

WINTON-SALEM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting

March 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and stated due to the Safer At Home Order, all Committee Members are participating virtually. For virtual meetings, Committee Members will be muted until asked to be heard. When there is a vote, it will be necessary to conduct a roll call vote. A Committee Member will be recognized, raise their hand, and state their vote. He thanked all the Public Safety Departments and noted that the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee would be meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2021.

Present:

Council Member James Taylor, Jr., Chair
Council Member John Larson, Vice Chair
Council Member Barbara Hanes Burke
Council Member Kevin Mundy

Additional Attendees:

Mayor Pro-Tem Denise Adams
Council Member Jeff MacIntosh
Council Member Annette Scippio

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Taylor stated the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any items that needed removed for discussion. No items were removed.

A motion was made by Council Member Larson, seconded by Council Member Burke, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Larson, Council Member Burke, and Council Member Mundy

C-1. Ordinance Amending Section 42-154 Of The City Code Relating To Handicap Parking On City Streets - 1008 Manly Street. (North Ward) (Recommended by Public Safety Committee)

Approved by the Consent Vote.

C-2. Approval of Public Safety Committee Summary of Minutes.

Approved by the Consent Vote.

GENERAL AGENDA

G-1. Information on the Winston-Salem Police Department Small Unmanned Aircraft System.

Wilson Weaver, Assistant Police Chief, provided the staff report.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Adams requested a list of other North Carolina municipality enforcement departments that are using drones.

Council Member Mundy inquired about marketing strategies and requested the City share information with other local municipalities.

In response to Council Member Mundy, Assistant Chief Weaver stated the footage from the drones would have the same viewing restrictions as body worn cameras.

In response to Council Member Larson, Captain Doby stated currently, the Police Department has two drone pilots, with four employees in various stages to receive their pilot license. He noted that the Department is working on a waiver to allow them to fly at night with certain circumstances such as missing persons.

In response to Council Member MacIntosh, Captain Doby stated unlimited data storage is included in the current contract.

In response to Council Member Mundy, Captain Doby explained the life of the batteries and the process of switching batteries while still in flight.

Council Member Burke stated she is excited about the technology and requested the public be well informed regarding this technology not invading their privacy.

In response to Council Member Larson, Lee Garrity, City Manager, stated the Marketing and Communication Department has two drones.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.