

**CITY OF MONONA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Wednesday- February 24, 2016**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Holmquist called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **Roll Call:**

Commissioners Present: Holmquist, Thomas, Fadness, Hoelzel, Hanson, Bisbee, Fontaine, Reed and Kitslaar.

Staff Present: Police Chief Ostrenga, Fire Chief Sullivan and City Administrator Little.

3. **Minutes:** A motion was made by Bisbee and seconded by Hanson to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

4. **Appearances:** None for items not on the agenda, see item 5D.

5. **Unfinished Business**

a) **Discussion/Action on Volunteer FD Staffing** – Chief Sullivan updated the PSC on the status of the Fire Department. For volunteers, they have added 2 more personnel. A conditional offer has been made to the top candidate on the eligibility list. They are in the process of completing the physical, medical and background exams before making a final offer.

b) **Discussion/Action on Junked Vehicles and Appliances on Private Property 10-5-8**
Chair Holmquist stated this should remain on the table.

c) **Discussion/Action on the Bray Study**

Chair Holmquist reported there has been no movement on this topic.

d) **Discussion/Action on amending Possession of Controlled Substances; Marijuana 11-2-9.**

Appearances:

Mary Anne Reed, 5602 Winnequah Road, spoke in favor of the efforts decriminalization for use by adults in a private home. She also spoke in favor of the recent report Chief Ostrenga sent out on the Special Community/Police Task Force Recommendation on “Use of Force”

Jim Busse, 5012 Maywood, spoke against amending the current Monona Ordinance. Instead of lowering the existing fine, he was in favor of raising the fine to act as more of a deterrent.

Nate Petreman, 612 Femrite Drive, spoke in favor of making changes to the existing ordinance would be in favor of repealing the ordinance altogether for adult possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Jim Gordman, 4600 Oak Court, an 18 year Monona resident spoke against changing the ordinance.

Kevin Phillips, 5113 Arrowhead, spoke against changing the current ordinance. States that have legalized their laws have seen drastic increases in marijuana use among youth.

Matt Marks, 5205 Mesa, spoke against changes to the marijuana ordinance. He provided examples of research that shows the negative impact of marijuana use.

Mary Mead, 4905 Midmoor, spoke against decriminalization of marijuana in Monona.

Discussion:

Chair Holmquist asked Chief Ostrenga to start the discussion on this proposal. Ostrenga reviewed the handouts in the packet and advised the commission that based on the discussion of the 1/27/16 PSC meeting five (5) separate proposals were prepared:

- 1) Current: \$200 fine with court costs (cc) \$313.
- 2) Nate Proposal (discussed 1/27/16).
- 3) Ordinance with current fine for under 21 and \$1 (\$63.30 w/cc) fine for 21 and over.
- 4) Ordinance with current fine for under 21 and a sliding fine scale for 21 and over: 1st Offense, \$50 (\$124 w/cc); 2nd Offense \$100 (\$187 w/cc); and 3rd Offense \$150 (\$250 w/cc).
- 5) Ordinance with current fine for under 21 and no fine for 21 and over.

If changes are going to be made, it would be the staff recommendation to adopt option #4 with the sliding fine scale for 21 and over.

Research was done to compile all of the marijuana citations for 2014 and 2015. The following data was presented in graphs for the commission members:

- In 2014 there were 44 citations issued. In 2015 there were 78 citations issued.
- Of the 122 citations, 17 were to residents and 105 were to non-residents.
- Of that total, 65 were issued to whites, 48 to blacks, 8 to Hispanic and 1 other.
- By age, 2014 totals had 15 less than 21, 17 between 21-31 and 12 over 31.
- In 2015 there were 27 less than 21, 37 between 21-31 and 13 over 31.
- In 2014 13 citations were paid, 25 were unpaid and 3 were dismissed.
- In 2015 24 citations were paid, 42 were unpaid and 5 were dismissed. Citations that are not paid go to tax intercept and if the offender ever qualifies for a refund the funds are transferred towards their fine.

After much discussion, there was a motion by Hanson, seconded by Thomas, to do nothing to the existing ordinance and maintain the status quo.

Motion passed 5-4, Ayes: Holmquist, Thomas, Hanson, Fontaine and Reed; Nays: Fadness, Hoelzel, Bisbee and Kitslaar.

6. New Business

a) Discussion/Action Code Enforcement and Ordinance Recodification Project.

Administrator Little gave a report on code enforcement. A map of the city showed where letters or enforcement took place during 2015, which encompassed the entire city. She also provided statistics which showing what actions were taken during 2014 and 2015. The majority of action taken was in the form of a warning letter. When a letter was issued there was a very high rate of compliance. Most of the violations have decreased with the exception of brush. The two major issues are unregistered vehicles and brush.

Member Bisbee felt a bigger problem was the trash and junk left out on investment properties.

Little reported that the inspector is trying to be fair with his enforcement. PSC felt the tone of the warning letters should be softened. Discussion was on brush, large items that don't fit in the regular garbage cans, adjusting collection amounts and times, and discretion in ordinance enforcement. PSC felt the inspector is doing a good job.

The city is in the process of recodification of the city ordinances through a company called General Code. We should be getting a draft of the work in the near future. Ordinances that apply to Police, Fire and Inspections will be coming through the PSC for review.

7. Review Monthly Financial Reports: Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, Emergency Communications and Ambulance. Chief Ostrenga and Chief Sullivan had no report for this meeting.

8. Discussion of future agenda items.

Chief Sullivan indicated that the FD is looking into having Dane County do all of the FD paging and dispatching. Chief Ostrenga agreed that Dispatch should be a future agenda item as there are equipment issues with 911 and this will be a topic in preparing for the 2017 Operations Budget. Administrator Little advised the PSC that the Mayor wants to form a small study group on dispatch. Item to be on a future agenda.

With the special sex offender notification meeting scheduled for Thursday, 2/25/16, the Sex Offender Registration Ordinance is again under review. Thomas talked about having this before the City Council Committee of the Whole.

Another future agenda item will be the Special Community/Police Task Force Recommendation regarding police "Use of Force" report.

Hoelzel asked if the lane markings were clear enough at southbound Monona Drive at Broadway. There have been times when others have observed cars turning left from the middle lane. Thomas to discuss with DPW.

9. Reports:

Fire: Chief Sullivan reported that they have issued an RFP for the new extrication equipment and that the next SAFER grants should be coming out soon, which is the staffing for paid on premise and career position.

Police: Chief Ostrenga reported that Officer Pederson has completed his field training and is on solo patrol. Officer Mielke is in her 3rd week of field training and is doing well. Two new squad cars have been ordered. Janesville PD arrested the suspects from the counterfeit \$100 bills that have been passed in the area.

Building Inspection: No Report

11. Next meeting date: The next scheduled meeting will be on March 23, 2016

12. Adjournment Motion was made by Fontaine and seconded by Reed to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously at 8:42 pm.