

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

MARCH 8, 2010

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, Marty Judd, Mike Oler, Terry Senger, Mitch Rhodus, Mike Snyder and Tim Abbott. Staff present: Mike Dickey, Don Bennett, Angie Johns, Dave Crouch, Arthur Pizzano, Carol Mayhall, Dave Butsch, John Clemmons and Jim Bell.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Don Bennett noted City Council's 2010 goals for Public Safety is to enhance Public Safety services to the community through new technology dedication to have a safe community for all residents and continue to explore efficient ways to make Fairfield a safer community. Chief Bennett discussed the 800 MHZ radio system that is up and running. He explained the collaborative efforts with the City of Hamilton, City of Monroe, City of Middletown, Ross Township and West Chester Township to look at standardizing policies. He discussed the use of laptops that were made available through a Federal grant three years ago. Chief Bennett discussed the efficiency and accuracy of using Pen based EMS reporting in which everything is done electronically making the process virtually paperless. He described Firehouse Mobile which is used in all the trucks for mobile EMS reporting. He stated they also have available a list of all commercial occupancies, contact numbers and any special hazards. All of units link up once a week and download updated information. Chief Bennett gave a brief overview of the Adashi software that is used in case of a hazardous materials incident. He explained depending on the situation Butler County EMA would be involved, but the City would remain in command. He further explained that Code Red would be used as a means of notification. Chief Bennett demonstrated Pictometry, which provides additional views of buildings. He discussed the new Cardiac Care equipment, which allows EKGs to be transmitted to the hospital to be read by a doctor/cardiologist. He stated this equipment was received through a grant. He discussed the Fire Departments use of CODY and the run assignment districts. Chief Bennett explained the cost savings of the Part time Paramedic program, embraced by Local 4010, that is used when part time paramedics cover for full time employees. He further explained the improvement in the recruitment and retention of part time employees. He stated there are currently 12 paramedics and 7 pending approvals. He further stated paramedics must be approved by Dr. Yamaguchi. Chief Bennett discussed the customer service training that was recently completed and initiated, which emphasized the need for compassion and the non-traditional roles of fire department personnel in enhancing quality of life. He discussed a newer system in which adult protective services is notified immediately of situations that need attentions. City Manager Pizzano explained we are trying to overlap varying goals among the departments. Chief Bennett compared the calls for service in 2006 and 2009: EMS runs-3,748 in 2006, 4,684 in 2009; Fire runs – 1,062 in 2006, 1,150 in 2009; and first responder runs 250 in 2006, 1290 in 2009. He discussed the increased use of first responders to provide full paramedic service on the scene within a 4 ½ minute time frame. He discussed the compensation for transportation of patients noting Medicare/Medicaid control the EMS billing and bills are sent to insurance not the patients.

Police Department

Police Chief Mike Dickey displayed and explained the various features of the Accuglobe E-9-1-1 Mapping system used by dispatchers when 9-1-1 calls come in. Chief Dickey described how Pictometry is used to allow officers and dispatchers to visualize what is going on. He explained that Butler County provides updates to this program. Chief Dickey discussed the new license plate readers that will be equipped on some of the cars. He noted this system will be regional based for Butler and Hamilton Counties and is being partially funded through a grant from Homeland Security. He explained this will be live in three weeks and one of our cars is being equipped today. Chief Dickey stated bird dog systems may be purchased with grants this year. He commented on the NEAT program in which the Police Department partnered with Development services noting only a few referrals for speeding issues, junk cars, and graffiti sites were received. He commented that a warranty officer is now serving zoning summons rather than the zoning inspectors. Chief Dickey briefly overviewed the operating indicators for 2009 including 31,622 calls for service, 3,612 adult arrests, 387 juvenile arrests, 3,456 traffic citations, 1,321 traffic crashes, and 27,155 9-1-1 center calls. He explained that officers are required to make one traffic stop for each shift worked during a month. He commented staffing has remained at about 61 police officers since around 2004. He further commented that the crime trend has steadily been diminishing since 1995 with 2008 to 2009 as pretty flat. He commented overall violent crime is down about 5% with property up just slightly. Chief Dickey explained a 50% reduction of sick leave usage from 2008 to 2009 due to a re-emphasis on the need for use of sick leave. He discussed a new schedule from fleet that was implemented to stretch out the useful life of cruisers and not change them out until they reach 100,000 miles. He briefly discussed the department's joint efforts with others including the radio system, range system and various training opportunities. He discussed crime analysis which includes 5-day trends, strategizing & targeting by patrol, follow-up by investigators, and follow-up by the crime prevention officer. He highlighted various community events and programs the department participated in for the year 2009 including the new high school mentoring program. He displayed the Public Safety Tribute statue and the area near Sandy & Nilles where it will be located. In reference to a suggestion brought up during the Regular Meeting two weeks ago, Councilmember Senger expressed his desire to continue to have the Council-Manager Briefings in this room.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns
Clerk of Council