

Ordinance & Police Committee Meeting – June 27, 2022

The Ordinance & Police Committee of the City of Aledo met in Open Session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall building on June 27, 2022. Chairman MICHAEL CHAUSSE called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The roll was called, whereupon the following committee members answered present:

Aldermen MICHAEL CHAUSSE, DENNIS DIXON, and JIM HOLMES. Mayor CHRISTOPHER HAGLOCH. Alderman CHRIS KOPP was excused.

Also present were ILA BERTRAND, Alderman; BARRY COOPER, Alderman; JAY DOHERTY, Alderman; LINDA SARABASA, Alderman; CHRIS SULLIVAN, City Administrator / Chief of Police, and JAROD DALE, City Clerk.

Approval of Committee Minutes: Motion was made by ALD. HOLMES and seconded by ALD. DIXON to approve the Ordinance & Police Committee meeting minutes of 10/12/21 as presented. A Unanimous voice vote followed in agreement.

Public Comment – No Report.

Old Business – ALD. Chausse inquired on the status of Dancer's Creek application for a new liquor license classification & designation. CHIEF Sullivan reported the establishment would need to obtain a different license and that he is currently in the process of doing that. No further discussion followed.

The Committee discussed the property owned by Rodney Crouch, 1009 SW 4th Street, Aledo, IL. Complaints have been received on the number of vehicles that are parked on the property. CHIEF Sullivan noted the item and to search if the vehicles have current tags. No further discussion followed.

New Business –

Discussion regarding Chapter 5 (Section 5-2-1) of the Aledo Municipal Code regarding Burning Regulations:

Ald. Cooper requested a discussion to regulate fire pits and allow only portable firepits. His concern is those that leave the fire unattended, the noise, and do not put the fire out at night.

Ald. Chausse highlighted the following in the Municipal Code:

5-2-1: OPEN BURNING:

No person shall cause or permit, except as herein stipulated, any open air, open fire burning of any item within the fire or corporate limits. It shall also be unlawful to burn

any wastepaper or other inflammable waste matter, within the fire limits of the city, except the same be burned in some suitable iron or steel, or other substantial metal receptacle, or furnace, which shall be provided with grating under the entire surface of the bottom thereof, and with a substantial metal screen or covering over the top so constructed as to not allow the escape from such receptacle of any partially burned particles of such paper or other inflammable waste matter, or any cinders or sparks of sufficient size to constitute a fire menace to property. Such receptacle or furnace shall be compliant with the application regulations of the Illinois environmental protection agency.

Ald. Cooper stated he would like to see a time limit set and implemented within the City Code. A suggestion was given by ALD. Cooper to establish a timeline of midnight for those individuals to extinguish campfires on personal property.

Under the Code is also the following:

Exceptions: Nothing in this section shall be held to prohibit private individuals from setting a wood burning campfire for the purpose of the preparation of food or other accessory recreational use incidental to the primary, lawful use of the property in question; provided, such campfire is set in an adequate container assembled or premanufactured for such use and, if premanufactured, set according to manufacturer's specifications, or, a fire bowl of earth or other noncombustible of adequate assembly and construction, and, a minimum distance of ten feet (10') from weeds, grass or other combustible materials so as to present no hazard. Such fires shall also be placed a minimum of twenty feet (20') from adjacent residences and attended at all times by a person of eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Chief noted the Aledo Police Department are going to try instead of enforcing a warning, will now issue a ticket for this chapter who violates or a nuisance.

The Committee noted the Burn Days as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturdays. Enforcement is need by the Aledo Police Department with the Department able to move from a courtesy notice to ticketing.

The Committee also suggested an interview be conducted by WRMJ. CITY CLERK reported the burning regulations are continually available on the city website, in spring/fall news bulletins, and on the message board.

ALD. Chausse reported the City needs to enforce the rules we have. It would be good if the officers have a sheet to hand-out. No more warnings for those who have had warnings before and ticket offenders of this Chapter. Also, property owners who have tenants who violate this Chapter were suggested to be issued tickets.

Discussion regarding Squad Vehicle Purchase through GMAC Government Lease Program:

CHIEF Sullivan reported that he is currently trying to retrieve pricing from the GMAS leasing program. There will be interest that would be paid in leasing with the program over a 3-year period plus the interest. A rough estimate was provided by CHIEF in the amount of \$44,000.00 per vehicle and if the City should decide to pay-off the lease earlier, then there is no penalty.

MAYOR Hagloch reported former Finance Director Bohnsack would debate a lease program to be not in the best interest of the City if the City does have cash on-hand to purchase a vehicle. Now, the City does have issues finding police squad vehicles and this program would at least secure the City with a vehicle.

CHIEF reported the City currently has \$70,000.00 budgeted for vehicle purchases. It was noted, if the City enters into the lease program, we then would know a budgeted number each year. The first payment was reported to be around \$16,000.00. CHIEF also reported the City could remove themselves from the program at any time.

Discussion of Police Department Staffing and Progress of new Hires:

CHIEF Sullivan reported Officer Marcus Harris is currently at Academy and doing well. Graduation will be around the first week of August and it was noted Harris is well liked at the Academy.

Officer Wakeland is in FTO and doing well. The Aledo Police Department has plenty of full-time officers on staff and have 3 part-time / seasoned officers on the schedule as well. Also, the City has 1 Auxiliary Officer who has donated over 1,500 hours to the City.

Discussion of Body Camera Program:

CHIEF Sullivan reported the City has purchased the equipment through Reveal Media and has their own cloud-based system. 6 body cameras were originally purchased but will need 12. A second round of cameras were ordered and it is less than \$3,000.00.

Discussion of Progress towards meeting Mandate to Expunge Records related to Cannabis Offenses:

CHIEF Sullivan reported the State of Illinois has ordered the Department to expunge records related to cannabis. The Department has reviewed all records related to cannabis and flagged those records. The files have been categorized and now the

Department is waiting for the Courts to make their rulings. No records have been destroyed to date and have been placed in a secured area but the Department continues to wait on a ruling from the Attorney General.

Other – ALD. Bertrand reported in the June edition of the Illinois Municipal League magazine, there were 4 articles discussing AirBnB's and Bed & Breakfast establishments. Suggestions were noted to inquire with the City Attorney if any ordinances would need to be established for the City Code.

MAYOR Hagloch inquired if the O&P Committee would be interested in raising the City Administrator's authorization regarding a purchasing limit. The current threshold is listed in the amount of \$5,000.00 and inquired if the limit should be raised to \$10,000.00.

Consensus was given by the Committee to proceed with an ordinance amendment and bring the item forward to the City Council for review and approval.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by ALDERMAN DIXON and seconded by ALDERMAN HOLMES that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous voice vote followed in agreement. Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

Jarod M. Dale, City Clerk