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WILDWOOD

Meeting of the

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Wildwood City Hall Council Chambers
16860 Main Street

Committee Members in Attendance:

Marshal William Garrett
Council Member Dave Bertolino
John Gagnani
Walt Guller
Captain Tim Tanner (Wildwood Police)
Deputy Chief John Bradley (Metro West Fire Protection District)

Committee Member Absent:

Also Present:

Ryan Thomas, City Administrator
Rick Brown, Director of Public Works
Debra Smith McCutchen, Ward 5 Council Member

I. ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken at 6:30pm. With the above noted as present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Board Member Gagnani seconded by Council Member Bertolino to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2016 meeting. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of 2017 Police Budget

Ryan Thomas, City Administrator, presented the board with the proposed 2017 Budget for Police Services, as a component of the overall Wildwood Municipal Budget for 2017.

The largest component of the Police Services budget is the proposed 2017 Full Service Agreement with the St. Louis County Police Department to satisfy the City's anticipated policing needs for the upcoming year. The 2017 Full Service Agreement and Cost Sheet Analysis explaining elements of the proposal have been provided by Lt. John Blake, Commander of the Municipal Services Unit with the St. Louis County Police Department. These documents indicate a total increase of 2.42% above the 2016 Agreement costs. The 2017 Budget for Police Services assumes no change in the number of police personnel assigned to the Wildwood Precinct.

The board reviewed and discussed the budget. The increase was mentioned, but appears to be well below caps and is a reasonable increase from the past year. The budget is based on the assumption that no additional personnel are needed. However, Captain Tanner and City

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Administrator Thomas will potentially be reviewing police personnel staffing.

Mayor Bowlin mentioned that he suggested to City Administrator to contact a few municipalities to see how Wildwood's budget compares, as part of due diligence. City Administrator Thomas handed out a cost comparison sheet to the Board, and the City appeared to compare favorably and is cost effective.

Mayor Bowlin also mentioned that he met with Captain Tanner and asked him what the City can do to better the Police Department's service. Captain Tanner suggested adding another person, which the Mayor said he would support. Captain Tanner suggests that the particular added personnel would preferably be a commissioned desk officer, specifically for the evenings. It is preferred that the person is a commissioned office because of the expertise needed. Captain Tanner also noted that the peak call volume is between 2-10pm. Therefore, this would provide better customer service for after hours and someone would physically be at the station. This would leave more cars on the street, and as Main Street develops the businesses will increase. It was mentioned that the last staffing change occurred in 2008.

Another topic of discussion was regarding contact information for the police department, specifically the phone outside the Police Station counter. Currently it reads "pick up for emergency", therefore people are hesitant to use it, so it was requested that the language on the phone be changed from "emergency", to "police call box".

City Administrator Thomas supports the idea of adding a commissioned officer and that the idea should be explored. They will amend the budget as needed early next year.

A motion was made by Board Member Gragnani and seconded by Council Member Bertolino to accept the 2017 Municipal Budget for Police Services and recommend to the Wildwood City Council. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Board Member Gragnani and seconded by Council Member Walt Guller to explore adding a commissioned officer in the evenings. All were in favor.

B. Possible Traffic Calming Project

Mayor Bowlin thanked the board for letting him speak in regards to the Police Services Budget. He then requested to discuss speed bumps, in regards to possible traffic calming measures. He feels speed bumps are not a great idea. His reasoning for this is:

- 1) When we have issues it's important to look at what mechanisms we have in place to help solve the problem and to save money. For example, utilizing our outstanding police force.
- 2) The cost of speed bumps
- 3) Speed bumps are a positive short term solution, with a long term problem. Those that see speed bumps assume there is a problem, which devalues property in an area.

Due to the reasons mentioned, he would like the Board to be cautious.

Rick Brown, Director of Public Works, requested clarification from the Mayor if the Board should look into a traffic study at the proposed locations. The Mayor said he has no issue with studying any of this, he just wanted to point out his view on speed bumps.

Board Member Gragnani pointed out that Council Member Bertolino recently ran a subcommittee, some of that subcommittee's members were in attendance, and he suggested the

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Board listens to what they have to say. The consensus was that they do not like speed bumps.

Director Brown wanted to point out that the memo provided to the Board regarding Possible Traffic Calming Project for 2017 for Pond Grover Loop Road, Green Pines Drive, Forest Leaf Parkway, and Fullerton Meadows, was intended to provide information to the board to propose engaging with an expert consultant to look at Pond Grover Loop Road, Green Pines Drive, Forest Leaf Parkway, and Fullerton Meadows, regarding traffic calming measures.

Marshal Garrett asked the residents that were in attendance from Ward 5, if there has been an increase in volume and/or a speeding issue.

The residents in attendance do say there is a traffic problem and they notice the police are doing the best they can. They're hoping Council Member Bertolino's plan will help.

Council Member Smith McCutchen said she doesn't support a traffic study at this time. She pointed out that there has been two studies previously done, and the police do a traffic report. Majority of people are thrilled the Police Department is in their ward and are handing out tickets. She does not think financially the City should spend money on another traffic study. Council Member Smith McCutchen suggested that before the City implements anything they should seek out a concept plan first.

Council Member Bertolino wanted to bring the attention back to the original proposal from Director Brown, and asked if the board needs to approve, as a safety committee, for the Department of Public Works to follow through with a traffic study. Director Brown would like to take more of a systematic approach, look at traffic within the City entirely, and ultimately involve residents, Metro West Fire Department, and the Police Department. The finances of the traffic study were discussed among the Board Members and Council Member Smith McCutchen.

A motion was made by Council Member Bertolino and seconded by Board Member Gragnani to present Director Brown's Traffic Calming Project for 2017 proposal to the Admin/Public Works Committee. All were in favor.

C. Parking Restrictions on Babler View Drive

The Board discussed parking restrictions on Paradise Peak Circle at the last meeting in September. Parking restrictions are in place on Paradise Peak Circle to eliminate on street parking by students attending nearby Lafayette High School. At the September meeting, after discussion of this item, a motion was made and approved to amend the parking ordinance so that the restrictions Paradise Peak Circle north of Babler View Drive are consistent with that south of Babler View Drive. The recommended change would revise the restriction from "No Parking 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 PM School Days" to "3 Hour Parking from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM School Days". However, during The Department of Public Works' field investigation into this matter, it was determined that the existing parking restrictions on Babler View Drive would now be inconsistent with those recommended for Paradise Peak Circle.

The Board discussed the inconsistencies between the streets. Board Member Gragnani supports changing all signs to reflect the same parking restrictions.

Council Member Bertolino mentioned that he recently attended a Babler HOA meeting and this item was discussed. He also passed out information regarding the parking stickers, which many residents were unaware of. Since Board Member Bertolino originated this item he is going to

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inquire as to which parking restriction the trustees and residents would recommend, and then he'll report the collected information back to the Board.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Cut Through Traffic – Proposed Education / PR Effort (Council Member Bertolino)

Due to the increase of volume and traffic, causing excessive traffic on residential streets in Ward Five, Council Member Bertolino has put together an Ad Hoc Committee. He provided a report from the Committee and presented it to the Board.

According to the report, the specific streets drivers are using as a “cut-through” are: Green Pines Dr., Forest Leaf Parkway, Fullerton Meadows Dr. and parts of West Glen Farms Dr. With the increase volume of traffic, there has been an increase in traffic speed and a lowering of the quality of life for residents on those streets. The above named streets have become the preferred “cut-through” streets for residents trying to access Manchester Rd./Rt. 100 to the south.

With the completion of the traffic improvements to Rt. 109, access to that route is much safer and efficient. Concerned residents on Green Pines Dr., Forest Leaf Parkway, and Fullerton Meadows Dr. are demanding some action be taken to finally reduce the volume of traffic on their streets. The following is a proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee and presented for consideration by the Safety Committee.

The Committee is proposing a multi-faceted approach to addressing this problem:

1. Restrict traffic on Green Pines Dr. to “permitted” vehicles except from 6:30 to 9:00 AM and 3:00 to 6:00 PM on school days.
2. Permitted vehicles would be for all residents on Green Pines Dr. between Pond Grover Loop Rd. and West Glen Farms Dr. plus all families of students at Green Pines Elementary School, plus all employees of Green Pines Elementary School, school buses, emergency vehicles, local delivery/service organizations, i.e. garbage pick-up, lawn maintenance companies, etc.
3. Conduct a traffic calming study for Green Pines Dr., Forest Leaf Parkway, and Fullerton Meadows Dr. to include possible inclusion of speed bumps which are continuous across the entire roadway.
4. Concurrent with the road restrictions, a media campaign will be implemented which will educate residents in the affected area about the value of using Rt. 109 instead of cutting through and it will encourage residents to support their neighbors and discontinue the habit of cutting through the other neighborhoods.

The Committee feels that restricting traffic on Green Pines Dr. would be the most effective way to stem the flow of traffic on the effected streets. However, communicating to the residents that there is a “better way” will help ease the transition for drivers to change their driving habits.

The Board discussed the proposal and looked at it from all different angles. Most importantly they asked if closing the street is legal, being that it is a public street.

The Board decided that prior to the next Board of Public Safety Meeting, they will ask the City Attorney the legality of restricting traffic on a public street. Captain Tanner will report back the

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statistics such as tickets and enforceability.

Marshal Garrett asked what the possible turnaround time would be for a traffic study, and Director Brown estimated approximately three to four months. This gives the engineers time to evaluate potential traffic calming options and involve the local residents. An example of a traffic calming device is the photo Council Member Smith McCutchen provided to the board, the photo was an example of a chicane, which is an artificial narrowing or turn on a road.

Council Member Smith McCutchen asked if a 4-way stop at the intersection of Paradise Peak Cir, Hickory Manor Dr., and Pond Grover Loop Rd. would be feasible. Director Brown said the Department could take a closer look at it and see if it warrants a stop sign. This would be an interim solution. If it works we would not need a RAB in the future.

A motion was made by Council Member Bertolino and seconded by Board Member Gragnani to install a 4-way stop sign at Pond Grover Loop Rd., Paradise Peak Cir, and Hickory Manor Dr. All were in favor.

VI. BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No agenda items

VII. NOT READY FOR ACTION

- A. Speed Cushions on Green Pines Drive**
- B. Bicycling Safety Education**

VIII. OTHER

A. CERT Class Update

Board Member Gragnani announced that there is a new CERT class scheduled for January 14, 2017.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Board Member Gragnani and seconded by Board Member Walt Guller, to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bree Kelchen
Administrative Assistant