

8/6/20 SPAC Meeting Minutes

Location: Remote GoToMeeting

Committee Member Attendance: Joe Pishioneri-Councilor, Barry Lind – Faith Community, Michael Bean – Local Business, Jack Martin – Neighborhood At-Large (2), Teresa Dillon – Neighborhood At-Large (3), Jenna McCulley – School District 19, Eric Adams – Willamalane

City Staff Attendance: Chief Lewis, Jessica Crawford, AJ Ripka

Pre-meeting updates:

- Jessica Crawford noted the meeting will be recorded as the software used for the virtual meetings provides that functionality.
- Isa Aviad (Chair) and Johnny Kischenmann communicated they were unavailable for the meeting.
- All anticipated members were able to successfully login with virtual meeting software.
- Vice Chair Jack Martin to run the meeting in Isa's absence.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** at 6:06 pm.

- a. Jack permitted Jessica to share a request from the public and City leadership for the opportunity to provide public comment at this meeting. As the meeting agenda had already been posted, committee members must vote to modify the agenda and allow for public comment.
 - i. Joe Pishioneri noted committee roll call had not been taken. Jessica completed roll call and attendance noted above.
 - ii. Joe noted that these are exceptional times and although City advisory committees do not have to incorporate public comment in to their meetings, it is important to hear from the public. Joe proposed guidelines for public comment with 20 minutes total, at 2 minutes permitted per person. He suggested the public comment take place at the onset of the meeting.
 1. Michael Bean concurred. Terri Dillon seconded. Barry Lind voiced supported.
 - iii. AJ Ripka introduced herself as a City administrator helping Jessica run the virtual meeting. AJ requested members of the public interested in providing public comment to list their name and address, which is standard for all public meetings, in the chat area. She indicated she will attempt to call the public up as she gets the information. Please keep in mind there may be technical difficulties and delays, but we will try facilitating as many people as possible.
 - iv. Jessica clarified motion to include public comment was 2 minutes per person, with 20 minutes total at the front end of the agenda. Roll call vote – all in favor.
 - v. Jessica noted that the committee will listen to public comments, but will not respond or enter in to a dialog. Again, the meeting is being recorded.
- b. Jessica shared that in anticipation of providing public comment, received guidance of how the process will proceed. AJ will use a timer and share it on the screen so all meeting attendees are aware of time utilized by each speaker.

2. **Public comment (added to the agenda).**

AJ transitioned to lead the public comment coordination portion of meeting. AJ reminded speakers to list their name and address for the record, please unmute mic, they may utilize the camera during their permitted time of public speaking. If speaker is going over the two minute time limit, AJ will politely advise on time limit in case the speaker is unable to see the timer.

The following identifies the public speakers and a brief summary of their statements:

- a. Pam Myers (No address given). Present on behalf of and concern for protesters at the recent protest in Thurston. She has worked with law enforcement agencies in the past. She is concerned with video she has watched and apparent lack of planning by police. Her daughter was arrested at the protest. She is not in favor of defunding police, but believes changes should be made. She is hoping action is taken to move to a better place.
- b. Ryan Doppelmayr (Eugene, OR). Springfield HS graduate, currently living in Eugene. Calling to express concern about actions by Springfield Police. Attended a Black Lives Matter protest in Springfield and it was the first time they were afraid of the police while participating in a peaceful protest. Also concerned about video seen that appears to show police supporting white supremacists.
- c. Robin Mayall (Garden Ave, Springfield). Springfield resident. Has a great respect for the police profession. Believes Springfield Police have betrayed public trust as they collaborated with white supremacists and counter protesters. Believes the Black Unity group is treated differently by SPD. SPD must protect all community members. Expects committee to provide oversight to increase public trust. Noted this is a ten-person committee online and only eight members are listed as members, missing a cultural minority community representative and a small business representative. *Time expired.*
- d. Holle Schaper (Ward 2). SPD has a history of excessive use of force and culture issues evidenced by Kenny settlement, other lawsuits, and response to Springfield protests. The City Insurance recently has instituted a \$250K per incident deductible on the police department. Noted the long-range plan responsibilities outlined in committee bylaws. Asked committee how they will serve the role intended.
- e. Jan McRae (Darlene Ln, Eugene). Shared information about her family member's experience with Springfield Police after he was assaulted by a friend. She is concerned with the lack of report, investigation and response to the incident. She escalated the incident to the City Manager's office and a report was taken. She hired an independent private investigator that found additional information. She wants to get this addressed and know how to advocate for justice in Springfield.
- f. Joshua Robert (Eugene, OR). His wife is Springfield employee, the curator at the museum. They were at the Springfield protest on July 29th where cops colluded with counter protesters who acted hostile towards protesters all evening. His wife was sprayed in the eyes with wasp spray and an officer 20 feet away refused to help. No additional information is available from SPD that mentions following up on neo-Nazi counter-protestor actions. Peaceful protestor arrests were made. Expressed a need to continue open dialog as it is unfair police are not answering the questions from the community.
- g. Shaay Hallagher-Starr (Ward 6). Lives in the neighborhood and participated in the protest where it occurred. Echoing prior comments regarding it being the first time in her life she was afraid of police when protestors met the police barricade. Police apparently colluded with counter-protestors, who were allowed behind and beside barricades. Concerned with lack of control of white supremacists.
- h. Jessi Preston (F St, Springfield). Lives on F Street in Thurston area. Shared same concern of others, but wanted to offer an action for consideration. Oregon Intervention System training on how to avoid injury and de-escalate situations which could assist with de-escalation techniques and provide proper trainings to the police.

- i. Thomas Lawrence (no address noted). Wanted to reiterate comments by others. All this was on video and documented officers actions while they knew they were on video. Imagine how much this happens when not on video. Earlier this month, protestors first started making sure BWC were added because they may have been taken away. Suggests positive action would be to provide mental health training. This needs to be taken seriously. This incident happened two weeks ago and we are just now talking about it. We need to address this faster.

AJ advised 20 minute time limit for public comment is up, but two more individuals are in line to speak. All committee members agreed to allow two remaining individuals to speak.

- j. Ellen Klowden (Eugene). Lives in Eugene and worked in Springfield in the past.
 - i. Speaker had technical difficulty, audio cutting out. AJ encouraged her to provide comment in writing and provided email information in the chat. #
- k. Marianne Senhouse (Eugene). Former Springfield resident, currently lives in Eugene. Had previously submitted written comment. Would ask the committee to think. The response from authority has been little to none. The world is watching. What you are doing is important and that situation that is building is to be taken seriously. The community has not had City Council or the City Manager make a public statement with the message that they heard the community and police are supposed to be impartial. Hopes there is more diversity, bias, and ethics training for the police.

AJ advised this concluded public comment, no longer accepting public comment. The chat box will have email listed for further public comment to be sent.

Jack thanked the public for their comments.

3. Minutes Approval for February 12, 2020 Meeting

- a. Joe first, Terri seconded. All approved.

4. Chief Lewis Updates:

- a. Committee Member Resignation – Rob Rivas, cultural minority community representative, moved out of Springfield and resigned from the committee. The Chief thanks him for his service and time towards the committee. How to fill the position is explained in an agenda item below.
- b. Commendation/Complaint – The Chief provided summary information as follows.
 - i. March –
 - 1. 2 commendations,
 - 2. 2 allegations of misconduct: one adjudicated, one unfounded.
 - 3. Use of force: of 343 arrests, 30 use of force incidents.
 - a. Chief reminded committee that use of force incidents range from display/deploy of firearm/taser, use of K9, or various physical force. Jail had 156 bookings, 1 use of force incident.
 - ii. April –
 - 1. No commendations,
 - 2. 1 allegation of misconduct: part of complaint was sustained and officer received oral reprimand, second part of complaint not sustained. Video of incident was available and reviewed.
 - 3. Use of Force: 256 arrests, 21 use of force incident. Jail had 88 bookings and no use of force.

- a. Chief noted that jail bookings have been purposefully limited due to COVID-19, so booking numbers are trending down.
 - iii. May –
 - 1. 1 complaint – investigated and complaint was sustained and employee received a written reprimand.
- c. Lieutenant and Sergeant Promotions – Chief Lewis advised that SPD had a promotional process since we last met in February. Lt. George Crolly and Lt. Matt Neiwert were promoted. Both are long-term dedicated officers who are committed to the community, have done many assignments throughout the department and have prior jail experience from their prior employment at Lane County Sheriff’s Office. Three sergeant promotions occurred and they have a lot of experience and fresh ideas.
 - i. Joe had a follow up question regarding lieutenant assignments. Chief Lewis advised Lt. Neiwert is assigned to the jail and Lt. Crolly assigned to the patrol division.

5. Key Policy Updates

Chief advised we usually send copies of the draft policies out for committee review, but due to recent changes because of new laws and further review required by legal personnel, the draft is not quite ready for committee review, but they will be sent out when ready. Chief will verbally discuss changes that are being incorporated.

- a. Use of Force Policy
 - i. Several changes are being made. One change was made due to Oregon House Bill 4203 regarding lateral vascular neck restraint, which is no longer permitted except in deadly force situations. The policy change includes specifically spelling out de-escalation techniques, as well as other minor changes.
- b. Duty to Intervene
 - i. To respond to Oregon House Bill 4205, the department’s Code of Conduct policy will incorporate language regarding officer duty to intervene. This change is in response to the George Floyd incident where other officers seemingly did not intervene when they should have.

Officers are already aware of changes, but they will be formalized through policy.

Michael Bean asked when the committee will receive a copy of the updated policies for review. Chief advised the timing is dependent on attorney review, but will be at least a couple of weeks.

6. Budget Update

Chief Lewis shared the FY21 budget passed as proposed. The main change to police is funding for the new body-worn camera program.

- a. Body-Worn Cameras – Many people are working very hard on the project, with a target implementation date of February 2021.
 - i. Joe noted that some people incorrectly believed SPD had body-worn cameras already and funding to take away body cameras was being considered. That was not the case, the funding was for initial creation of the body-worn program and it was approved.
 - ii. Michael noted that there is a large audience this evening. He wanted to note that the Police Advisory Committee had always advocated for body-cameras. Joe agreed and followed up that Council has actively advocated for it also.
 - iii. Chief Lewis confirmed that the funding of the body camera project has been a long, ongoing issue and he is glad to have it moving along. Chief Lewis further noted the

community may see some officers with body-cameras as select officers are currently testing body-cameras in preparation of the full implementation.

- iv. Michael asked if CAHOOTS was in the budget for this year. Chief confirmed it is in the budget this year and the City will be working on identifying funding for future years.

7. Demonstration Response

Chief Lewis spoke to the following information.

- a. Chief Lewis indicated he would be discussing demonstrations occurring in Springfield since the beginning of the BLM movement. Chief Lewis stated he appreciated the comments shared by the public tonight and will listen and take comments in to consideration. Chief Lewis wanted to inform the committee regarding demonstration response. Chief Lewis stated he will try to share a simplistic view of the demonstrations. He is not attempting to provide a detailed analysis of everything that happened.
- b. Springfield had eight (8) demonstrations prior to the July 29th protest.
 - i. Goal has been the safety and security of Springfield residents, businesses and demonstrators. SPD completely understands and respects people's right to protest. SPD have allowed all marches in Springfield. The only time there have been encounters between police and demonstrators is due to SPD's interest in keeping the protest march off Main Street, which is five lanes of traffic. Main Street has a storied history of fatal accidents and is a concern for the department. There has been reports of recent pedestrian accidents related to marches throughout the region. Protesters have been allowed to walk wherever they want in Springfield, with the exception of Main Street.
 - 1. To simplify the share of information Chief Lewis grouped BLM and Black Unity demonstrators together in their protesting efforts. He grouped All Lives Matter with the "patriot group". He reiterated these groupings are not necessarily a complete representation of protestors or their place in the related movement.
 - ii. There had only been a few arrests in earlier demonstrations, not all were related to the demonstrations itself.
 - iii. Most demonstrations have occurred downtown, near City Hall.
 - iv. It is challenging for officers who are trying to keep opposing sides away from each other.
 - v. Prior marches stopped at 69th and C St and 17th and Main St, in the effort to keep the march off Main Street.
 - 1. 17th and Main Street had a longer stand off, with officers in a line and protestors a few feet from officers. Leaders of event spoke with SPD command officers and an agreement was made that protestors would step away if SPD took off their helmets. Agreement was met by both sides and the long standoff was peacefully concluded.
 - vi. At one event, both sides of the protest topic shared the mic for a period of time at City Hall. Although it did not appear either side changed their view, it was a unique experience.
 - vii. To provide safety and security to those involved, SPD provides traffic control to prevent vehicle traffic too close to marchers.
- c. July 29th Protest information was reviewed.
 - i. Chief Lewis provided a brief history of the origin of the protest. It began because of an individual who lives on Bluebelle Way who had a skeleton in a noose, along with other Halloween decorations displayed in their yard. The resident's skeleton in a noose was

posted on social media, gained the attention of Black Unity members, and discussion of a possible march in the area because of it began. Someone who knows the resident shared that the individual has had the decorations up for over four years and the décor was not a racial issue. SPD responded and interviewed the resident who confirmed the same information. However, in the meantime, additional exchanges on social media continued between area residents and protestors and a march was planned.

- ii. March was planned to begin at 7pm from Jesse Main Park.
- iii. Chief addressed the perception of officers being sympathetic to counter-protesters.

**Member of public created verbal interruption. Chief Lewis asked members to allow him to continue without interruption.*

Officers have been advised their job is to be neutral and not take sides. In addition to concerns from protestors, SPD received many comments and concerns from those living in the neighborhood asking why police were allowing a protest in their neighborhood.

- iv. Prior to the march SPD confirmed there were 60-70 people near the Bluebelle Way residence, and some were armed. This knowledge made it very important to keep the groups away from each other.
- v. Based upon available information, SPD decided there were two places the march could not go: Main Street for previously shared safety issues and Bluebelle Way because of the potential for a volatile situation.
- vi. A barricade was used to provide a visual place where people know not to cross and maintain space between protestors and police. The setup was a barricade, then police cars, and then officers behind the police cars.

**Member of public created verbal interruption. AJ reminded the public to continue to mute their mic, that the public meeting was not open for public comment at this time. If individuals disrupt the meeting, they will be dismissed from the meeting. That we appreciate the public's cooperation and encourage the public to attend the meeting, but ask that you do not disrupt the meeting.*

- vii. There is video readily available of the protest and the altercation near the barricades on social media. SPD also has video from where the police were positioned. This is an ongoing active case, and Chief Lewis noted he would be careful on the amount detail shared, but he wanted everyone to know that there will be forthcoming arrests related to the July 29th protest on both the Black Lives Matters and All Lives Matter sides. Specific people are being identified through video and other analysis.
- viii. At some point during the march, barricades get pushed back towards police cars. People were given multiple admonishments to not cross or push the barricades. Barricades were pushed to where the police cars were located, requiring officers to move up to keep people from crossing the area.
 - 1. There is video of one individual who was arrested at the protest that is clearly telling the crowd of protestors, prior to moving the barricades, that if you don't want to be part of this, we are going to push through the line, and you can leave now.

- ix. Chief Lewis stated SPD does not want these confrontations. They simply want protestors to stay off Main Street. Officers are wearing helmets and have batons. We have had to get between two groups several times, and not just this event.
- x. There were a group of protestors that went back to their cars. As one caller described earlier, counter protestors were blocking their way. An officer did respond to try and open the area up.
- xi. The opposing side of the protest did come up behind the officer lines and barricade. SPD does not need help and it makes it difficult on police for response when people try to intervene/assist. We have to use resources at different locations in the situations where citizens are on multiple side of officers, which slows response if officers need assistance at one location or another.
- xii. As people are leaving the protest after the altercation near the barricade, there are other altercations between protesters and other individuals. SPD has police reports on these incidents and expect arrests will be made.
 - 1. An incident occurred on Bluebelle Way where an individual ended up pushing a protestor down and they hit their head on the street. The individual who pushed protestor was arrested.

**Multiple members of the public created verbal interruption. Chief Lewis asked members to refrain from interruption.*

- xiii. The altercation near the barricade ended with one officer on the ground where he was bitten on the hand and punched by other people. Another officer was hit in the head with a Gatorade bottle. These specific incidents will be investigated. SPD arrested six people at protest.

**Member of the public created verbal interruption.*

- xiv. There are a few people who responded to the Springfield Justice Center to bail out someone who had been arrested. After posting bail, two individuals put graffiti on the jail windows and were later arrested for that incident.
- xv. This is a difficult situation. SPD is trying to be neutral to all sides.
 - 1. Open to questions from the committee.
- xvi. The night after the July 29th Thurston area protest, there was another march in Springfield. The event leader communicated to police the location of march and indicated there would be no problems from protestors to police. Police were able to provide traffic control ahead of the march for safety purposes. Chief commended event organizers for their communication.

**Member of the public created verbal interruption.*

- xvii. Chief invited questions from the committee.
 - 1. Michael Bean – The Mayor said she has hired an agency to do an outside investigation of SPD response. Was an agency hired to do that?

- a. Chief responded that the Mayor has instructed the City Manager to hire an expert on use of force. It hasn't happened yet, but that is the plan.
- 2. Michael asked if there is a timeline available.
 - a. Chief estimates it could take a couple of months.
 - b. Chief expanded that there will be an internal investigation to include compilation of interviews and video evidence which will be given to outside expert.
- 3. Michael – Does SPD communicate with BLM or protestors where blocked streets will be located?
 - a. Chief advised SPD has communicated with event organizers in the past to stay off Main Street.

**Multiple members of the public created verbal interruption*

- b. Chief reiterated he wanted to be clear the reason for the barricade was to keep people off Main Street.
- 4. Barry Lind commented that there are folks very upset and as a committee we have a responsibility to make them feel heard and build a relationship. He hopes the committee can be a help in that process.
 - a. Chief Lewis thanked the committee for using this forum to allow people to be heard.

**Member of the public created verbal interruption*

8. SPD's Long Range Plan

a. City's Mission, Vision, and Values project

- i. Chief reminded the committee that a prior decision was to wait for City's development of a new Mission, Vision, and Values project before developing a PD specific long range plan. Prior long range plans were instrumental in key changes and program development within the department, to include the municipal jail.

The City has begun the process of developing an updated Mission, Vision and Values plan.

b. Short-Term Initiatives

- i. Chief asked the committee members to think about and share short-term goals for police programs over the next year. We can discuss these ideas in future meetings.
- ii. Joe asked for update on the youth program that had been discussed previously. Joe acknowledged Coronavirus precautions may delay implementation.
 - 1. Chief confirmed that program is still intended to move forward, with coordination with Jenna McCulley and the School District. However, it is delayed while both the schools and police department adjust to current safety measures related to COVID-19.
 - 2. Joe mentioned the program could provide a platform to be inclusive and interact with youth, including those in minority groups.

**Member of the public created verbal interruption*

9. Council Pilot of Boards Commission Committee Batch Selection Process –

Jessica provided a reminder that Council has been working on updating subcommittee charges, bylaws, and the applicant selection process. In the near future, we anticipate Council will finalize their recommended change to the number of Police Advisory Committee members, reducing the committee by one, from 10 to nine (9). The Council also anticipates selecting new committee members for all City Council boards, committees, and commissions in a single batch application process conducted this fall. As Council is currently on recess, additional information will be made available when details are known.

- a. Joe shared that City Council is attempting to standardize the committee size and allow for better communication between boards, committees, and commission and City Council.
 - i. Michael Bean commented it is critical that our committee has minority representation. He asked what the timeline will be to fill the Police Advisory Committee's open position. Joe advised he cannot speak on behalf of Council, but will definitely share with Council the importance of filling the committee's open cultural minority community position in a timely manner.
 - ii. Jenna McCulley echoed Michael's interest in filling the open position. She indicated the committee has the opportunity to advocate to Council the desire to expedite the filling of the position and emphasize outreach to the BIPOC community to encourage participation in the process. The other component she would offer would be consideration of a non-voting representation of a student. It has been a priority for SPD to begin an Explorer type program. The School Board has seen a great value in including student representation at board meetings. Including young voices would be something she would advocate for.

10. Future Meetings –

Jessica noted that with technology the committee can return to a routine virtual meeting schedule. The committee must meet quarterly, but we had previously agreed to meet every other month.

- a. Terri commented that monthly meeting would be beneficial at this point. Michael agreed. Barry supported as well.

**Multiple members of the public created verbal interruption. Jessica asked the public to please refrain from comments and further interruption.*

- b. Through committee consensus, SPAC meetings will be held monthly.

11. Member Information Share – No information share from committee members.

Next meeting will be the first Thursday of September.

Meeting adjourned – 7:40

Note: Chat feature disabled as of 7:06pm. Information provided by City personnel on where to send public comment by email.