

Public Safety Commission Meeting July 28, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Ed Meier (Chairman), Juanita Best, Barbara West, John Koester, James Christian, Jeff Lofton

Visitors: Shirley Paro (BN Board of Aldermen), Cpl Bob Piekutowski, BNPD, Louis Garracia, Jim Carroll

Old Business:

Shirley Paro brought up the subject of excessive fireworks over the Fourth of July Holiday. Both the City and the County have laws banning fireworks. There were several discussions on how to deal with the situation. One suggestion was to have a supervised activity on the Fourth. This would require approval of the City and the Fire Department, at a minimum. Shirley Paro will look into the details. Another suggestion was to approach our County Council representatives to amend the current county ordinance to allow some fireworks to be set off during a designated time period on the Fourth. This would allow people a chance to legally set off their fireworks, and give the Police some respite on a busy night.

There was a recap of what could be done about apparently abandoned cars. As long as the vehicle is properly licensed, and appears operable, there is very little the police can do. Derelict vehicles can be issued a warning, and after five days, be towed if they are on the street, or issued a summons if on private property.

Tall grass was another topic of discussion. The Building Department is the primary point of contact. The real problem with enforcement is finding out who are the current owners of abandoned property. The County Department of Revenue records are only updated when the property owners submit the relevant information.

New Business:

The Commission asked Corporal Piekutowski if the BN Police Department has a Use of Force Policy. He replied there is a policy for everything. Chief Ihler is in the midst of reviewing all the appropriate policies. The suggestion was made to have the new policy(s) be made public once the review is completed. If the complete document cannot be released, at least a summary of the policy should be available online.

There was still disagreement on what to do about Klein Park. The argument was, where is the line between justifiable police intervention vs. harassing citizens? Cpl Piekutowski suggested signs be put in the park stating the curfew hours, and what is and is not allowed in the park.

Ed Meier reminded everyone August 2nd is the Primary election.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be August 25th, 2016.

John Koester, Acting Secretary