

City of Auburn
Public Safety and Community Services Council Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

6:00 PM

Community Room – Auburn Hall

Present: Councilor David Young; Councilor Leroy Walker; Councilor Andy Titus; Paul Fraser, Director of Info Technology; Phil Crowell, Chief of Police; Phyllis Gamache, 911 Director; Paul LeClair, Lewiston Fire Chief; and Mamie Anthoine Ney, Library Director.

Councilor Walker called the meeting to order:

DISPATCH SERVICES

911 Director Gamache updated the committee on the work that has been done with the Androscoggin County Sheriff as it pertains to technology sharing. Currently we support the county with a database shared infrastructure. The sheriff had been considering creating a proprietary database system which would have removed access to the jail files for Auburn and Lewiston PD. This decision would also have limited the access to the Lewiston and Auburn records management system that is currently accessible by the county deputies. An agreement has been reached to enhance our current system which will allow Sabattus to join and information will continue to be shared. This is a cost saving for the county budget and continues to build upon a shared infrastructure.

Director Gamache further shared about the need to place a tower at the Goff Street Station which is currently owned by the county. This will increase Auburn's radio capacity greatly when the radio capital replacement starts to take place.

A contract will be drafted for both parties to sign/agree upon which will include the funding amount for the county for the service and built in increases over the next few years.

In response to the councilor's original request – "Can the county take over dispatch for Auburn currently?" Chief Crowell reported that the county cannot provide dispatch services for Auburn currently. If the county continues to build out their dispatch system they could consider this but there is no funding in the capital plan to move in this direction.

Councilor Walker reported that the city manager has proposed to reduce the 911 budget by \$213,000. Councilor Titus reported that the inter-local agreement is clear and the city was out of order in the making that recommendation. The discussion is what he hopes will take place because we need to make changes to create sustainability. He also stated that it is important for other communities to pay their fair share to the county for the services they are receiving.

Councilor Young echoed the same challenge with having communities pay for their services – establishing the funding formula will be important.

Councilor Walker requested that the director provide comparison data with other centers to determine the per capita costs for running communication centers.

Councilor Walker requested the director provide the breakdown for the type of calls and by which agency.

Director Gamache also shared that, with the work being done with the county, we will be planning on establishing the county center as the back-up facility for LA-9111. Currently, we do not have a back-up option which is critical and places us out of compliance with accreditation.

Councilor Walker is requesting a letter from Sheriff Samson on what has been agreed upon and a timeline for future collaborations (performance steps).

- Councilor Titus made the motion to recommend that the funding removed by the city manager be reinstated. Motion was seconded by Councilor Young. Unanimous approval.

Parking Plan

Chief Crowell reported the need to install “pay and display” units within the parking areas for the City of Auburn. We have certain areas in the city that demand turnover for business. Most times spaces have 2hr parking limits with some exceptions like Turner Street in front of the Court House which is 1 hour. We also have those who come to the city that want parking for more than 2hrs but may not come to the downtown frequently enough to purchase a monthly permit. It is also challenging for those who visit the downtown to even receive a day pass. The pay and display units will be beneficial for those visiting the downtown and look to conduct business for greater than 2 hours. We also have an obligation to provide a certain amount of spaces available for the Hilton for certain events. The Hilton pays for these spaces.

The city council will receive the request to start this project by purchasing a couple of units to start with and, if it is successful, a request to purchase additional units.

There is a need for the city to develop a parking plan which should be considered and funding should be appropriated to contract out this task.

Councilor Walker requested that conversations take place with Concord Bus for the plan for long-term parking for patrons.

Chief Crowell also shared about the parking assessment that was done for CLT and how this demonstrates that parking is available for the Women's Literary Union. However, it is not convenient parking.

A request has been made from senior citizens for the council considers reducing the monthly permit fee for them. This is a decision for the council to make and if the council desires to do this the police department can provide the council with the impact for the reduction of those costs.

It was shared that private lots are utilizing tow companies that are towing vehicles that are not authorized to park in. The tow companies are utilizing trucks with no marking. The information available on the sign directs the owner to call the tow company. An arrangement to pay is done over the phone. The car owner is required to pay for the initial tow and for the two to return the vehicle to a designated lot which is typically at VIP on Center Street at a certain time. This is concerning for the police department and for car owners. The police department can provide an ordinance that can help control this activity to safeguard those who visit the community. This will be brought for a future meeting.

Auburn Library

Library Director Ney gave an update on events at the library and shared the current challenges with the budget reduction and endowment efforts. The silent on-line auction is currently available. She also shared about the future potential for the library with development in our community. People recognize the benefit for the library but fail to consider promoting the library when development opportunities become available such as when the Chinese investors were visiting the community. It was shared how the library is a public service and should not be considered as revenue making for fees.

Respectfully submitted for approval – Chief Phil Crowell 5-25-16