

C.A.B. MEETING MINUTES – January 20, 2021

Present:

Jim Stabler
Dora Bronston
Ed Dobrozsi
Katrina Wilson
Stephen Wannamacher
Paul Gomia
Mayor Nicole Condrey – Council Rep
Chief David Birk
Sgt. Earl Nelson
Det. Jason Wargo
Vanessa Clark

- Jim Stabler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1732 hours.
- Approved the minutes from the October 20, 2020, meeting.

FOP REPORT

- Det. Jason Wargo advised the FOP is currently in arbitration in reference to a contractual issue that officers should be compensated hour per hour in the event that the City declares a state of emergency. This refers to when the City Building was shut down for almost two months due to the COVID epidemic.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Birk reported that eight officers will be retiring in 2021. We will need to hire a total of ten new officers to replace them, counting the two we are receiving from the COPS Hiring Grant. Currently we have 22 applicants for the upcoming test. Chief described the lengthy, intense hiring process.
- Sgt. Nelson gave the recruiting update. He also added that we will be a very young department by the end of this year. With that, complaints are predicted to increase due to an expected learning curve from the young officers.
- The only discipline so far this year pertains to failure to complete necessary paperwork.
- The Chief provided the Drug Overdose Annual Report handout to everyone. Overdoses decreased significantly declining from 48 in 2019, to 20 in 2020. The HRT Team that was put together in 2016, has contributed greatly to this by helping those that need and want to be helped.
- The Annual Use of Force Report showed a decline from 2019 to 2020, as well.
- The department is expected to be CALEA accredited again by this time next year. We have purchased the DMS software and everything will be computerized this time, as opposed to in written form. We will also apply to become certified by the Ohio Collaborative by the end of March.
- Sgt. Nelson reported on the last two shooting investigations from the past week or so. Det. Wargo explained how the sharing of data from area ATF databases helps solve crime. Sgt. Nelson added we increased our confiscated guns from 157 in 2019, to 224 in 2020.
- We have had 20 cars stolen in 20 days thus far in 2020. People are leaving their vehicles running and making themselves easy targets for theft. We put out on our social media FB page reminding the public to please turn off and lock their cars.
- Catalytic converters are being stolen left and right in town, especially from Hondas. The average converter goes for \$800 when turned in as scrap. Det. McDonald investigated where in Indiana (where there is no limit, as opposed to one per day here) someone had made over \$43,000 in nine months turning these in.

- We are putting out a traffic officer on the street as staffing allows. We hope to have a permanent one once we become fully staffed again.
- Dora Bronston advised she has been contacted in reference to a speeding problem on Main St. Chief Birk said Scott Tadych has previously mentioned movable, rubber speed bumps to help combat this.

BYLAWS AND MEMBERSHIP

- Jim advised that we will start announcing on our Facebook page that all of the C.A.B. Meetings are open to the public and will take place in the City Council Chambers on the third Wednesday of every other month at 1730 hours. Anyone may participate in the meetings, making the Citizens Advisory Board a unique group.
- Vanessa will be reaching out to seven area organizations of the unfilled member spots to determine how many at-large positions there are left of the total 20 openings to be filled.
- For those members that need to re-apply for their board positions: [here is the link](#).
- Wendy Kissell and Bill Keith both resigned from the board.
- Angela Phillips and Kevin Kimener were voted off of the board due to inactivity.
- The Bylaws will be approved at the next meeting on March 17, 2021.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be deferred until the next meeting.

CITIZEN QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- NONE

BOARD COMMENTS

- NONE

The meeting adjourned at 1855 hours. The next board meeting will be **Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 1730 hours.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Clark