by Margaret Strate.