



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 4:00 PM
City Council Chambers
200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of April 22, 2008 minutes
4. Old business:
 - A. NONE
5. New business:
 - A. Second Amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement concerning the Operation of the Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) between the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, The Town of Edgewood, and the Board of Commissioners of Santa Fe County, New Mexico (RECC Director Ken Martinez)
 - B. Proposed ordinance amending section 12-6-12.18 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code 2007 subsection (6) regarding the prohibition of hand-held cellular phone usage while a vehicle is in motion. (Councilor Matthew Ortiz) (Police Chief Eric Johnson)
 - C. Palace/Washington Intersection Geometric Improvements (John Romero, Public Works)
6. Matters from Municipal Court
 - A. Informational-Municipal Court Monthly Report-April and May 2008
7. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
8. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
9. Matters from Committee Members
10. Communications from the Floor
11. Adjournment

For information regarding the agenda, you can call Shannon Cantu at 955-5010. Interpreter for the hearing impaired is available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice. Please call 955-6521.

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAY 20, 2008

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A. Second Amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement Concerning the Operation of the Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) between the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, The Town of Edgewood, and the Board of Commissioners of Santa Fe County, New Mexico- Ken Martinez, Director, RECC	Recommended approval	4
B. Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 12-6-12.18 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code 2007 Subsection (6) Regarding the Prohibition of Hand-Held Cellular Phone Usage While a Vehicle is in Motion-Police Chief Eric Johnson	Ordinance approved 4 to 1	4-5

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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Santa Fe, New Mexico

May 20, 2008

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Karen Heldmeyer on this date at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll Call Indicated the Presence of a Quorum as Follows:

Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Chair
Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair
Mr. Michael Bowen
Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis
Mr. Pete Mizrahi
Mr. Frank Stuto

Members Excused:

Dr. Mike Mier
Mr. Henry Valdez

Staff Present:

Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Deputy Chief Ben Montaña, Santa Fe Police Department
Fire Chief Chris Rivera, Santa Fe Fire Department
Michelle Babcock, Santa Fe Police Department
Frank Katz, City Attorney

Others Present:

Ken Martinez, Director, RECC
John Romero, Public Works Department
Chief Paul Welch, Edgewood Police Department
Gabriel Taylor, stenographer

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Bowen moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of April 22, 2008 Minutes:

Mr. Bowen moved to approve the April 22, 2008 minutes. Mr. Stuto seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Second Amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement concerning the Operation of the Santa Fe Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) between the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, The Town of Edgewood, and the Board of Commissioners of Santa Fe County, New Mexico- Ken Martinez, Director, RECC

Mr. Martinez said that in April at the RECC Board of Directors meeting, the joint powers agreement was passed, which allowed the newly formed Edgewood Police Department to receive dispatch services from the RECC. In the agreement was included yearly payment by the Edgewood Police Department for services rendered and inclusion in the capital expenditures portion to the amount of 20% of all costs up to \$100,000. He said the agreement was presented to the City Council and must be approved by the Public Safety Committee before it is presented again to the City Council for final approval.

Chief Rivera explained that the only change to the Agreement was made on page 5, Item #4, which states, "The majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote of the members present shall decide any issue except capital expenditures of over \$100,000, which would require an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the full Board.

Mr. Bowen moved to recommend to City Council approval of the amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Martinez said that there was an additional deletion made on Page 8 of the agreement. He added that the change would not affect the JPA as it is stated right now, and it also would not affect the new JPA either.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if the town of Edgewood has a City Manager. Mr. Martinez explained that Edgewood doesn't currently have a city manager. He explained that they have been working with Chief Paul Welch, as well as Mayor Bob Sturley of Edgewood. He added that Chief Welch would be taking a position on the Board of Directors for the RECC, if the agreement passes and is approved.

Chief Welch thanked the Committee for reviewing the agreement.

B. Proposed ordinance amending section 12-6-12.18 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Code 2007 subsection (6) regarding the prohibition of hand-held cellular phone usage while a vehicle is in motion-Police Chief Eric Johnson

Chief Johnson said that there is continued use of cell phones by drivers despite the restrictions that the cell-phone ordinance calls for. He added that the citations for cell phone use have decreased in recent months. He explained that he would like to see more research done as to what is included in the Albuquerque cell phone ordinance. He added

that the community feels to be in support of the cell phone ban, but added that there should be more research done concerning the ordinance. Chief Johnson said that more officers would be put on the street as part of the Department's strategic plan. He said that the Department would work to step up enforcement of cell phone use and educate city residents as well to address these specific problems.

Mr. Mizrahi said that government officials should set an example with this ordinance. Chief Johnson said there is an issue with enforcing this ordinance. He added that the Police Department has requested that the state police and the sheriff's departments abide by the ordinance when they are driving within the city limits. He explained that biggest complaints are with drivers of construction or sanitation vehicles working within the city.

Mr. Bowen said that the real problem is the loss of concentration as a result of the phone conversation itself.

Dr. Owen-Lewis said that addressing the enforcement combined with an educational campaign is important. She said that numerous studies have found that the biggest cause of driver inattention has to do primarily with cell-phone use.

Vice-Chair Harris said that the lack of enforcement should not result in abolishing the law.

Chief Johnson said that the ordinance is tough to enforce. He added that this is an issue that could be addressed now that the department staff is increasing.

Dr. Owen-Lewis said that she could bring in some information on driver inattention statistics for next month's meeting.

Chair Trujillo hoped that the Police Department could do "cell phone blitzes" to show residents that the city is serious about enforcement. He said that education is the key.

Dr. Owen-Lewis moved to not accept the change to the ordinance and direct the Police Department to research more information on what Albuquerque is doing with the possibility of putting more weight in the current ordinance. Vice-Chair Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 1.

C. Palace/Washington Intersection Geometric Improvements-John Romero, Public Works

Mr. Romero said that currently at the intersection East to North left turns are prohibited. A speed study was done on this intersection. He explained that cars are traveling slowly in this area. Complaint calls were registered. Option #1 continues to prohibit east to northwest turns. Option #2 is to allow the left turn, but make it a more legitimate left turn through better channeling. Staff is requesting a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee to the Public Works Committee.

Mr. Romero said that in his experience, prohibiting or limiting left turns might prevent t-bone accidents. He said that any changes should be made to accommodate driver behavior within reason.

Chair Trujillo asked why the turn configuration was changed. Mr. Romero said that the change was a result of a pedestrian accident.

Vice-Chair Harris asked why traffic is allowed to go in that area of the Plaza. Mr. Romero said that it was a result of business owner concerns wanting to have traffic be able to travel through the Plaza.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked Chief Johnson what is opinion of this proposal to change the turn configuration. Chief Johnson said that he doesn't see a problem with reopening this intersection.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if Palace Avenue has a stop sign going west. Mr. Romero said that there is a stop sign on that corner to initiate a stop and yield for pedestrians.

Mr. Stuto said that it might be feasible to block off the Plaza. Chief Johnson said that there is always congestion in the downtown area, even during the non-busy season.

Mr. Romero said that if the Public Safety Committee could make any additional recommendations.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if there is a stop sign on Washington Avenue. Mr. Romero said that there is a stop sign at that intersection. Vice-Chair Harris said that there might be a sight issue at that intersection. Mr. Romero said that there would be two stop bars at the intersection. He added that there could be a stop sign installed, if Option #2 is approved.

Vice-Chair Harris recommended Option #2 for the Palace/Washington Intersection Geometric Improvements. Mr. Bowen seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Matters From the Municipal Court:

A. Informational-Municipal Court Monthly Report- April and May 2008

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if a representative could come make a presentation on sentencing practices of the Municipal Court.

Matters From Police Chief Eric Johnson:

Chief Johnson said that he presented some amendments of the Strategic Plan to the Finance Committee. He said that the Plan would be moving forward to the City Council. Recruiting efforts are being stepped up. He said that there are currently seven vacancies in the Department. Seven new cadets will be completing the Academy Training in July. He thanked Chief Rivera and the Fire Department for their continued support.

Vice-Chair Harris asked how many of the recruits live in Santa Fe. Chief Johnson said that they are trying to get a combination of recruits living in Santa Fe. He said that are approximately 10 officers currently working with Home Wise to establish housing. He added that the Department is in the process of establishing mobile units in the parks to house officers on school grounds. He added that they are continuing to work with the schools on the problems that they continue to see.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if the recruitment efforts of the Albuquerque Police Department would hinder Santa Fe' Police Department's recruiting efforts. Chief Johnson said that the Department is keeping track of other state agencies recruiting efforts. He added that the Department's recruiting efforts have been successful at this point.

Matters From Fire Chief Chris Rivera:

Chief Rivera said that on April 25th 16 new firefighters graduated from training. He thanked the Committee members who attended the graduation ceremony.

Chief Rivera said that three firefighters were sent to the Trego Fire sight.

Due to the strong wind conditions, brush trucks are being staffed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This unit would be staffed through June.

Chief Rivera said that the Department is on pace to have a 3% to 5% increase in call volume for the year.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if there have been any cutback measures taken to reduce the amount of travel due to the higher fuel prices. Chief Rivera said that Department does pretty well in fuel conservation efforts.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if there is a decrease in calls out to the County. Chief Rivera said that there has been a decrease in calls to the County.

Chief Rivera said that there was a securing of the motors of the vehicles at Station 7 near the Belma area.

Chief Rivera introduced Joyce Kwok, who is working with the Emergency Management Team. Ms. Kwok said that if her position is decided to be full-time, it would go before City Council for final approval.

Matters from Committee Members:

Chair Trujillo asked what is being done with the problem of boom boxes and noise at Franklin Miles Park. Chief Johnson said that the Department would continue patrolling those park areas that need special attention.

Communications From The Floor:

None

Adjournment:

Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved by

Councilor Ronald Trujillo, Chair

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer