



City Council Public Safety Committee *Remote ONLY*** -
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 5:30 PM
2/8/2022**

Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Virtual Meeting, Burlington, Vermont

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Paul, Councilor Hightower, Councilor Stromberg

Staff Present: Jared Pellerin (Assistant City Attorney), John Murad (Acting Chief of Police), Tyeastia Green (REIB Director), Kerin Durfee (Director of Human Resources)

Meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Councilor Paul

1. Agenda

1.01 Motion to adopt/amend agenda

Motion to adopt agenda as written.

Motion by Councilor Stromberg, Seconded by Councilor Hightower

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous/ Councilor Hightower, Councilor Paul, Councilor Stromberg

No:

2. Public Forum

2.01 Public Forum

Public forum was opened at 5:44 pm by Councilor Paul.



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Grace Pfeil thanked the Committee for the work it was doing with the CNA report and recognized the large task it was. However, she expressed feeling disheartened by the report because it primarily focused on trainings. Grace spoke about how trainings are a money making industry and that if training is going to be pursued then there needs to be accountability. What are the measures to determine whether or not the training is successful in achieving its purpose? Grace also encouraged the Committee to look at more than just the Police Department because she feels there is a lot more to public safety.

Public forum was closed at 5:50 pm.

3. Minutes

3.01 Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. Motion by Councilor Hightower, Second by Councilor Stromberg

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Councilor Paul, Councilor Hightower, Councilor Stromberg

Motion was made to approve minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. Motion by Councilor Hightower, Second by Councilor Paul

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Councilor Paul, Councilor Hightower – Councilor Stromberg abstained because she wasn't present at the Feb. 1, 2022 meeting

4. Committee Discussion/Possible Action

4.01 Discussion on CNA Report and Next Steps

DISCUSSION:

Working group members present: Jabulani Gamache, Melo Grant, Jeff Nick, Isaac Owusu, Oren Byrne, Hannah Brislin, Kerin Durfee



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The Public Safety Committee acknowledged that they had the responsibility of making sure that the appropriate people within the Administration get the list of recommendations to ensure that they will be aware of what needs to be addressed during the negotiations of the BPOA contract.

The Committee recognized that there are overlapping efforts with respect to review/overhaul of the Police Department Directives. They expressed a wish to make sure that there weren't duplicative efforts between the Police Commission, the Department and the Public Safety Committee.

Discussion was had around the need to create a work plan, which will give direction and assign efforts to see that recommendations are carried out in the prescribed timeline (i.e. Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 etc.)

Officer Byrne spoke of the difficulty with communicating with residents or visitors of Burlington who do not speak English and that often times family members or children who can speak both English and the native language are used as translators. The Committee wished for the City to explore better translation services and how they could bring those services to the streets, when Officers encounter individuals whose native language is not English. Could the City make an investment in new technology? Kerin Durfee said she would look into this and report back to the Committee.

The Committee discussed recommendations 1.16.1 – 1.31.1 and created a projected timeline for the recommendation to be implemented or carried out. The Committee also prescribed a conclusion to each recommendation regarding what the working group discussed and its ultimate disposition.

**** Please see BPD CNA Assessment Recommendation Matrix ****

1. Any Other Business

The Committee discussed that they thought they could get through the end of section 1 of the report by the end of the next meeting. The decision was made to start the Feb. 22nd meeting at 5pm and end at 6:30pm so as to accommodate the Police Commission Meeting that is to happen afterwards.





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There will be no March 1st meeting because of the City's Town Meeting Day and the local election.

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Hightower, Seconded by Councilor Paul

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous/ Councilor Hightower, Councilor Paul, Councilor Stromberg.

No:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.