City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 | **10:00 AM** | **Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Member Peters opened the Meeting at 10:00a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Lindy Peters, Bernie Norvell, Tabatha Miller, Lesley Bryant and Fabian Lizarraga

Absent: 1 - Steve Orsi

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A 18-327 Approve Minutes of June 20, 2018 Meeting

A motion was made by Committee Member Peters and seconded by Committee Member Norvell that the Minutes of the June 20, 2018 Meeting be approved. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A 18-333 Receive Oral Staff Report on Status of Shopping Cart Ordinance

City Manager Miller showed a Powerpoint presentation after meeting with business owners.

Committee Member Peters wanted to confirm that any fines for possession of a shopping cart would be levied against the person and not the business. What happens to the property in the cart? The question of responsibility for the collection of carts and the liability for a third party involvement was also raised.

Chief Lizarraga explained the State laws pertaining to the retention of personal property for up to 90 days, and although the property can be contained within a contractor bag, the quality of the bag needs to be sturdy enough so as not to be damaged easily.

3B 18-335 Receive Oral Staff Report on Potential Updates to City Code Title 9 Crimes Against the Public Peace

City Manager Miller proposed the option of having a "code of conduct" for behavior in City properties. Penalties could result in 30, 60 or 90 day bans. The Police Department would determine the if the level of the threat warrants action.

Committee Member Peters commented that if there is a peaceful gathering at Bainbridge Park and a person overhears something they deem "threatening" should they call the Police?

Chief Lizarraga stated that officers would respond to any request, assess the situation and determine if the threat meets the criteria of a crime. The hope is for minimal impact on the community while still allowing First Amendment rights.

Committee Member Peters was impressed with the presentation. Prior to the "Code of Civility" at public meetings at Town Hall, some people had felt threatened. There is a fine line between public speech and personal attacks.

Public comments were hear from Carol White.

3C 17-670 Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

Chief Lizarraga stated the Weekly Crime Statistics and Monthly Calls for Service are being posted to the City's website.

The family at the gang house have been evicted through the abatement process.

A questionaire was handed out to business owners regarding their concerns with shoplifiting and the process for prosecution. Only 13 were returned and the majority stated there were no issues with shoplifting. The Police Department is working with Harvest Market to host a "Business Forum".

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Peters adjourned the Meeting at 10:49a.m.