

**Public Safety Committee  
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING  
March 23, 2015**

The Public Safety Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 301 W. Second St. in Austin, Texas.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Zimmerman called the Board Meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Don Zimmerman, Chair; Greg Casar, Vice Chair; Ora Houston; Leslie Pool

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes to be reviewed, because this was the Committee's first meeting.

**2. STAFF BRIEFING, PUBLIC TESTIMONY, AND DISCUSSION OF PROCESS AND CALENDAR TIMELINE FOR NAMING A NEW PERMANENT CLERK TO REPLACE RETIRING MUNICIPAL CLERK REBECCA STARK, INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK TO SERVE UNTIL A PERMANENT CLERK IS HIRED.**

Committee Chair Zimmerman asked for clarification on whether the Court Clerk works under the Presiding Judge. A representative of the Law Department, Kalawni Hawks, advised the Committee that the Court Clerk works for and serves at the will of the Council, but it was unclear of the relationship between the Court Clerk and the Presiding Judge.

**3. STAFF BRIEFING, PUBLIC TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING TOWING DISPATCHING AND IMPOUNDING, INCREASED FEES, AND MATTERS RELATING TO RFP EAD010119REBID, FOR TOTAL MANAGEMENT OF DISPATCH, TOWING AND IMPOUND SERVICES.**

Austin Police Department Commanders Pat South and Arthur Fortune presented background information about this item and why the software would be beneficial to the department:

- Current Wrecker System Challenges
- Wrecker Management Programs
- Benefits of Wrecker Management Program

*The following individuals provided testimony:*

- Lewis Clark with Clark Towing.
- Grant MacQuilkan, a software vendor

Chair Zimmerman asked questions about the San Antonio model. Mr. MacQuilkan responded that the San Antonio system is housed in the 9-1-1 call center and that under the new recommended Austin program, costs to constituents would be up to \$175, which is about 20-25% higher than other populated cities in Texas.

- Mark Chapla - donated his time to Tasha Mora.
- Tasha Mora, president for Austin Towing Association.

Council Member Pool notified the rest of the committee members that conversation regarding the towing item may need to halt as it relates to purchasing rules and regulations. She was informed that Mr. MacQuilkan is a vendor who submitted a bid for this contract. James Scarboro in Purchasing gave clarification explaining we do not currently have a no-contact issue at the moment; however the group should be aware of the situation. He noted that staff is not in a position to respond further, as it is confidential. Chair Zimmerman indicated that he didn't believe a problem existed. At this time Council Member Pool excused herself from the rest of the meeting due to a prior commitment.

- Pat Johnson, who showed a video on towing in Pennsylvania.
- Mike Dodson donated his time to Donavon Kokel.
- Donavon Kokel with Denver/Austin and Towing Services.
- Richard Pope.
- Mike Hassan.
- Will Jones.
- Avery Sepeda donated his time to Mike Armada.
- Mike Armada of Armada Towing.

CM Casar asked APD if we are dispatching with delays. At time of dispatch, APD doesn't know right away if towing will be needed until they get on scene. Mr. Scarborough with Purchasing said they are not allowed to answer the current question due to confidential disclosure of the proposal.

#### **4. STAFF BRIEFING, PUBLIC TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND CONSTITUENT CONCERNS RELATED TO CODE COMPLIANCE.**

**Staff Briefing:** Carl Smart, Director of Code Compliance gave a presentation on Code and shared details on the following:

- Process Flow Chart - starts with complaint received via 3-1-1; assigned to Code Officer
- Violation Types
- Code Complaints 10/1/13-9/30/14 almost 4,000 received

Director Smart reviewed these properties:

- a. 1025 Lott Ave
- b. 711 Isreal Drive

Committee Member Casar asked clarification on a flow chart regarding why an appeal might be granted or denied.

*The following individuals provided testimony:*

- Ryan Reid.
- Matthew Palmer.
- Stephanie Trinh.

Chair Zimmerman said the city should focus on safety issues. He also agreed that too many resources were used in the Ryan Reid case.

- Robert Atkinson.
- Dale Flatt.
- Steve Simmons.

Committee Member Casar stated that he would like to be able to empower Code to handle the cases which pose the highest risk. Committee Member Houston indicated that she hadn't expected to hear from Mr. Atkinson situations in which Code didn't act. Committee Members discussed how changes can be made for the better of the community.

Committee Member Casar asked Chair Zimmerman what the action on the towing item was going to be. Chair Zimmerman indicated that they would discuss it Friday and determine whether to refer it to the full Council or to take it up again in a future Committee meeting. He said they may need to come back for more public input.

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, April 27, 2015

**ADJOURN**

Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. without objection.

**DRAFT**