

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

July 11, 2011

Mayor D'Epifanio called the Council-Manager Briefing to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Tim Meyers, Tim Abbott, Mitch Rhodus, Mike Snyder, Terry Senger, Marty Judd, and Mike Oler. Staff present: Tim Bachman, Angie Johns, Mark Wendling, Dave Crouch, Dave Butsch, Don Bennett, Mike Dickey, Andy Eddy, Carol Mayhall, Bob Schappacher, and Mary Hopton.

Police Chief Dickey explained tonight there will be a short presentation for crime trends, metric reports, Honor and Remember presentation and the meeting will continue outside for the Explorer's Post demonstration. He explained the Explorer Post was one of Council's goals, which began in late 2010 with 20 explorers, now there are 12. He discussed the goals of law enforcement exploring is to instill values into the kids, interest them and give them exposure to a law enforcement career. He further explained as part of the training process, exploring engages in regional and national competitions, like a round-up. He stated our crew took second place out of 30 teams in one of the events over two days. He explained they are working with Cincinnati Financial Corporation to bring the round-up to Fairfield next year at the building at South Gilmore and Mack Road to set-up a two day competition and bring in about 30 teams from the tri-state, which would bring recognition to Fairfield and this unit. He discussed a couple examples will be shown at the end of the meeting of how the explorers run through exercises, how they are trained and critiqued. Chief Dickey stated the post operation is entirely volunteer among about six staff members on the department that are advisors. He stated grant money is used for uniforms and equipment. He further explained some of the grant money is used to bring an officer in that is not a regular part of it to do some training or a couple hours in the evening, but the advisors are all volunteer.

Goal Update: Crime Trends/Deployment – Mike Dickey

Chief Dickey discussed the first six months of the year in terms of crime. He stated if the trend continues we will still be down at the end of the year. He explained burglaries are up slightly, but 27 – 30 of them are by one individual who was caught in the act after a week's worth of 24 hour surveillance. He explained this goes back to identifying trends and patterns and figuring out who's doing what rather than trying to solve an individual robbery, and it is about figuring out who is doing it and go after that individual and try to catch him or her in the act. He explained each rape case was an offender known to the victim. He discussed a chart for the violent crime rate comparison from 2009 and property crime rate comparison, which shows where Fairfield ranks between two cities and the State of Ohio. Councilmember Meyers commented Fairfield did not make the top 50 cities in the region, we continue to go down and our stats are positive, another 12 percent if stats hold up, but how do we compare with the other 50 that have made it. Chief Dickey responded he hasn't looked into specifics yet, but as they get into the CPM project and get the numbers comparing that is where the difference will be seen. Councilmember Meyers further commented one of the factors of that 50 is low crime rate. Mayor D'Epifanio stated he has tried to get a hold of the publisher and can't get a return call. He further stated that magazine is a little sister to the Cincinnati magazine and he is not sure how much they went into all this. Chief Dickey explained the crime rate is not high and they will look at how it ranks to other divisions. Chief Dickey explained they are doing their best to keep numbers down through prevention and through a directed effort of apprehending those who did it. He explained they continue to watch for burglaries. He discussed two charts which show it is more likely for burglaries to occur in a residential neighborhood versus commercial in the daytime and that is how they will marshal forces to try to prevent those. He discussed that they continue to educate on the preventability of auto thefts. Mayor D'Epifanio positively commented on the increased visibility of the police. Councilmember Abbott asked if gang activity and graffiti are on the decline. Chief Dickey responded occasionally there is graffiti, but it is not gang graffiti and they do not see any gang activity per se or gang signs or graffiti. Public Works Director Dave Butsch explained they try to remove graffiti right away if they hear about it or if they see it when they are out mowing. Councilmember Oler commented he would like to know more about the large increase in the use of guns and also juvenile crimes. Chief Dickey explained the rules adopted by the Parks Board are being enforced and has resulted in substantially diminished juvenile activity in Village Green. Chief Dickey commented overall CODY is working well; however, IT is working on a network problem.

New Metrics Review

Finance Director Mary Hopton discussed the new finance metric for May which is for investment portfolio; she explained the return rates are about .8%. She further explained we are strictly limited on the types of investments. Public Utilities Director Dave Crouch explained he added the metric for non revenue water in which industry standards are about 15% and for the last three years we have floated from 13-18%, but we have a five year goal of 10%. He discussed ways water is lost including system leaks, main breaks, hydrant flushing, street sweepers, sewer cleaning, firefighting and a number of other things. Chief Dickey explained he added traffic stops which is down to 598 in 2011 from 737 in 2010. He further explained traffic problems are the number one complaint and he wants the public to see that officers are making stops. Mayor and Council decided to peruse the rest of the metrics on their own and move to the demonstration after the Honor and Remember Flag presentation.

Honor and Remember Flag – Thomas Mitchell

Thomas Mitchell, Ohio Chapter Director for the Honor and Remember Organization discussed the history of the organization and his involvement. He stated nine states have adopted the flag and it is in the Veteran Affairs Committee in the Ohio General Assembly. He displayed the flag and explained the symbolism for the various sections of the flag. Mr. Mitchell explained the goal is to present to the family of those killed with a personalized flag. He discussed there is no flag or symbol that a private citizen can fly or put in his or her window to show support for these gold star families. Mr. Mitchell stated Fairfield Township, the City of Hamilton, and Butler County have all adopted the flag. The Mayor explained Mr. Mitchell is here tonight to ask for a resolution, which is ready, to be passed in support. Mr. Mitchell explained the flag should fly under the United States flag or anyplace where you would fly a city flag. He explained two flags have been purchased from the Hamilton Community Foundation Michal J Colligan Fund that will be presented to the City of Fairfield if adopted by Council.

Explorer's Post Demonstration

At 6:29 PM, this portion of the meeting was moved outside and due to the nature of the presentation was not able to be recorded. The Fairfield Explorer's Post gave a demonstration of example exercises they would have to complete in competitions.

Adjournment

Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns
Clerk of Council