

## **POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 4, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Dave Gough at 6:00 PM. Present at roll call were: Dave Gough, Ken Staver and Gary Ringen. Absent were: Janet West and Dennis E. Murphy. Also present were: Cindy Corley, Don Osterday, Police Chief Jason King, Police Officer James Johnson Jr., and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Staver second by Ringen that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Ringen second by Staver to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under new business, Chief King presented a 2009 Police Department progress report. Chief King distributed a handout at the meeting which included his report. Report items included the following:

- Grant applications.
- Newly hired part time help.
- Year to date calls for service, including a summary report comparing 2007 to 2008.
- Overtime hours to date.
- 2009 budget to date.
- Career development classes each member of the Police Department has taken.
- Miscellaneous.

Several questions were asked by those present concerning the information provided. Steve Pickett arrived at the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Discussion was then held concerning the proposed implementation of a K-9 unit for the Darlington Police Department. Also included in the handout distributed by Chief King was information concerning this proposal. Discussion items included the following:

- Estimated start up costs of a K-9 unit is \$15,000.00.
- Estimated recurring expenses of \$917.54 per year. Estimated useful life of the dog is eight years. Total estimated recurring costs are \$7,340.32.
- How can a small city put a K-9 unit to use?
- What are the benefits of having a K-9 on patrol duties?
- Additional points to ponder.

Bev Anderson arrived at the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Chief King explained he is planning on raising funds from community members for this project; not to use tax dollars. Based on his conversations with other community Police Chiefs'; fund raising is a successful way to raise funds for this type of project. It was also explained, if the proposed project is approved by the Police Commission and the Council, it takes about a year to get the K-9 unit operational. Chief King stated Police Officer James Johnson Jr., would be the dog's handler; and the dog only can have one handler.

Chief King stated the dog would work the night shift with Officer Johnson, and Officer Johnson understands he will be on the night shift for the next eight years. Bill McDaniel arrived at the meeting at 6:55 PM.

After discussion and consideration, motion by Ringen second by Staver to table this matter until the next meeting of the Police Commission; to allow Chief King to gather additional information; have Chief King invite Laf. Co. Sheriff's department K-9 officer and drug enforcement officer to the next meeting; and make sure the other two members of the Police Commission are able to attend the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Police Commission was then scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:00 PM. Nita Burke arrived at the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Commission member Staver then brought up some issues for Chief King to look into. Staver is concerned about the garbage being left each night on Main Street; the handling of drinking violations; the loud rooster crowing in the neighborhood; and parking tickets on vehicles left on Main Street overnight. Chief King encouraged Mr. Staver and all Police Commission members to contact him directly if they have any questions regarding the actions of the Police Department or any other matters they have questions about.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Ringen second by Staver to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

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Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer