



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

10:00 AM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga, Fire Chief Steve Orsi, Fire Marshall Steve Wells, City Manager Tabatha Miller, Assistant City Planner Sarah McCormick and Administrative Assistant Brenda Jourdain.

Present: 2 - Bernie Norvell and Lindy Peters

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A. [19-277](#) Approve Minutes of April 4, 2019 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Committee Member Norvell seconded by Chair Peters, that these Committee Minutes be approved for Council review. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

* Jacob Patterson - spoke about the camping and public nuisance ordinance.

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A. [19-339](#) Discussion and Direction from Committee about Shoplifting Alcohol Issues at Safeway

Chief Lizarraga spoke about cooperation with Safeway, extra police patrol and public shoplifting. The Committee and Staff discussed in detail youth and public shoplifting policies, alcohol security, urgency of solving this problem and possible solutions.

Public Comment:

* Fort Bragg Unified School District (FBUSD) Superintendent Becki Walker - spoke about youth alcohol use and the availability at Safeway. A no trespassing letter is the only discipline that someone gets for shoplifting alcohol. Alcohol poisoning is a concern. The School District will like a meeting to discuss and monitor this problem.

* Paul Clark - spoke about getting Alcohol Control Board (ABC) involved in enforcement.

* Rex Gressett - spoke about Safeways alcohol and shoplifting policies, treat Safeway the same way nuisance violations at Hospitality House are treated and take a judicious action to stop this problem.

* Jeanette Colombi - spoke about putting alcohol behind the counter to detour alcohol shoplifting.

Discussion:

* There was comments regarding treating alcohol as tobacco in stores and setting up a meeting with the FBUSD regarding this issue.

* Harvest Market keeps the shoplifting forms at counter for a deterrent. Giving Safeway a heavy hammer regarding this problem, possibly get City Attorney involved and City's responsibility was discussed.

Action:

Committee recommends staff to:

- Set up a meeting with Safeway, FBUSD, Probation, Safe Passage (Laura Welter), Hospitality Center staff, Public Safety Committee and City staff regarding alcohol shoplifting problem and Safeway policies regarding this issue.
- Send out a press release regarding meeting.
- Get opinions from City Attorney on how to address problems.
- Obtain arrest statistics from Police Department.

3B. [19-349](#) Receive Report and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding possible changes to the City's Fire Sprinkler Ordinance (Fort Bragg Municipal Code Section 15.06 - Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems)

The Committee reviewed the report prepared for this item. The Committee report was presented by City Manager Miller who further discussed attachments in packet, encouraging or discouragement growth, risk on fire department, safety, staff ordinance enforcement, clarifying valuation in building permit, 36-month rolling threshold and date when this ordinance will come into effect. Miller introduced McCormick who discussed City process and changes to simplifying the form. Fire Marshall Wells commented on the smoothness of process, true value of project, possibly reducing threshold to 50K, protecting not just one building but effort to protect the entire town from a firestorm and 36-month maintenance.

Public Comment:

* Jeanette Colombi - agreed with property tax idea proposed by Jacob Patterson. Her issue is how the value calculation is calculated and the threshold should be increased.

* Paul Clark - spoke about being opposed to ordinance. The ordinance is stopping owners and clients from improving properties, alarm systems and threshold is too low.

* Jacob Patterson - spoke about retrofits for existing building. Create a District that funds fire sprinkler retrofits funded through property taxes.

Rex Gressett - spoke about history of ordinance, the need for this ordinance to escape a disastrous fire and to stop regulating into poverty and spend money on fire sprinkler installation.

Discussion:

* Sidewalks and driveways improvements in ordinance was discussed.

* There was concern that the Fire Marshall has to do enforcement, possibly taking him out of this defensible position and out of his job description.

Action:

Committee recommends staff to revise FBMC 15.06 Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems to provide a more consistent method for determining the threshold value which triggers the sprinkler requirement based on direction from the Safety Committee and bring to City Council for consideration:

- Remove from the Valuation, improvements *not* subject to a building permit;
- Reduce 36-month period for tracking Valuation, to single a building permit valuation and/or one-year period; and
- Require Fire Marshall to determine if sprinklers are necessary, prior to issuance of building permit and remove verbiage regarding prior to finalizing permit.
- Keeping the threshold value at \$75,000.

In addition to the above, Committee Members requested staff to look into potential funding opportunities to assist property owners in sprinkling buildings, including grants funds and developing a Business Improvement District.

3C. [19-164](#) Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

Police Chief Lizarraga reported on the following: ceremony swearing in Community Service Officers McHugh and Jimenez in addition to Police Officer Ferris, possibly two recruits graduating from police academy in August and a shooting incident update.

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

* Fire Chief Orsi reported the Fire Department ordered a new fire engine that will arrive next month, ended year with more fire calls than in the past and obtained three new volunteers to department.

* Committee Member Norvell requests update from Chief on plan going forward regarding gang situation at the July 22 City Council meeting in addition to addressing transient issue and the resources to use to manage them (Whole Person Care).

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 11:24 AM.