
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

222 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.638-4100 FAX 860.638-4104
RPerichi@MiddletownCTPolice.com

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020
6:30 P.M.
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
(COMMUNITY ROOM)

1. Chairman Darnell Ford Calls Meeting to Order at 6:51 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Darnell Ford, Chairman
Councilwoman Meghan Carta
Councilman Philip Pessina
Councilwoman Linda Salafia

MEMBER ABSENT: Councilman Anthony Mangiafico

STAFF PRESENT: William McKenna – Chief of Police
Capt. John Lozefski – Administrative Commander

STAFF ABSENT: Michael Timbro – Deputy Chief of Police

2. Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2019

Chairman Ford made a Motion to approve the Public Safety Commission (PSC) Minutes of December 16, 2019; so moved by Councilman Philip Pessina; Seconded by Councilwoman Meghan Carta. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only

Jennifer Mahr, 99 Old Farms East

Ms. Mahr said that she was there to speak on Item 6b of the (December 16, 2019 PSC) Minutes. She stated that she's a member of the Firing Range Building Committee (FRBC); and that on behalf of herself and Barbara McAuliffe, another FRBC member, she had a couple of issues regarding the last (PSC) Meeting.

She entered into the PSC Record the Sound Study commissioned by the FRBC, the updated report from the expert that the Committee asked for, and the presentation to the public in April 2019. She stated that she and Ms. McAuliffe would like to protest the fact that Firing Range was added as an Agenda Item on the evening of the (December 16, 2019 PSC) Meeting, so that it was not noticed to the public; that a lengthy history of the FRBC's work would be spoken about at the PSC Meeting; that had she known, she could have gotten an update on her own FRBC and would've attended the PSC Meeting to understand what that update was. She stated that the FRBC last met on May 21, 2019, to discuss the results of the study. She then gave a brief history of the May 21, 2019 FRBC Meeting.

Chairman Ford advised Ms. Mahr that this is the first they know about the FRBC; that they (PSC) will take the information, review what she presented, and respond within the next week with the information they gather.

4. Correspondence

Chief William McKenna stated that since the last PSC Meeting, he's received...

- A Thank You card from the Shepherd Home for all of the good work the MPD Officers do for their community.
- A Thank You card from Rabbi Levi Schectman (*Chabad at Wesleyan University, 132 Church Street*), for all of the good work the MPD Officers have done for him and all of his parishioners. Chief McKenna added that Rabbi Schectman even went above and beyond, bringing pastries to the Department.
- Car Seat Clinic kudos already heard at tonight's Fire Department portion of the PSC Meeting for Officer Kristen Tyrseck.
- An "Atta Boy" for Sergeant Michael D'Aresta, Officer Jonathan Gagne, and Officer John Stroud for responding to a DCF-related call regarding a family in need on Christmas Day; that the Officers and the DCF employee paid for breakfast and lunch for the family; that they then pooled their money together, went to the only open store with food, and bought them enough food to get them through the next three (3) days.
- An "Atta Boy" from Karen Nocera – City's Recreation Supervisor, for (*Community Relations*) Officer Anthony Knapp who spent several hours and days assisting them in the Toy Drive in Middletown; that many toys were collected for children who may not have had any other toys during the holidays.

5. Monthly Reports

Chief McKenna reported that approximately 6% of their Sworn Officers are currently injured, resulting in the Replacement Line being slightly higher; that some may be on "Light Duty", while others may be out on "Workers Comp". Chairman Ford asked about Officer Safety in relation to the Officers' injuries. Chief McKenna explained that there doesn't seem to be a pattern; that some are old injuries, while others are new; and that some occurred while on the job, and others were off the job. He added that the Department's Professional Standards Division has a "Red Flag" System to detect any similarities among the injuries.

Chief McKenna reiterated that the Private Duty Line will always be shown in the red, which is actually good because at the end of the year, the more they're in the red, the more the City's making in administrative fees to cover the cost in the General Budget.

6. Old Business

a. Animal Shelter

Captain John Lozefski stated that he, Senior Animal Control Officer (*ACO*) Gail Petras, and Planning & Zoning (*Director*) Joseph Samolis have been meeting with Dr. (*Robert*) Olson (*Pieper-Olson Veterinary Hospital*) and going over plans regarding the size of the building, etc.; that the last approved footprint they received was the layout of the inside, with the kennels and where everything's going; that they're tweaking some of it. He added that once it's accepted, they will hopefully be breaking ground soon, possibly by April 2020. They're thinking it's going to take approximately three (3) to four (4) months to complete.

At this time, Chief McKenna announced that next month's PSC Meeting is being held at Mile Lane (Emergency Operations Center [EOC], 499 Mile Lane, Middletown, CT).

Public Safety Commission Meeting

January 21, 2020

Page 3

7. New Business

None

8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

Jennifer Mahr, 99 Old Farms East

Ms. Mahr said she was there representing the Westfield Residents Association; that she's there to complain formerly on behalf of her members and all of the Middletown residents residing in the noise-impact zone. (Note: She referred to the packet she distributed earlier in the PSC Meeting.)

She then went on to give the PSC members a history of this noise issue with past PSC's since 2011, in not before. Ms. Mahr went on to say that they (*Law Enforcement*) now have documentation that they break the law every time they use the Firing Range; and that it should be put on top of their priority list.

Ms. Mahr asked that this issue be added to next month's (*PSC*) Agenda for the public to be able to speak and to hear what measures are being taken.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that this item should be put on next month's PSC Agenda so they could get a full report as to where they are based on their introduction to this PSC Agenda item. It was also stated that there was no hidden agenda in adding the Firing Range Building at the previous PSC Meeting; that it was done as an informational update for the new members of the PSC.

Captain Lozefski added that the Middletown Police Department (*MPD*) has taken a lot of heat for other (*firing*) ranges; that Ms. Mahr has called him occasionally to inform him that she's hearing gunshots; that he would call up and find that there's no one on the range, and he would advise Ms. Mahr of his findings.

9. Meeting Adjourned...

Chairman Ford made a Motion to adjourn; There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

Next Public Safety Commission Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020, 6:30 P.M., at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 499 Mile Lane, Middletown.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa B. Perichi
Recording Secretary