

**POLICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2010**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Sylvia McIvor called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Darien City Hall. Committee members in attendance: Alderman John Galan and Alderman John Poteraske.

Staff members in attendance: Chief of Police Robert Pavelchik

Others in attendance: Kevin Monahan, 7509 Norman Drive

2. Approval of Minutes

Alderman Galan made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting; the motion was seconded by Alderman Poteraske and approved by a voice vote of 3 ayes.

3. Communication

Alderman Galan commented that he was approached by two different residents at the 4th of July parade. Both residents expressed concerns about vandalism and youth behavior in Darien Community Park. Galan said that he had met with Chief Pavelchik and had learned that the Police Department was already aware of issues in the park and that they were being addressed. Alderman Poteraske commented that he too had been approached back in June by residents concerned about Community Park. Chief Pavelchik indicated that patrol officers have taken a more aggressive approach to park issues and that the officer who also teaches D.A.R.E. had been detailed to this assignment. Alderman McIvor suggested that the City put out a reminder to the residents through either Neighbors or Direct Connect reminding them to call 9-1-1 when they see issues that need immediate police attention. She also suggested that a Neighborhood Watch alert could go out since the officer who also teaches D.A.R.E. organizes neighborhood community watch groups.

4. Old Business

a. Lock Out Survey DeKalb Police Department

Chief Pavelchik in response to a Committee request provided the Committee with a lock out survey that was done by the DeKalb Police Department. The Committee discussed getting out of the lock out business except in cases of children or pets locked in cars. Alderman Poteraske made a motion to recommend to the City Council (either by resolution or by ordinance) that the police department stop handling vehicle lock outs unless children or animals are locked inside the car. This motion was seconded by Alderman Galan. Alderman McIvor asked the Chief for his opinion on vehicle lock outs. Chief Pavelchik said that lock outs are a service that the police department provides to the community at large. In this day and age, the police department finds itself in the role of problem solver for members of the community dealing with issues that affect people's quality of life; this service falls into that realm. He also added that if the City Council decides not to provide this service that is certainly a City Council decision, but he sees this as the preview of shrinking of police staff as less service is provided to the community. The motion carried by three aye voice vote.

Alderman McIvor will contact City Administrator Vana to determine how to legislate this action.

b. Special Event Command Trailer

In response to a Committee inquiry, Deputy Chief Skala wrote to the Committee regarding the special event command trailer that the police department borrows from the Woodridge Police Department during Darien Fest. Alderman Galan commented that two years ago many Aldermen had seen the Woodridge trailer and they expressed an interest in obtaining one for Darien. Alderman Galan also noted that the Chamber of Commerce had offered in the past to help fund this project. Alderman Poteraske asked how much use the police department might get from such a vehicle, or would it be possible to use the old white (D.A.R.E. van). Alderman Poteraske also suggested that the police department approach the Rotary Club for a source of funding.

Chief Pavelchik indicated that research on this item had been tabled in light of economic issues, but the staff will continue to be on the lookout for a bargain.

5. New Business

- a. Approval of Ordinance Stop Sign Changes from Neighborhood Traffic Study Sub Areas 3- 6
Chief Pavelchik explained that this is the ordinance legislating the changes approved by the City Council in the Neighborhood Traffic Study Sub Areas 3-6. Part of this change was delayed due to the Walnut Avenue culvert reconstruction. Stop signs will be removed from 79th Street at Farmingdale and Warwick at Walnut. Stop signs will be added along Beller Road; all streets that intersect with Beller will now have stop sign control as Beller Road is a collector street.

Motion made by Alderman Galan, seconded by Alderman Poteraske to recommend City Council approval of this ordinance. Motion carried by voice vote, three ayes.

6. Department Report

- a. Overview of Monthly Statistics

Chief Pavelchik presented the Committee with traffic statistics from the 4th of July weekend and the Calls for Service report through June 2010. Alderman Poteraske commented that the volume of Calls for Service seems to increase seasonally.

Alderman Poteraske then led a discussion about alarms and the fees collected. While examining Ordinance 8-15-1, he asked the Chief why the minimum fines were charged and not higher amounts. The Chief indicated that prepay fine amounts are always at the bottom of the range and that the fine range leaves room for judicial increase or Council increase. Alderman Galan indicated that he would like Administrator Vana to provide the Council with revenue numbers on alarm fees. Chief Pavelchik indicated that alarm billing is done by police records personnel and is a very labor intensive project, as each individual alarm call must be reviewed. Alderman Poteraske then began a discussion of police response to ambulance assists. He indicated that since the fire department bills for ambulance service could the police department bill for their assistance at ambulance calls? After a discussion with the Chief and the Committee, Alderman Poteraske withdrew his suggestion to bill for these calls.

b. Department Highlight-Review of Police Department Rules & Regulations

The Committee reviewed the Police Department Rules & Regulations and the Chief explained how these rules and regulations, the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Labor Law, Department of Policies and Procedures and the City Personnel Manual all set the ground rules for police employment. Alderman Galan commented that Rule 205 (Prepared for Duty) might encourage an increase of sick time use.

c. Fleet Status Report

In response to inquires from Aldermen Poteraske and Galan, Chief Pavelchik presented the Committee with a memo from Deputy Chief Cooper regarding the status of the police department fleet. The Chief expects to present a fleet proposal for the FYE12 budget discussions. Chief Pavelchik explained to the Committee the uses and assignments of the eleven administrative cars in the fleet. This discussion then dovetailed into an inquiry by Alderman Poteraske asking why we have five detectives. The Chief generally explained the roles of detectives in law enforcement and their function in the Darien Police Department. Alderman Poteraske inquired what if we only had two detectives. The Chief responded that many law enforcement activities and services for community would not be accomplished.

7. Public Comment

Resident Kevin Monahan commented that he did not see a \$750,000 car fleet project in City Administrator’s Vana three year budget projection, but he then realized from discussion with the Committee that that expense would be spread over three or four years.

8. Next Meeting Date

Alderman McIvor announced that the next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, August 5, 2010. Alderman Poteraske asked that a discussion to keep or drop the D.A.R.E. program should be discussed at the City Council. Alderman Galan indicated he would like a consensus of the Alderman on the D.A.R.E. program. Alderman Poteraske commented that the “D.A.R.E.” Officer appears to do many additional jobs. Alderman McIvor asked that any other items for the Police Committee Meeting should be forwarded to her for the agenda.

9. Adjournment

Alderman Galan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Alderman Poteraske and approved by a voice vote of 3 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chief Robert Pavelchik

Approved: _____
Date

Alderman: _____
John Galan

Chairman: _____
Sylvia McIvor

Alderman: _____
John Poteraske