



Meeting Minutes (Approved September 6, 2012)
Public Safety Committee Meeting
Monday, August 6, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers
Española, New Mexico

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairman Dennis Tim Salazar.

Present at the meeting were:

Chairman Dennis Tim Salazar
Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez
Chief Stephen Branch
Mr. Roger Life

Councilor Eric Radosevich
Councilor Elaine Herrera
City Manager Joe Duran

Minutes taken by Executive Secretary Victoria Gallegos (EPD)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chief Branch requested to amend the agenda. Under Discussion/Approval Items, the following items were added:

6. Fireman/Patrol Officer of the Year
7. La Joya Station #2
8. Car Show

Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez requested to add a discussion item:

9. E911 Call Center Issue

Councilor Radosevich requested to add a discussion item:

10. Sharps/Needles

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez; Motion seconded by Councilor Eric Radosevich, with motion passing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

COUNCILOR COMMENTS – Chairman Salazar recognized the Española Police Officers for continuing courtesy patrols around the city. Chairman Salazar shared a personal experience while walking during early morning hours. Officers stopped to check on his well-being and he was grateful.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. **July 2, 2012** – Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez made a motion to table this item until the September meeting in order to fully review them.

DISCUSSION / APPROVAL ITEMS

2. **Ordinance 2012-03 Proposed Amendment** – Planning and Zoning Director Russell Naranjo yielded the floor to Planning Technician Vincent Baldonado. Mr. Baldonado processes several Wide Load Moving Permits on a daily basis. He updated the new committee members on the purpose for Wide Load Permits within the City of Española. The permits have generated approximately \$50,000 in revenue in the past year. Director Naranjo explained the city ordinance has been in existence since the early 1970's, however it wasn't until last year that it was more strictly enforced. The reason for adherence to the ordinance was because of damage caused to fences and other personal property by moving companies. The city has been forced to pay for repairs, when the liability actually lies with the moving company. Planning and Zoning is recommending making an amendment to Ordinance 2012-03 to charge \$600 per year to local movers, rather than \$1200 per year. Councilor Radosevich made a motion to forward the proposed amended ordinance to full council for further review. Seconded by Councilor Herrera.

After consideration, Councilor Radosevich struck his motion and stated he felt the fee shall remain at \$1200 for local movers. Councilor Radosevich then made a motion to forward to full council for further review, with no changes to the fees. Seconded by Councilor Martinez. Motion carried.

3. **Range Policy** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
Chief Branch notified the committee that the range policies are in the process of being updated and asked if the committee had any further input on this issue. A draft policy is being created and shall be ready for review by next month's meeting date.
4. **Vehicle Take Home Policy** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
Chief Branch notified the committee that the vehicle take home policy is in the process of being generated. Some things that will be addressed are mileage limits, permission to utilize patrol car during days off, and maintenance schedules. A draft policy will be ready for the committee's review by next month's meeting.
5. **Proposed Tow Policy** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
The proposed tow policy was previously addressed by former administration and Chief Branch notified the committee that he is currently reviewing the policy and is working to complete it and bring it up to date.
6. **Fireman of the Year / Police Officer of the Year** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
Chief Branch would like to see the initiation of Fireman of the Year and Police Officer of the Year awards. He would like to see the employees nominate and vote within each department. Chief Branch would like to see the recipient awarded with a gift certificate and a plaque, which would be provided by Chief Branch.
7. **La Joya Fire Station #2** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
The roof at this station was damaged due to weather and wind. Public Works Director Marvin Martinez has already been contacted and he will be placing the job out to bid. Chief Branch stated Fire Funds may be utilized to help pay for the roof, as well as for repair of heating, ventilation and air conditioning at this location. City Manager Duran stated it was not possible to file an insurance claim for this type of roof damage.

Chairman Salazar yielded the floor to Mr. Roger Life, a member of the public who was very concerned about issues occurring in his neighborhood and interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch Program. Chief Branch advised Mr. Life to meet with him tomorrow's date to set up an appointment with Patrol Officer Jose F. Martinez, who is in charge of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
8. **Española Car Show** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
Chief Branch stated the car show was a great success. There were 3,500 tickets sold, although he estimated 5,000 people attended the event. Councilor Radosevich commended the department for their work. Out of state individuals from as far away as Nebraska participated. City Manager Duran stated the car show provided an economic boost. The incident command post from Rio Arriba County was on standby at the event. Surrounding agencies provided support and everyone worked well together.
9. **E911 Call Center Issue** – [For Informational Purposes Only]
Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez explained her concerns regarding the way an emergency 911 phone call placed by her daughter was recently handled. Chief Branch stated he would bring her concerns to the E911 Director Marti Griego after gathering more information from Councilor Martinez. Chief Branch hoped to discuss these concerns with the Director at the 911 Board Meeting next month.

10. Sharps / Needles Disposal – [For Informational Purposes Only]

Chairman Salazar raised his concerns about contaminated hypodermic needles being disposed throughout parts of the city at parks and on streets. He commended city workers (Fire, Police) for their diligent response in picking up the needles. Councilor Radosevich stated although he is aware that these problems are not only in Española, he would like to see more educational programs available. Chairman Salazar yielded the floor to City Manager Duran. He stated there city employees are consistently being trained on the proper retrieval and disposal of needles. Mr. Duran stated the city's parks and public areas are checked each morning. City Manager Duran is continually researching solutions to this ongoing problem.

Chairman Salazar questioned if the department's Bike Patrol Unit is still utilized. Chief Branch stated it is not. Councilor Radosevich stated he would have liked to have seen officers on bike patrol at the car show and asked Chief Branch to start using the bike patrol unit.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

11. Burglary Task Force Statistics Report

Chief Branch stated the department's goal to reduce burglaries since its inception in May has been met. Officers and Detectives are working diligently on a daily basis. Chief Branch referred to the statistics provided in the packet.

12. Monthly Statistics Report

Chief Branch referred to the statistics provided in the packet.

Chairman Salazar recognized Officer Gregory Esparza's outstanding citation numbers. City Manager Duran and Councilor Martinez commended his efforts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

13. Rescue Vehicle

Chief Branch explained the rescue vehicle's cost is \$105,000. There is grant funding available in the amount of \$80,000 which means the city would have to produce approximately \$25,000. Councilor Martinez stated she was impression the City Council committed to including the \$25,000 the city's budget for fiscal year 2012-13 for this purchase. Chief Branch hopes to utilize an additional \$10,000 that was generated from fighting fires to be used to stock the rescue vehicle with equipment and supplies.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. due to Labor Day Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilor Martinez. Seconded by Councilor Radosevich with motion passing. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.