

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2024

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos.

2. Roll Call

Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II, Chairperson, Councilmember Barb McGuinness, Ward I, Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III, Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV, Councilmember Gary Budoor Ward IV, Councilmember Mary Monachella Ward I, Councilmember Aaron Wahl Ward II, Councilmember Dan Hurt Ward III, and Mayor Bob Nation. Also, in attendance was City Administrator Mike Geisel, City Attorney Chris Graville, Nathan Bruns from Mr. Graville's office, and Chief Cheryl Funkhouser and several citizens.

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Moore motioned and Councilmember Hansen seconded to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023 Public Health & Safety Committee meeting. The motion to carried 4-0.

4. Proposed Ordinance amending sections 210.900 and 220.250 related to firearms regulation

The Committee discussed a proposed ordinance amending the current firearms ordinance in the City of Chesterfield.

City Attorney Graville informed the Committee members that recent changes in the State Statutes result in needed changes so that the current City Ordinances are compliant with State law.

As written, the City Ordinance currently does not allow for the open carrying of firearms, and currently places greater restrictions on concealed carry permit holders than what is allowed under State Law. Chesterfield Bill no. 3481 adds a number of exceptions to the City's open carry prohibitions, such that the list of exception exactly mirrors those identified by the state. The following individuals would still be allowed to openly carry firearms throughout the City, except in the 17 specifically identified location exceptions: Concealed carry permit holders, police officers, game wardens, coroners, National Guard, Judicial officers, process servers, prosecuting attorneys, corporate security, probation officers, firefighters and those engaged in self-defense.

The City is **not** banning concealed carry. Currently State Statutes generally only prohibit concealed carry of firearms into a select list of 17 locations including, but not limited to the following:

Police Stations
Polling places on election day
Correctional facilities
Courts
Government building
Bars
Schools
Child care facilities
Amusement parks, sports arenas and stadiums
Places of religious worship
Public transport
Private property where "No Weapons Allowed" signs are displayed

An individual already cannot carry a concealed firearm into these locations. The City Code needs to be updated to clarify that this restriction also applies to the open carrying of firearms in the same way that they are currently restricted for concealed carry.

Nathan Bruns added that the proposed amendments would close any loopholes in the conflict between State Statute and City Ordinances.

The Committee members discussed affects of the proposed ordinance on the City Parks, CVAC, and the amphitheater.

There was also discussion regarding leased private property. Nathan Bruns noted that private property owners can put up signage of "No Weapons Allowed".

Councilmember Moore motioned to send the portion of Bill No. 3481 dealing with section 210.900 to City Council with a recommendation of approval. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded.

Discussion among the Committee members centered upon regulation of those people who carry firearms without a concealed carry permit. A Committee member voiced concern that the proposed ordinance was too restrictive. City Administrator noted that the sections of Bill 3481 are inter-dependent and the first section addressing 210.900 could not be separated without modification. Bill 3481 can only move forward as single piece of legislation, not a piece-by-piece motion.

The motion failed: 2-2.

Councilmember Moore placed a new motion before the Committee. He motioned that Bill No. 3481 be forwarded to City Council with a recommendation to approve as currently proposed and provided in the committee packet. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded.

The motion carried 4-0, and will be forwarded to the full City Council for final consideration.

5. Bow Hunting Update

Chief Funkhouser reported that during the past bow hunting season, 67 properties and 5 common ground areas participated in the City's Bow Hunting Program. A total of 60 deer

were harvested during the season; she noted that warm weather was a factor in the lower number of deer harvested this season.

The Police Department will be doing a deer survey (February 21 and 22) to compare with previous deer surveys.

6. No new meeting date was set at this time.
7. Having no further business, Chairperson Mastorakos adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.