

-----

**COUNCIL POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 21, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.**

-----

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Council Police & Fire Committee met on Monday, April 21, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Rockledge City Hall, 1600 Huntington Lane, Rockledge, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT: E. Georgia Phillips, Councilwoman/Chairman  
Thomas J. Price, Mayor  
Joe Lee Smith, Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: James P. McKnight City Manager  
David A. Henderson, Assistant City Manager  
Joseph P. LaSata, Chief of Police  
Jeptha L. Sunday III, Fire Chief

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Phillips.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion: Emergency Radio Purchases for Police & Fire Departments

The City Manager and Assistant City Manager briefed the members of the Committee on upcoming changes to the 800 MHz radio system used concurrently for the Police and Fire Departments and administrated by the Brevard County Emergency Operations Center. A significant upgrade and system replacement is being phased in over the next several years, and will necessitate upgrade and/or replacement of all of the radios in the City, including the four dispatch consoles in the Police Communications Division. Staff reported the estimated total cost to be \$750,000. As we are approaching budget preparation, it was discussed we would begin the process now so that when the changeover was completed, currently estimated to occur in FY 2017, there would be no interruption in services for the City. After a period of discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that Staff was acting appropriately.

B. Discussion: Alcoholic Beverages on City Property (Special Events)

City Manager McKnight noted that our current City Code (Section 4.3) prevents the consumption of alcoholic beverages on City Property. Given the number of special events the City sponsors where alcohol is offered for sale, it is necessary to consider a

change in the current Code to allow for it at Special Events, or to ban it from further use. After a period of discussion, Mayor Price offered the following motion:

**That the Police & Fire Committee of the Rockledge City Council recommends to the City Council that Section 4.3 of the City Code be modified to include the permissive use of alcoholic beverages at Special Events as approved by the City Council from time to time.**

The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, whereupon it passed unanimously by a vote of three (3).

C. Discussion: Synthetic Drugs (Chief of Police LaSata)

Chief LaSata led a discussion wherein he outlined a growing community problem. The State and Federal laws governing illegal manufacture of drugs contains special chemical makeups. He reported that Chemists are altering the makeup of certain of these manufactured drugs, thereby rendering them compliant with those laws. His intent in the introduction of this subject was to request the creation and passage of a law that would prohibit the manufacture of synthetic drugs for retail sale. He noted there is a model ordinance available, which he could provide, and noted several areas of Florida have already acted, and that Brevard County was considering doing the same for unincorporated areas. His request was for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of our residents through a prohibition of the possession, use, display, sale or manufacture of synthetic drugs, and that the enforcement of the same be a violation of Zoning Ordinances of the City. On that basis Mayor Price offered the following motion:

**That the Police & Fire Committee of the Rockledge City Council refers to the City Council the issue of Synthetic Drugs in order the consider the adoption of an Ordinance governing the same.**

The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, whereupon it passed unanimously by a vote of 3.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p. m.

Submitted by:

David A. Henderson  
Assistant City Manager