

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 7, 2019
TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Public Health and Safety (PH&S) Committee met on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Those in attendance included Chairperson Ben Keathley Councilmember Ward II, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III, Councilmember Tom DeCampi, Ward IV, Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II, Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III, Councilmember Michelle Ohley, Ward IV, Chief Ray Johnson, Captain Michael Thompson, Captain Cheryl Funkhouser, and Captain Dan Dunn.

I. Called to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairperson, Councilmember Ben Keathley.

II. Roll Call was completed

III. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2018

Councilmember Moore motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2018 meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

At this time Councilmember DeCampi motioned and Councilmember Moorei seconded to suspend the rules to change the order of the agenda to allow the Committee to address other issues. The motion carried 4-0.

V. Discussion Ordinance 585, Article 5, Section 21-65

Mr. Mark Leach addressed the Committee. He expressed concerns regarding construction sites neglecting to do site searches for burial areas while initialing survey parcels for development. Mr. Leach noted that historical archeologists have confirmed the Chesterfield Valley has Cahokian era burial mounds and archeological historians should review any development in the area before construction begins.

Councilmember Keathley noted that the current ordinance notes that it is "a crime for any individual who knowingly destroys, mutilates, disfigures, defaces, injures or removes any tomb, monument or gravestone, or other structure place in a public, private, abandoned family cemetery or private burying ground, or any fence, railing or other work for the protection or ornamentation of any such cemetery or place of burial of any human, or tomb monument or gravestone, memento, or memorial, or other structure aforesaid, or of an lot within such cemetery," the ordinance also includes "abandoned family cemetery or private burying ground" to define burial areas.

Although there is no limiting language in this ordinance, Mr. Leach noted that pre-historic area Native American burial grounds are visually quite different from modern burial areas. He also included the fact that slave era cemeteries may also not be easily identified and the Chesterfield Valley has both slave era and pre-historic Native American identified areas.

Councilmember DeCampi motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to amend the ordinance and add “pre-historic Native American and slave era burial grounds” in the title of the ordinance and in section (a) and section (b) of the ordinance.

Discussion then followed on additional wording and the enforcement of the ordinance.

Councilmember DeCampi motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to amend the previous motion to include pre-historic and historic burial sites after the word “tomb” in two places in section (a). This motion carried 4-0.

The earlier motion with the amended language then carried 4-0.

The proposed amended ordinance will be forwarded to the City Attorney.

Councilmember Moore voiced that it will become incumbent for a developer to report any found burial sites. Discussion followed where Mr. Leach noted that there are financial consequence to property owners and to the City when burial sites are located. The State Historic Preservation Office also needs to be notified when historic or pre-historic sites are located. Councilmember Mastorakos said the City does not have the personnel to oversee developers. It was agreed that this issue should be placed on a Planning and Public Works Committee meeting.

At this time Councilmember DeCampi motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to resume the original order of the agenda. The motion carried 4-0 and the Committee continued with Agenda Item #IV – Community Forum-Opioid Crisis.

IV Community Forum – Opioid Crisis

Chief Johnson summarized the Community Forum on the Opioid Crisis, which was held on February 27th. He reported that it was very well attended and it exceeded expectations overall. Chief Johnson also informed the Committee members that during the meeting the Police Department received a call for a drug overdose where officers were able to revive the person and also the next day a person who attended the forum contacted one of the presenters for assistance with their drug problem.

Overall, the Committee members expressed that if one life was impacted or saved, the forum was a success.

Mr. Keathley received the following email from Tim Englemeyer:

“Chairman Keathley:

Please allow this email to serve as my update to the PH&S Committee on the Opioid Summit we hosted on February 27th at City Hall. We had approximately 125 attendees

who listened to speakers and visited exhibitors who set up tables in the main part of city hall. Presenters included the Scott Collier from the DEA, the Fitzwalter family, Jude Hassan and Tricina Fisher. We also had the "Hidden in Plain View" exhibit set up in the police training room. The program started at 6:30 pm and we finally closed up city hall around 11:00 pm. The event was covered by various media outlets including KMOX and Fox2.

All in all, I believe the event was a success. I have received numerous positive emails in the days following the summit. I have also received offers to assist in my efforts to create a Chesterfield Drug Court Program. Also of note --- I did receive a message from a counselor who attend our program that one of the attendees did admit heroin use and has entered into a treatment program the day after our program. These are all positive development. Hopefully we reached others also.

As far as what we could do better --- if we host another summit, I would cut the speakers down to 3 and try to allow for more time at the tables outside. Three+ hours is a long time to hold everyone's attention. It would also allow more time for the 'Hidden in Plain View' demonstrations which were very well attended after the main presentation was over.

I want to thank PH&S Committee for its support. I also want to thank Chief Johnson, Sgt. Weiss and Officer Chad Meyer for the countless hours they put into this effort. I am available any time if you or the committee have any questions.

Timothy Englemeyer"

V. Ordinance 2823 Regulating The Maintaining And Keeping Of Dogs And Cats In Or On Residential Property

Councilmember Hurt led a discussion with the Committee members regarding a complaint from a citizen because of a neighbor who has more than four dogs in the backyard at various times. The citizen who voiced the complaint asked the Ordinance be applied to the neighbor because the ordinance limits the number of dogs allowed to four. The offending neighbor has had "visiting" dogs at times and sometimes those dogs do spend the night. Councilmember Hurt requested that the wording of the ordinance be tightened to clearly define a violation of this ordinance.

After further discussion, it was noted that this is a singular issue and seems to be an "an long and ongoing neighbor disagreement" and the issue of the number of dogs is just one of many disagreements between the two neighbors.

Councilmember Flachsbarth motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to leave the ordinance as it is and continue to allow the Police Department to use discretion when applying this ordinance and forward reported incidents to the City Prosecuting Attorney. The motion carried 4-0.

VI. Recent Deer Sampling Survey

Chief Johnson summarized the results of the recent (January 2019) deer survey completed by the Chesterfield Police Department. This survey applied the same survey

distance, route and techniques as in the previous White Buffalo, Inc sampling survey of 2018. The count was slightly lower, but comparable.

Chief Johnson reported that the Department has shared the results of this survey with Ms. Erin Shank, the Urban Wildlife Biologist of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Her opinion is that the deer population is not as severely overabundant as earlier suspected. Her suggestion is to continue the urban archery-hunting program.

Chief Johnson suggested that the City could allow archery hunting on City properties and also informed the Committee that St. Louis County is considering allowing archery hunting in Queeny Park and Faust Park.

The other more aggressive options may include hiring White Buffalo, or a bait & kill hunting option. Both of these options involve costs to the City and would require approval from the Department of Conservation.

Discussion followed where members of the Committee suggested increased hunting in the areas where the most deer were identified. Chief Johnson noted that larger properties identified in both the White Buffalo survey and in the recent survey have been contacted twice to encourage hunting with no cooperation from the owners of the properties. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested that the Councilmembers that represent those areas personally contact the owners to encourage participation.

Councilmember Ohley and Councilmember Moore voiced their opinion that since there is no real change in the number of deer surveyed, to keep the program as is as suggested by the Department of Conservation. Councilmember DeCampi disagreed.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember DeCampi seconded to add certain City owned property to those properties approved for archery hunting. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Keathley motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to amend the motion to include guidelines for requirements for hunting on City property including designated places, times and requirement for hunters. This motion carried 4-0.

The amended motion was then approved 4-0. This will be placed on the next Agenda for the Public Health & Safety Committee meeting to review a proposal for hunting on City property.

VIII. There was no other business brought forward for the Committee to address.

IX. Next Meeting

There was no date set for the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Having no further business, Chairperson Keathley adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.