

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 12, 2017

A Meeting of the City of Milford Police Committee was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware on Monday, June 12, 2017.

PRESIDING: Chairman James Burk

IN ATTENDANCE: Committee Members:  
Councilmembers Owen Brooks Jr. and Katrina Wilson

City Manager Eric Norenberg, Police Chief Kenneth Brown & City Clerk Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

Chairman Burk called the Police Committee Meeting to order at 9:13 p.m.

*Update/Growmark Property Acquisition*

Solicitor Rutt advised the Growmark Property Purchase Agreement has finally been signed and sealed. At this point, the City should be engaging in its due diligence.

During the 180-day due diligence period, the City can decide to terminate the agreement for any reason. Settlement is subject to the City obtaining financing and improvements by referendum approval pursuant to the Charter within eighteen months of the date of this agreement. If the eighteen-month period expires without the approval of the referendum, the satisfaction of the conditions shall no longer be a pre-requisite for the closing.

*Responsibilities & Duties New Police Station /Planning and Designing*

When asked about the design of the new police facility, Mayor Shupe recommended looking at the original plan designed by Redstone Architects. Chief Brown and his staff would need to determine if the plan still meets their current needs and whether changes need to be made.

Chairman Burk said they met with Dan Redstone when he was at the Police Chief's Conference in San Diego. At that time, Chief Brown made some changes to initial plans based on his current needs. Chief Brown explained there was an attempt to eliminate some of the costs. However, the costs increased so much it really made no difference.

Solicitor Rutt recommends that the Phase I Environmental Assessment be started. City Manager Norenberg stated that he has acquired the name of three potential vendors to obtain quotes from.

Chairman Burk recommends forming the proposal for the recommendation with the recent pro-police support in mind. The goal is to keep crime down and to rely heavily on that. It is also important to point out the building is way beyond its prime.

Mayor Shupe also pointed out there is correlation between public safety and economic development.

Councilwoman Wilson also suggests we reach to Bayhealth and ask for their support and feels that public safety will be instrumental to them as well. Chairman Burk noted the importance of having our facts straight to prevent the problems experienced from previous referendums and instead having one concise branding message. He recommends we partner with Ben Muldrow and have him create some flyers and other materials. Due to the amount of money involved in the project, he prefers we do this right the first time.

City Manager Norenberg noted that the resident survey contains some custom questions to elicit some feedback on the willingness to pay for facilities, etc. This will provide some objective data, in addition to safety and related issues within the community. That information can be used to shape the community engagement.

Mr. Norenberg also reminded the committee that we have a Local Government Fellow who will be working with us over the next year. He will have some fresh ideas coming right out of school and suggests that he work to help develop a community engagement strategy with Chief Brown.

### *Community Workshops*

Chairman Burk also recommends hosting some workshops with the community similar to what was done with the Downtown River Rebirth. He would like to have Consultant Dan Redstone involved due to his wealth of knowledge.

Chief Brown feels we need to focus on a number of problems but safety issues being a priority. He referenced the number of incidents in which police officers are being attacked while at their police stations. Much more security is needed, just not for his officers and staff, but for the public in general. Right now, no one is safe in that department.

Councilman Brooks pointed out that at three o'clock in the morning, there are only four or five officers working and they are all just sitting ducks.

Chief Brown said another concern is Goat Island. He described it as a very isolated area that would make an easy handgun shot to the current parking lot.

Chairman Burk pointed out that when the new Smyrna Police Department was built, City Council eliminated the bullet proof windows in the back. Unfortunately, there is a development right behind the building adjacent to an entire hallway with windows. There was a need to later make those windows bulletproof for an additional cost of \$5,000 over the original bid.

Mayor Shupe agreed adding that we need to make sure Chief Brown has everything he needs. Chairman Burk said it is very easy for civilians to pick and choose what is needed, but his staff and the consultant are the experts and should have the final say in what is needed.

Solicitor Rutt recommended Chief Brown ask the State Police to share some of their documents considering they just built a new Troop 3 and are building a new troop on State Route 24.

Councilwoman Wilson feels that when we have these workshops, we need to take it to the people. We need to make a special effort to get this information to our residents.

Mayor Shupe also feels like we need a family who has experienced a real life situation and can tell a positive story about what Milford Police Department is capable of doing.

There being no further business, Chairman Burk adjourned the Police Committee meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, MMC  
City Clerk/Recorder