

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 P. M., JANUARY 17, 2023
AV ROOM, CITY HALL

Shawn Taylor, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Public Safety to order at 6:00 p.m., JANUARY 3, 2023.

Present:

Shawn Taylor, Chair
Chuck Overstreet, Vice Chair
Mary Beth Hoover
Bruce King
Beth Kerns
Kathy Rubio

Absent:

Caitlin Cook

Other Councilmembers Present:

Joe Solomon
Frank Annie
Chad Robinson
Chelsea Steelhammer

1. Approval of Previous Minutes –
Councilmember Hoover moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 7-11-2022. Councilmember King seconded the motion. There was no objection, and the minutes were approved.

1. Introduction and discussion of previous meetings and any possible items for future meetings

Councilmember Taylor stated that he wanted public safety departments (such as CPD, CFD and CARE) to be able to come to the Committee with their needs and concerns. It is an opportunity for the Committee to be responsive to the needs of the Community.

Councilmember Kerns asked if the Committee had an official mission statement. Mayor Goodwin added that part of the purpose of the Committee is to hear from Councilmembers, the Administration and the public as to their concerns. This could cover a wide variety of topics that touch on the safety, health and wellness of the Community.

Councilmember Taylor added that he had anticipated hearing about the circumstances on Spring Street and the Officer involved death. Their job is not to solve the situation, but to be prepared to provide information if they get questions. Some potential topics are vape shops, the status of Kanawha Boulevard's roads, etc.

Councilmember Hoover added that those issues frequently overlap between two different Committees, such as with vape shops and scooters, and it is helpful to get a variety of input in those instances.

Councilmember Kerns added that warming and cooling centers might be a public safety issue for the Committee (finding a permanent location for them, for example).

Councilmember King suggested getting updates from Police, Fire and the CARE team at the meetings. Mayor Goodwin added that the Committee could benefit from receiving a brief of the Directors' reports, as a lot of that information would be there as well.

The Fire Chief invited the Committee members to go on a ride along.

2. Set dates for possible recurring meetings

The Committee agreed to set a goal of meeting at least quarterly before the 2nd monthly Finance Committee meeting, schedules permitting.

Councilmember Hoover motioned to adjourn. Councilmember Kerns seconded. Meeting adjourned.