

CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, August 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Raymond Collins, III at Police Headquarters, 200 Saw Mill Road. All those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Raymond Collins, III, Chairman	present
Paul E. Butler, Vice-Chairman	absent
Keith Sweeney	present
Peter BonTempo, Secretary	absent
Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board	present
Joseph Perno, Interim Chief of Police	present
Carl Flemmig, Interim Deputy Chief	present
Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel	present

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. Minutes for Approval

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the minutes of July 2, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Public Session

Donna Rzasa, 35 Chestnut Street

Ms. Rzasa explained the struggle she has had over the past 16 years with speeding traffic and multiple accidents on her street. She phoned the West Haven Police Department Traffic Division about a month ago and has not heard back from them to date. She has taken her complaint to four administrations at City Hall. She offered the use of her driveway for the Police to run radar. She feels the City and the Police are not doing enough to protect the safety of her neighborhood in this regard, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for her to simply exit her driveway.

Chief Perno explained that the Police are aware of the situation and are there as much as they can be, although it is not enough. Ms. Rzasa went on to discuss the causes, and the attempts at solutions that have taken place to date. She suggested the installation of speed tables on the street. Deputy Chief Flemmig explained that the intersection at Main, Kelsey and Wagner is being reconfigured, and when that is completed Chestnut won't be used as

much as a cut-through and that will hopefully alleviate a good amount of the problem. There will be a turn arrow to make the turn at Main Street. He stated that in the meantime they will have a little bit more enforcement in that area.

Ms. Rzasa concluded by explaining what she has done to try to slow the drivers down. She reiterated her feeling that there is not enough being done and her frustration that her phone call has not been returned. She suggested the Police issue citations and start hitting people in their pockets.

Quentin Fowler, Chestnut Street

Mr. Fowler concurred with Ms. Rzasa's comments, and explained to the Commissioners that he is a candidate for Councilman in district one. He feels the speed tables should be installed, and that Ms. Rzasa should have received a return phone call.

Chairman Collins asked three times if any other member of the public wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

3. Communications

The Commissioners reviewed the following monthly reports for June, 2019:

- 3.1 Investigative Services Division
- 3.2 Overtime
- 3.3 Attendance
- 3.4 K-9 Activity – Ofc. Standish/Cody
- 3.5 K-9 Activity – Ofc. Marchitto/Ado
- 3.6 Support Services
- 3.7 Traffic Management Unit
- 3.8 Training Division

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno reported that the Department and the City are attempting to obtain a service contract for the parking kiosks along the beach. The Department is in the process of obtaining specs regarding the budgeted 5 vehicles and 1 van. The accreditation and updating of the General Orders is ongoing. The Chief is in discussion with the Deputy Chief, Director of Public Works, and the Finance Director regarding the continuing issues in the cellblock plumbing and cameras.

Commissioner Sweeney expressed his frustration that the plumbing issue and especially the cameras are taking such a long time to have repaired. He has been told the expense isn't that much. He feels the security of the building, prisoners, and officers is tantamount. It's been going on for six months and urged that something has got to be done.

Chief Perno explained that there is money allocated for the plumbing, so that will be the first issue addressed. The remaining funds will have to be reallocated to the camera system with approval from the State, along with any funding necessary to complete the repairs.

Commissioner Sweeney asked about the air conditioning issue that was brought up in July. Chief Perno replied that it was repaired the next day.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Flemmig reported that with tonight's resignation the current level of officers is 115. Of those, 12 are attending the Meriden Police Academy with graduations coming up in October and December. The Department is looking to send six to the Academy with classes starting in December. With no further losses, the Department will be back to 121.

6. Old Business

None presented.

7. New Business

7.1 Resignation of Hon Luong

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the resignation of Hon Luong, effective August 1, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.2 Morse Avenue Block Party – August 17, 2019

Commissioner Wright MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.3 Block Party – Hawthorne St./Connecticut Ave. – August 24, 2019

Commissioner Wright MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.4 Westfest – Saturday, September 7, 2019

Commissioner Wright MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.5 Closer to Free Ride - September 7, 2019

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.6 Helping from Heaven Ride – August 11, 2019

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.7 Ordinance Violation – 1010 Ocean Avenue

Commissioner Sweeney spoke with the Traffic Division Sergeant, and inspected the problem. The signs there are confusing. Next year when new signs are ordered, the verbiage and the directions will be corrected.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to waive the ticket; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.8 Ordinance Violation – 25 Railroad Avenue

Corporation Counsel Tiernan noted that the activity is still going on at 25 Railroad Avenue. He asked that the ticket be enforced.

Commissioner Sweeney inspected the site numerous times. He finds it not in compliance. He had the duty sergeant run plates and three of the four vehicles that had plates on them are registered but haven't been moved. There is debris underneath the vehicles. There are two other vehicles on the property without plates. The other day when he drove by, a gentleman was working on a vehicle, with two other vehicles with hoods open. He noted that this is the third time this issue has come before this Board.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enforce a \$300 fine for the unregistered motor vehicles, and a \$100 fine for the operation of a repair shop that does not comply with the City Ordinances or the Zoning for that area. And further, send a certified letter stating the premises will be re-inspected in 10 days (August 19th), and if they are found to be in violation again, there will be a fine imposed of \$100 per day per violation. SECONDED by Commissioner Wright.

Discussion:

After the notice of fine goes out to the property owner, they have 10 days to clear up the violation. After 10 days, which should be August 19th, the premises will be re-inspected. Perhaps a daily d-run can be set up to monitor whether or not they are in compliance and proper documentation made. If they are not in compliance at that time, the officer issues a new ticket and the daily fines of \$100 per day per violation begin that day.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.9 Ordinance Violation – 207 Washington Avenue

Corporation Counsel Tiernan noted that the staff at City Hall inspected and find it in compliance. Staff is asking for a minimal fine to be upheld.

Commissioner Sweeney inspected the property a couple of times and finds it to be mostly in compliance. The first time he inspected there wasn't a vehicle in the driveway. The second time there was a vehicle that was not in road worthy condition – the front end was off of it, the right fender was off.

Due to the numbers of times he and staff have been out there, Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enforce a \$100 fee for administrative costs; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.10 Ordinance Violation – Parking Ticket Dispute (Bradley Point Lot)

Joseph Galen of 108 Edward Street in New Haven addressed the Commission, stating that he wasn't aware of the signage due to the late hour. He didn't realize there was a need to pay for parking in that area, and there was a car parked in front of the sign. He asked the Commission to dismiss his ticket due to these reasons.

Commissioner Sweeney inspected the lot and took pictures of the lot, which clearly shows the signage, along with the illuminated sign indicative of the pay to park station.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED that Mr. Galen pay \$50 instead of the \$100 ticket; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.11 Ordinance Violation – 69 Orford Street

Corporation Counsel Tiernan conferred with staff on this – there was a water discharge issue that has been remedied.

Commissioner Sweeney noted that the letter was sent to 69 Orford *Street* while the violation was actually at 59 Orford *Road*. He inspected and found that the problem with the pipe has been alleviated; the pipe that would send the discharge out to the road no longer exists. He met with George Sherman from the Building Department who felt that as long as it wasn't being discharged onto the other person's property or the street causing a hazard, he had no problem. He noted that it seems to be staying on the ground instead of being discharged into the street and the other person's property. Due to the very high water table in that area, it may become a problem again.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to waive the fine; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8. Pension Board

8.1 David Moran – Update on WHPPP

Mr. Moran reported on the state of the pension fund, and will be back in September to give another update.

9. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Sweeney commended Detective Wolf, and all of the other detectives and officers that were involved in the dog case – they did a tremendous job.

10. Executive Session

At approximately 7:40 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 9.1 ISD – Special Victims & Firearms Unit Monthly Activity Report – June, 2019
- 9.2 ISD – Street Crime Unit Monthly Activity Report – June, 2019

SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

At 7:42 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

11. Adjournment

At 7:42 p.m., Commissioner Wright MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary