

City of Auburn
Public Safety and Community Services Council Committee Minutes
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
5:30 PM
Community Room – Auburn Hall

Present: Councilor Leroy Walker; Councilor David Young; Phil Crowell, Chief of Police

Community Members: Larry Pelletier, Mr. & Mrs. Hargreaves (former owners of Taber's)

Excused: Councilor Andy Titus; Paul Fraser, Director of Info Technology; Mamie Anthoine Ney; Library Director; Phyllis Gamache, 911 Director; Paul LeClair, Lewiston Fire Chief

Councilor Walker called the meeting to order:

*Meeting began at 5:35pm with Councilor Walker opening the meeting by saying everyone is invited to come to all of the Public Safety & Community Services Council meetings. However, that the scheduled times of the meeting may be difficult for those with families to attend.

Minutes from previous meetings have been transcribed and are up-to-date. They have posted online. Councilor asked for a motion to adopt all minutes:

Minutes of 2/25/16 – Motion by Councilor Young and Seconded by Councilor Walker. All are in favor to accept these minutes.

Minutes of 3/29/16 – Motion by Councilor Young and Seconded by Councilor Walker. All are in favor to accept these minutes.

Minutes of 5/4/16 – Motion by Councilor Young and Seconded by Councilor Walker. All are in favor to accept these minutes.

PARKING

Councilor Walker asked Chief Crowell to explain our current parking situation and the opportunity to install Kiosks. Chief Crowell stated that during the 2016/2017 budget projections there was an introduction to "Pay & Display" to be utilized in the downtown area. The project would be in 2 phases. Currently, there is a 2 hour parking maximum in the downtown area – no one likes a parking garage. Under the first phase - "Pay & Display", you could park there all day. You could purchase a pass at the APD or the units will be customer oriented. There are 2 downtown lots that are being considered: 1. Interim Lot – Platz parking and 2. The Hilton lot which runs parallel to the Interim Platz lot. The City Engineer and City Electrician have been consulted. The Chief is looking to schedule

a meeting with Tom Platz to discuss merging 2 lots into 1 and install one Kiosk. You would pay for your parking as you leave the lot.

Currently, the Hilton pays the City of Auburn for 84 parking spaces. If we were to install a Kiosk, visitors would be given a pass code to enter into the meter as they leave the function. Pass codes would change daily.

We need to consider: When the bus garage is ready to open up, we could have people parking there for long periods. We anticipate charging \$5 per day. We do not have any plans for "long term parking".

Bus routes have not been determined yet. Exiting from the lots directly in front of Auburn Novelty is dangerous and plowing that area is difficult. We will have to be careful where we place the gate. We will issue "easy pass" receptacles for busses.

The second phase would include installing a kiosk on the parking garage on the 3rd & 4th floors. We hardly regulate there – we utilize those floors at a "spillover lot".

If the interim lots were gated, we would not have to monitor those lots and allow us to focus on handicap and fire lane parking violations. These are a revenue generator for the city – bringing in \$60,000 per year. We currently monitor fire lanes and handicap parking at CMCC and at the malls.

Councilor Young asked: If we approve the FY 2017 budget, and the kiosk is already in there, how soon can we get the kiosk installed? Chief Crowell replied that there will be a demonstration soon (after July 1st) with three vendors to provide pricing. We are doing the leg work now. Chief Crowell will also meet with Tom Platz. Access to Turner Street needs to go away. Chief Crowell further explained that there are plans to fix that section when Hampshire Street is fixed.

Councilor Young asked if there are plans for an educational component. Chief Crowell stated that businesses and the Hilton will be the hardest as their customers are always changing – however, they will help us. They will provide a "day code" for people to exit.

Mr. Pelletier asked: What happens when there is jury parking for the courthouse? Chief Crowell said that jurors would be given paperwork from the court as they exit that includes the pass code. Mr. Pelletier then asked: What happens with voting time and the parking garage? Chief Crowell stated that there is additional parking on the 2nd floor. Typically, when there is one voting location, there is low turnout. Councilor Walker suggested that we cover up "police only" signage in the garage and keep spaces open for the voters.

Mr. Pelletier said that he is at Auburn Hall frequently and is sometimes here longer than 2 hours. Chief Crowell recommended that he get a permit. Councilor Walker asked: What will we do with motorcycles? Could we set up a section for those? The Mechanics Row lot is full all week. Chief

Crowell replied: Look at No Tomatoes & the way it is striped out. We will encourage motorcyclists to park there – we could easily put 10 bikes in that area. Councilor Walker stated that there are 3 spaces for motorcycles in front of the “chocolate shop” on Main Street. Chief Crowell said that we will need to speak to the City Engineer regarding the specific regulations. Councilor Walker stated that there is a perfect handicap accessible space in front of Naral’s. Chief Crowell stated that he will work on signage as it is hard to direct people.

Lake Shore Drive Area:

Mrs. Hargreaves stated that she and Mr. Hargreaves came to this meeting thinking that discussion would be taking place regarding the intersection of Lake Shore Drive. Chief Crowell replied that the open session meeting to discuss Lake Shore Drive will take place on June 9th at 5:30pm in City Council Chambers. The agenda includes discussion re:

1. Boat Access
2. Proposed changes
3. Crash reporting for FY 2015/2016 (no accidents so far)
4. Need to get into East Auburn School

Second part of the meeting will include: Oak Hill Road / Martin/ Fair/ Turner Street / area near the boat launch (jug handle) and 5 lanes as well roundabouts.

Mr. Pelletier asked: how are we going to slow traffic down? Chief Crowell stated that we will capture more data as it is very different in winter and summer. Currently, APD is installing covert signs on the telephone poles to gather more data. Councilor encouraged Mr. Pelletier to come to each meeting to provide input.

Mr. Pelletier wanted to discuss the possibility of installing cameras in New Auburn to help with the vandalism and drug activity-particularly in the C.N. Brown/Rooper’s area. Chief Crowell stated that Lt. Harrington has been tasked with researching this possibility with the store managers. Chief stated that he placed \$20,000 to purchase 4 cameras in the proposed FY 2017 budget but all were cut. Installation would have included one camera in each of these locations: Bonney & Moulton Parks, Vincent Square, Main Street and Chestnut Street gully. These cameras would tie into the same Auburn School Department system that we currently use.

Chief Crowell stated that the APD currently has access to a pole camera that is being used for covert operations. Councilor Walker said that while the \$20,000 was cut, perhaps we could put enough funds back into the budget to purchase 2 cameras. Councilor Walker stated Mr. Pelletier has been asking for these cameras for 5 years and encouraged him to keep asking. Chief Crowell stated that it was listed under “operating budget” in CIP but not in bond monies and was cut from the City Manager’s budget.

Councilor Young asked if it would be possible to use drug forfeiture monies to purchase the cameras. Chief Crowell said a purchased made through drug forfeiture monies would have to be tied to investigations and that rules regarding purchasing and supplanting were very strict. Councilor Young then asked: Does it help to deter crime if people think there is a camera in place? Chief Crowell stated that this was definitely the case.

Mr. Pelletier stated that he has already spoken to C.N. Brown and Rooper's and does not want to pursue. He would support someone else contacting them.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Chief Crowell and Fire Chief Low to discuss:
 - mutual aid agreements
 - statutes /mandates re: accident reconstruction and investigations
- Councilor Walker will speak to Recreation Director Sabrina Best to discuss hiring someone to start an Enterprise. City would keep building as an asset
- Chief Crowell will speak to Recreation Director Sabrina Best re: PAL partners: Bates College, CMCC and Kaplan University. Utilize "work study students" to implement programs. Councilors Walker and Young agreed that this would be a great idea.
- Chief Crowell will reach out to other directors to get additional agenda items.
- Ask Jeremy Gatcomb to speak about what is going on at Ingersoll Arena.
-

Next Meeting: July 6th 5:30pm Auburn Hall Community Room

Note: Chief Crowell will be away that week.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30pm: Councilor Young

Motion seconded by: Councilor Walker

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted: Rita Beaudry