

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, February 17, 2015**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Kane, Chairman; Commissioners Walker via telephone, Maddox, Markley, Philbrook; and BPU Board Member Jeff Bryant. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Ken Moore, Deputy Chief Counsel; Joe Connor, Interim Assistant County Administrator, and Terry Zeigler, Police Chief.

Chairman Kane called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Kane said I will note there are no minutes to approve this month. As you will recall our December 15 meeting was canceled.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 150035...DISCUSSION: PARADES AND MARATHONS STAFFING FEES

Synopsis: Discussion and recommendation relating to assessing a fee to staff parades and marathons held in Wyandotte County, submitted by Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator.

Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator, said staff has brought this issue before the standing committee because we need some direction. Kansas City, Kansas, Wyandotte County is one of the only municipalities in the metropolitan area that does not charge anything at all when we staff a marathon or parade in our community.

On the one hand it's great that people want to come to our community and do 5K's and have parades and on the other hand I've got Chief Ziegler here and he's saying this is a staffing

concern and we just need some direction from you all in terms of what our policy will be as it relates to these events.

In your packet you will see we did a study back this summer of all of the municipalities in the metropolitan area in terms of what they charge when they put on a parade or marathon or such in their community. We have to figure out a way to support these activities and at the same time protect the public safety and we just need some discussion and direction from you all on administratively how you want us to handle these going forward.

Commissioner Maddox said my question, Mr. Criswell, is from where does this discussion derive? Was there something big financially that we're not reaching. Where does the conversation derive from? **Mr. Criswell** said this initial conversation came up under former Chief Hansen who her, basically her Administrative Assistant was receiving parade permit applications and former Chief Hansen didn't feel that her Administrative Assistant should be making decisions on how we staff marathons and parades and so she asked the administration to look into it. I started by researching our ordinance. By ordinance, the Chief of Police, has to approve these activities. What's happening in our community is we have a lot of organizations, some of them are homegrown, some of them are out of our community, who come to the Chief's Office and they want to have an event and that means that between the Police Department, our Public Works/Street Department, and Parks and Recreation Department sometimes, all of these agencies have some cost associated with putting on these events. Rather than administratively say we aren't going to do this or we're going to charge this amount for these kinds of activities we've come to you tonight to 1) bring it to your attention and 2) get some direction in terms of how you want us to proceed with these kinds of activities.

Commissioner Maddox asked, and my follow up question is what services do we provide as a city or a Police Department to those people putting on parades? **Mr. Criswell** asked do you want to answer that Chief. **Chief Ziegler** said the issue that we're having with the Police Department is the volume of requests that we get for parade and marathons has grown. I've denied two already this year where they requested a marathon in the Village West area. They want to shut down State, Village West Parkway, and Parallel to put on a marathon. I denied those because of the disruption to the traffic pattern in that area. The other thing that comes with that is that they always make a request that we provide police services. Well a lot of our local groups like the

Juneteenth, Polski Day, those kinds of things, we do provide police service for those as much as we can. We have community policing show up and help with the event. To go and provide police services to these events that seem to be growing both in volume and in size to shut down the entire Village West area for a marathon would be very costly. The average cost of an officer per hour on duty is \$30 an hour and then you have the cost of operating a police vehicle. It would take a lot of police resources to shut down the intersection for an event like that to take place. A lot of our local events aren't that big in scope and we've been participating with them on a normal basis. It's the request that we're getting. We're getting a large volume from outside KCK and that becomes cumbersome because they expect us to provide free police service for their event.

Mr. Criswell said not only does the Chief incur some costs but depending upon what the event is our Parks and Recreation Department might also incur costs with putting up barriers and moving barriers. All of these associated costs, none of these departments have really budgeted for them so we just need some direction from you all as to how you want us to proceed as a matter of policy. We don't want to discourage people from having events in our community. We also want to support what I will call our homegrown organizations in their events like Juneteenth, like Polski Days. I didn't feel like we needed to just unilaterally make that decision without some policy direction from you all.

Commissioner Maddox said by the numbers, a rough estimate, how much is spent yearly by the city in regards to providing services for people who put on parades and events. **Mr. Criswell** said honestly, Commissioner, I didn't gather those numbers. I don't know that off the top of my head right now. What we focused on is, in your packet there, all the municipalities in the metropolitan area and what they charge for these kinds of events. That was sort of our starting point. If you want us as a way of accessing what we should be charging to gather that information, we can do that, but I don't know that figure off the top of my head tonight.

Chairman Kane said we know the one's that we currently have that are local. Is there a way that we put a lock on what's here now and then for anything that comes in outside the local realm that we charge them? Is that a possibility? **Mr. Criswell** said if you all see that as a policy direction staff to take, that's a possibility.

BPU Board Member Bryant asked do we currently look at them different between what is say a not-for-profit, a Turner Day Parade or a Leavenworth Road, Central Avenue Parade versus a for-profit even if it's a charitable event where there's a charge for like a marathon or 5K runs and stuff where there's a charge. Have we thought about that approach where we separate them where the fees are paid if there's going to be an entrance fee. **Mr. Criswell** said well right now we don't make any distinction at all because we don't charge anybody anything. **Chairman Kane** said what I think what Jeff is talking about if somebody does a marathon, like my daughter used to do, you had to pay a entry for a 5K or whatever. If they're making money, we ought to charge them. I think like the Turner Days Parade, Juneteenth, Leavenworth Road Parade, Polski Day, I don't know if I would necessarily touch those but I think if we've got outside groups coming in and wanting to shut down our community then perhaps they should have to pay. I don't want to really jack with the ones that are local but I would sure take a dime out of the ones that weren't. **BPU Board Member Bryant** said that would just be off the top of my head a recommendation to maybe look at it as if it's a for-profit event or if it's an event that is pulling in money in some way or another, then maybe those are the ones that the expense is ours. Maybe you don't recoup all the expenses throughout a year but you start having an expense to it so that people have to spend a little more time in the planning section so that they're making sure that they're covering costs because there will be some for the city.

Mr. Criswell said we haven't talked about different costs level or different tiers for our homegrown non-profit groups as opposed to groups coming from the outside. We didn't know where we wanted to start with a number. My thinking was it was a policy decision that we needed to get from the governing body about where we start. Chief Ziegler has some ideas about just the very notion, Commissioner, that you were articulating but we didn't want to get out ahead of you guys and do something without your sanction or support.

Commissioner Philbrook said so a place to start as you are recommending is to see what it's really costing us now to assist in anything we're doing, the real outlay. The other thing is what the Police Department recommends as point of interest. In other words, where do we really want these people to apply? Do we want them to apply to the Police Department or is there a better spot for them to apply. **Mr. Criswell** said well I believe by ordinance they have to make

application initially with the Police Department. **Commissioner Philbrook** said well ordinances change don't they. **Mr. Criswell** said well, yes, apparently. **Commissioner Philbrook** said well that's why I'm asking. If we're talking about making changes to make things work for our community, then ordinances don't usually get in the way if we find a better way to do it.

Chief Ziegler said I would say that the Police Department doesn't have a problem managing the permits that come in. It's probably a good fit for us in that the traffic control and those issues are handled through the PD and it would require our resources. I don't mind it staying with us. When I came into office in January and started receiving these I've issued several denials already. I want to make sure that I got with Mr. Criswell to make sure that I was going down a road that we wanted to go down and he raised this issue. I think it being with the PD is a good fit, other than just is there a cost we can charge for it.

Commissioner Maddox said it's my thought that if it's not broke, don't fix it. So what am I saying when I say that. When I think about the Leavenworth Road Parade, when I think about the Silver City Parade, the Central Avenue Parade, the Martin Luther King Parade, those are services to our citizens, who are taxpaying citizens. They need that entertainment. If it's not breaking our bank as a city, I think we should leave it the way it is. When I say maybe possibly fixing, it, looking at the way that we approve a parade proposal so you know using discretion. I also seen in there where it spoke about block parties. If we're just asking people to put the barriers up, get in their trucks and leave, that's a service to the citizens who pay taxes. If it's not breaking our bank to provide those services for parades, I'd like to see some changes maybe in our discretion in which we choose. Like if it's somebody outside of the state or the city who wants to get those kinds of services then they'll probably have to pay. Even looking at the fact that it may be a marathon where people are raising money. I'd like to see it kind of fit. I don't think it's no one size fits all approach to what we're asking for. **Chief Zielger** stated I agree with you 100%. That was the conversation that we had. The Leavenworth Road Association Parade we support that and will continue to support that. My gut tells me that I don't want to charge our local organizations, however, if we're going to allow an event to come in from outside Kansas City, Kansas, I do believe that is should be discussed or at least be considered charging them providing that the Police Department has enough resources to safely support that event.

Commissioner Markley said I think that everybody is sort of generally on the same page here and I'm wondering if this isn't something where staff is going to have to go back and do a little more work to bring us a more solid proposal. I like the idea of looking at the marathons or the outside organizations differently. I think it's going to come down to Legal helping us decide how do we define whether it's a marathon or parade or whether it's a local organization or not a local organization. Is that based on mailing address or something else? Personally, I'd like to see you guys sort of tackle some of those issues and come back to us and give us some sort of tiered approach whether it's a marathon versus parade or local versus not local or whatever we come up with it fits a good legal definition that we can then approve at this committee.

Chairman Kane said I agree. I don't think we should charge our homegrown but anybody that comes outside from the community we want their money. You need to tell us like in a 5K you get \$300, in a marathon you get \$10,000 or whatever the number is. I'm just saying because if they're going to come in there and shut our streets down and for the grief that we would have to put up with some of the folks that like to go to the Legends on Saturday night, like my wife, it's stuff I think you guys come back with us and say alright everybody that's here nothing, 5K pays this much, 10K pays this much. Not just the marathons but the bike riders and everybody else that wants to participate and the stuff that's from outside of the community.

Mr. Criswell said well we kind of thought that might be the sentiment of the Commission or sub-committee but we didn't want to assume that we knew that. We will come back with a deeper review of what's out there, who's out there, and some costs that we might be able reasonably charge outside groups for these kinds of activities.

Action: No action taken.

Measurable Goals

Item No. 1 – 120155...MEASURABLE GOALS: POLICE DEPARTMENT

Synopsis: Measurable goals – Police Department

Chief Ziegler said the Police Department started an initiative. We actually kicked it off last week. It's Safety First, Courtesy Always, initiated within the department revolving around customer service. The purpose of the initiative is to remind officers to always be safe when they're out on the streets so they go home at the end of their shift. At the same time to always be courtesy to our citizens. Not everybody they meet is the bad guy. They need to take the time yes ma'am, no ma'am, no sir, you know those kinds of things.

When I was asked how would I gage the success of that program the first thing that popped in mind would be we would look and measure whether our Internal Affairs complaints go up or down in the area of attitude, conduct and harassment. So we pulled those numbers and since that initiative kicked off last Monday, over this year, we're going to look to see how well that message gets out to troops and whether or not it has a direct impact on the number of Internal Affairs complaints. Our thought is that if we're reminding our officers to be courtesy, that we will see a significant decrease in those type of complaints being brought forward. That would be one of the goals that we would set for the Police Department as well as a way to measure it if I was tracking the question right. **Chairman Kane** said you are and I already heard about it from one of your police officers.

Mr. Criswell remind me to talk a little bit about how we got the program set up. **Chief Ziegler** said there are a couple of things. We redid the Citizen Satisfaction Survey that the Police Department has had. We've had the same one for probably 10 or 15 years. We went back and we changed the survey questions to mere the questions that you all came up with for the community. We added another one and that is "rate the customer service, the courtesy of the officer that handled your situation". It's a direct feedback that we get for the officers. Citizens can either mail the card in, it's detachable, it's got the officers name, serial number, and a complaint number if a report was taken. They can mail that in. They can also use the QR code that's on the front for any SMART device. They can scan it with their SMART device. It takes them automatically to the survey that's on the internet. When they fill those out we get immediate feedback on really bad ones and really good ones. We address those immediately to try and correct behavior.

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The last one is that we also made up a generic business card for our officers that have the same QR code on it as well as the website address. If an officer stops on the side of the road, helps somebody who's lost, helps change a flat tire, has contact with somebody other than taking a police report the officer can write his name and serial number on there and encourage the citizen to go and fill out a survey on the service that they provided.

There is three different ways of us capturing the information and then we're going to compare it to complaints at the end of the year.

Commissioner Maddox said I like the QR code and I know we did the community-wide survey but we picked who they went to. I like the QR. I like to go out in the newspaper that we send out to every resident, put a QR on there and let them take a city survey that we can look at as a Commission.

Action: No action taken.

Adjourn

Chairman Kane adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

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