



Agenda

DATE 7/11/17 TIME 1:55
SERVED BY Jessica Pfeifer
RECEIVED BY SSS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 4:00 PM

City Council Chambers

200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of the May 16, 2017 Minutes
4. New Business:

Information Item

A. DUST ISSUES AT LAS SOLERAS (Lisa Martinez, Land Use Department Director)

5. Matters from Municipal Court Judge Virginia Vigil
6. Matters from Police Chief Patrick Gallagher
7. Matters from Fire Chief Erik Litzenberg
8. Matters from the Regional Emergency Communications Center Ken Martinez
9. Communications from the Floor
10. Matters from Committee Members
11. Adjournment

For information regarding the agenda, please call Jessica Pfeifer at 955-5074. Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
INDEX
JULY 18, 2017

Cover Page		Page 1
Call to Order and Roll Call	Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Herbert Harris, Acting Chair for the Public Safety Committee. Roll call reflects lack of quorum. Acting Chair stated we would conduct business on informational items.	Page 2
Approval of Agenda	<i>No action lack of quorum.</i>	Page 2
Approval of Minutes, May 16, 2017	<i>No action lack of quorum.</i>	Page 2
New Business – Informational Item, Dust Issues at Las Soleras	<i>Informational Video Presentation</i>	Page 2 - 4
Matters from Municipal Court	Report included in packet.	Page 5
Matters from Police Chief Gallagher	Informational	Page 5
Matters from Fire Chief Erik Litzenberg, Asst. Chief Babcock	Informational	Page 5
Matters from the Regional Emergency Communications Center	Informational	Page 6
Communications from the Floor	None	Page 6
Matters from Committee Members	None	Page 6
Adjourn/Signature Page	There being no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, the Chair moved to adjourn at 4:55 pm	Page 6

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 18, 2017 - 4:00 pm – 4:55 pm
City Council Chambers
Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Herbert Harris, Acting Chair for the Public Safety Committee. Roll call reflects lack of quorum. Acting Chair stated we would conduct business on informational items.

1. Roll Call

Present

Peter Mizrahi
Herbert Harris
Dr. Nancy Owen Lewis

Absent/Excused

Councilor Chris Rivera, Chair
Joe Arellano
Dr. Mike Mier
Eric Johnson
Mike Bowen

Others Present:

Patrick Gallagher, Santa Fe Police Chief
Mario Salbidrez, Deputy Police Chief
Jessica Pfeiffer, Office Manager, SFPD
Chief Erik Litzenberg, Santa Fe Fire Chief
Lisa Martinez, Land Use Department Director

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of Agenda

No action, lack of quorum.

3. Approval of Tuesday, May 16, 2017 minutes

No action, lack of quorum.

4. New Business – Informational Items

A. Dust Issues at Las Soleras (Lisa Martinez, Land Use Department Director)

Ms. Martinez provided an overview of the work that the Land Use Department and other departments are doing to work on the dust issues at Las Soleras construction area. Over the last year and a half, Santa Fe has been witness to an enormous amount of growth in the city and most of the construction is in the south quadrant, which hasn't taken place since 2007-2008. The Land Use Department has been working with the partners and developers in the area; Pulte Homes, Presbyterian Hospital, a new Senior Facility that will be going up very soon, and a number of other projects going through the city council and planning process. We are working with these groups specifically discussing any plans they have to mitigate the dust in this area.

Measures:

With all of the loose dust in the project area, particularly Las Soleras they are using misted water. Water is one of the most common ways to keep the dirt in the place. There are sprayer water trucks being used in the area of Nava Ade and Rancho Viejo across I-25. There have been a couple of days where driving conditions have been difficult for people due to the dust. The problem is both health and public safety at the same time. That Land Use Department has been working for the last couple of month with Las Soleras, Presbyterian, Jaynes who is doing construction, Jim Siebert and the others included in the construction area. We have been discussing the plans that they have to mitigate the dust. Developers have also worked with swift management companies. One of the first plans that they have in place is working with misted water. The water is being applied 2 to 3 times a day to keep the dust down. There are a lot of sprayer trucks on site to control the dust. Another product being used is a product called a tackifire. If you have seen a lot of road construction sites and a bright green material, that is the tackifire. One of the other ideas being discussed is using mulch, which will weigh it down, and it helps to cover the area to give it more weight than the water itself. They have done a little bit of this in the Rodeo ground area over the last few months and it shows to have helped. Other options construction sites use by other construction areas are barriers and fencing, additional polymers in addition to the tackifire that help provide dust control but only work where vehicles don't travel. We have vehicles driving through the construction area on a daily basis. Dust control is a serious health issue we need to address.

Land Use Department has received numerous complaints from residents and constituents, NMDOT and the NM Environment Department. Ms. Martinez provided letters to assure that there is a plan in place from the developers. Information provided today has also been provided to the Planning Commission and to the City Councilor's who are receiving complaints regarding this dust problem. (Letters were provided to the Public Safety Committee to assure the means to keep this under control).

Land Use Department also has enforcement officers in the area both during the week and weekends to assure that the construction and building partners are complying with what they have said they are going to do. The company's that are working in the area know how serious it is with the dust and dirt. Ms. Martinez also has witnessed that when there are gusts of winds these are situations that sometimes can't be controlled. We share our citizen concerns, and we are doing all we can do to address the areas. Water is a big problem and the department and city are doing as much as they can to control the situation. There are also developers in the area to answer any questions. Water trucks are out there 24-7.

Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis has addressed how this could be avoided in the future. Dr. Owen-Lewis read a constituent letter and would like to know what other options are available and how they would be addressed in the future.

Ms. Martinez stated that they are looking at phase grading and doing projects in small amounts. Restrictions will be imposed from developers in areas of question. She also stated, they need to look at landscaping and existing vegetation on the sites and preserving the vegetation. In travelling to other states, Florida for example, when they build new subdivisions they work to leave existing trees and mature trees. They don't do this in the south side of town; they do in the north side. We don't do much of that. When you clear everything it adds to the dust and dirt situation.

Dr. Nancy Owen Lewis asked what can be done as residents and constituents of the city of Santa Fe in future developments. Dr. Owen Lewis made reference to a letter to the editor from a constituent in the audience, it was read verbally. Dr. Owen Lewis would like more information on future developments and how this will be avoided.

Ms. Martinez welcomes any suggestions from the Public Safety Committee and constituents and asked they be sent to the Land Use Department.

Ms. Martinez said they do review plans of landscape developments and she has made this a priority in her department.

Chris Butler, Jaynes Corporation, building Presbyterian Hospital

Mr. Butler stated that they have been using a binder through the whole site and are getting close to final grades, putting in their inlets, curb and gutter. On the west side they are putting landscaping and seeding.

Mr. Harris asked Mr. Butler if the developers coordinate and talk to each other? Mr. Butler said yes, they have meetings weekly to talk about the priorities, utilization of the tackifier and binders. They have full time staff driving the water trucks right now.

Dennis Cicak: What is in the binders that you use?

Mr. Butler: Dust Control DD: Used a lot in county roads, it is made to stand up in heavy traveled roads; it is a biodegradable organic solution.

Steve Burns-Chavez: Thank you to city staff and developers for taking this seriously. It has been unbearable in Nava Ade, thank you for addressing this issue. It is good to know someone is listening to us. It seems to have gotten better after the last May meeting in Public Safety. A couple of weeks later we had the June 25th storm that was really bad. We went from 3 water trucks to 20 water trucks. Yes, it looks better. We are looking at 4 years of construction. We don't want to get ahead of ourselves not knowing how long the fix will work. Hopefully this commission and the city will continue to monitor the area.

Dr. Owen Lewis showed a video from the June 25th bad storm.

Mr. Burns Chavez asked the status of the petition presented to Public Safety and to the governing body. At the heart of that is all of what the Land Use Department has identified and was at the heart of the petition. Did the key points in the petition reach the Governing Body and will there be an effort to provide feedback on what can be done? Pulte is the Nations number one homebuilder, and they have a particular approach that they take, that is at the heart of the question in terms of looking in to the future of Santa Fe, what kind of a city different area we. How do we get from the grading and draining ordinance, there is a gap that exists that needs to be filled. We need to be sure that there are best practices in place and assures that it secures the city different. What does our front door look like; what does our whole city look like. Question about the points in the petition and where are we going.

Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis did note that the petition was submitted as part of the record, since we do not have a quorum we will address at another meeting.

Mr. Mizrahi said that from the last meeting he has asked Lisa Martinez to appear, and she did appear today to discuss the citizen concerns. Thank you for updating us and letting us know about the improvements.

Dennis Cicak lives in Nava Ade, it is important to stress that there is a serious health problem. Should we have high winds and dry spells and the measures taken have been good and I want to thank Lisa for all of her hard work, however we still have dust that is invisible on slightly windy days. We don't understand why it had to be such a huge graded area. Mr. Cicak said he was sick for 3 months and he was diagnosed with asthma. He coughed for 3-weeks, he feels like he has dust in his lungs; he coughed for three weeks and his health condition got worse. His wife who has a beautiful singing voice could not participate in the NDI Gospel Choir due to the dust in the air. He has purchased an air filter, which has helped; they can't keep windows open at night. Mr. Cicak named different health conditions that come out of dust storms.

Paul Lewis: Video (June 25th) - This was on a Sunday, no construction crews working, no water trucks, you could see the dust and wind and you couldn't see the houses or roofs and this was even before you get to the area where the construction is. You couldn't see the construction area; there was too much dust.

Constituent (Judy): I understand that people working construction will be fined \$100 if they are caught with dust blowing. We have had 4 to 5 dust storms and it has cost me way more than \$100 to clean my house and my cars.

5. Matters from Municipal Court Judge Virginia Vigil
Report included in packet.

6. Matters from Police Chief Patrick Gallagher

Vacancy rate continues to be one of the biggest problems. They had gotten down to 6 vacancies and they are now up to 19 vacancies. They are operating at 80% capacity, which is a big concern to the Chief. Hopefully shooting for double digits at the next academy in January 2018.

The have purchased 2 Mobile Video travellers, they are solar powered, and they can go up to 3 stories high, they can transmit back to the SFPD, have started to deploy at the park at St. Francis Park. The cameras gave us good feedback. There were some problems identified during the 4th of July with Verizon and we used the cameras. We intend to deploy the camera in other areas, after a discussion with the merchants. We hope to have great success.

Started the Tourism project, Segway's are not in yet. The coverage on the plaza has been noon until 10 pm at night, Officers keeping the area secure.

Media – South Capitol creeper, stalking or exposing himself, 4 confirmed incidences, possible 5th one that happened recently, increased patrol in the area and taking pro-active steps, significant resources in that area. Community meeting revealed good measures and hoping with the tips and pro active surveillance will lead to an arrest very soon. Chief said they are working with the FBI on doing a profile, trying to find out why this happens between June, July and August. When the investigation deems appropriate they will deploy the cameras.

Chief talked about the local arrests made and cases that are open. Commercial burglaries have also increased, there are no trends or patterns but there are multiple burglaries. During the 4th of July there was a large amount of thefts from the arts and craft booths downtown. On the positive side the robberies are down by 29% from last year.

Mr. Mizrahi asked about loss of manpower, is this due to retiring officers. Chief Gallagher said that in two years they have hired 36 officers and lost about 39 officers and is not all due to retirement. There is great competition throughout the state for officers. Looking at the 36 that were hired – 10 have already resigned. We would like to put them through field training before going to the Academy so they know what it is like to do day-to-day policing.

7. Matters from Fire Chief Erik Litzenberg

On the 4th of July, this year was a busy year, those people doing unorganized events increased. There was a larger volume of calls for 9 brush fires. Resources were tight to handle 6 fires at one time. Some of the fires were due to the fireworks. The significance of the incidents was minor.

Dr. Mier asked if we had an arborist, the city does have an Arborist position open; they will consult with the Tree Board, they have 3 arborist consultants that could address any questions.

There are no fire restrictions in the city and monsoons have started. In this city it doesn't affect us, we live under a very restricted condition in the city.

SFFD had 11 vacancies, 9 additional positions through this budget cycle. It was agreed that 10 is a good number for the academy. They have received 300 plus applications and hired 20 to start the academy on August 14th.

8. Matters from the Regional Emergency Communications Center - Ken Martinez

June 2017 – 34,175 calls – 7,893 were 911 emergency calls

19,943 calls were dispatched, combined fire, police and medical services. The police department was 10,010, fire department was 1,382, animal control was 434, 59% of the call volume for RECC.

Drug tip hotline continues to be utilized, they received 49 calls. It tends to increase in the summer months and they are pushed to the investigation units, city and county.

911 Operator – 911 Tele-communicator of the Year – Christopher Flores, Operator won this award, proud of him for this accomplishment. There are 4 vacancies, there is a high turn over in 911 dispatch. Operators continue to do a great job taking care of the city and the county.

Day Shift 12 hours – Graveyard shift – 12 hour shifts

Staffing – 8 operators on the floor, 4 days at a time, 3 days off.

9. Communications from the Floor

None

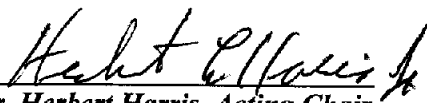
10. Matters from Committee Members

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, the Chair called for adjournment at 4:55 pm

Signature Page

Public Safety Committee:


Mr. Herbert Harris, Acting Chair


Fran Lucero, Stenographer