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**Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council**

A special meeting (Budget Prioritization Discussions) of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the J. Reuben Daniel City Hall & Police Station.

**Present:** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

 Ernest C. Bobbitt)

**Council Members**

 Suetta S. Scarbrough)

 Carol H. Cowen)

 Wayne Smith)

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager

 Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

 Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director

 Chuck Hasty, Police Chief

 Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

City Manager Scherer stated before beginning, we need to reschedule the budget meeting originally scheduled for tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. He suggested next Thursday, April 14.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to hold the next budget meeting on Thursday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m. here at City Hall.

**Police Department**

Chief Hasty stated he would like to highlight some of the General Fund line items. He stated the line item for Other Supplies and Materials in the amount of $3,000.00 is for supplies for the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). He also mentioned the line item for the TIO Program and Leads Online in the amount of $6,000.00.

Councilman Smith asked about the line item for uniforms in the amount of $24,000.00. He asked if we have officers without uniforms.

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Chief Hasty explained that all officers have uniforms but sometimes they get torn. He stated this is also for coats and summer uniforms.

Chief Hasty stated they are requesting to increase the line item for National Night Out by $500.00 in case the cost of the band increases.

Chief Hasty stated they are also requesting funds for three new positions and related equipment for a new program he would like to implement—P.A.C.E. Team (Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement). He highlighted the following from a document he presented to Council ***(copy of this entire document is on file in the Clerk’s Office and hereby incorporated by reference)***:

**P.A.C.E. Team**

**Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement**

The P.A.C.E. Team will consist of two (2) Patrol Officers and one (1) Investigator.

The Team will report to the Captain of Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

The uniformed P.A.C.E. Officers would work the Points of Concern areas. These areas are generated by citizen’s complaints and officers’ observations in the areas.

The P.A.C.E. Officers can supplement the patrol squad by working these Points of Concern areas.

The squad has 7 officers on each squad and it has been like that since the 1990s. The Police Department averages over 2,200 calls per month which limits the time they can dedicate to work the Points of Concern areas.

P.A.C.E. Officers can work on the street level drug dealing in these areas.

P.A.C.E. Officers can work in getting more drunk drivers off the streets. In 2014, 97 were arrested and in 2015, 74 were arrested.

P.A.C.E. Investigator will work cases involving larceny, breaking/entering and drug cases.

The Criminal Investigations Division has 8 people assigned—Captain Lieutenant, 3 Investigators, 2 Task Force Agents and an Evidence Custodian.

In 2014, the Police Department had 236 calls involving drugs or drug use; in 2015 we had 182 calls (Task Force was formed).

Nearly everything happens everywhere. Officers practicing criminal interdiction put themselves in a position to increase their odds of finding menaces before they strike by increasing their contacts and honing their skills. The proactive officer learns the indicators of criminal activity and deception so that they will recognize them when they see them.

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A patrol officer armed with the desire to make an impact coupled with the skill to detect indicators of criminal activity can be a career criminal’s worst nightmare. An officer practicing criminal interdiction keeps an open mind to the possibility that every call and every contact lead to a major criminal arrest.

They are not looking for some one thing on a call or contact—they’re looking for everything on a call or contact.

The officer practicing criminal interdiction will make many field contacts and vehicle stops for a variety of violations. Every contact becomes a short-term investigation. By using disarming dialogue, an officer can determine numerous things about the occupants of a vehicle:

* Is the registered owner present?
* Where are the occupants coming from?
* Where are the occupants heading?
* Are there indicators of criminality in plain view?

Most contacts end quickly with a citation or a warning, but often the innocuous stops lead to the discovery of everything from an intoxicated driver to a terrorist as a stop made by Oklahoma State Trooper Charlie Hanger did. He apprehended Timothy McVeigh after the Oklahoma City Bombing.

This kind of policing is being done by officers in New York and New Ulm. Officers are making incredible arrests on inner-city streets, interstates and county roads by honing their interdiction skills on every contact.

All a police officer has to do is have the desire to do this kind of policing and they are more than half-way there. While making many legal street contacts, officers become proficient and develop the ability to sense and detect indications of deception and illegal activities. They might develop reasonable suspicion to pay down suspects, or decide to ask for consent to search persons, vehicles, bags or even residences after obtaining backup. They may develop probable cause to arrest, search, or obtain a search warrant, when appropriate.

Officers in small and large jurisdictions are finding themselves facing not only intoxicated drivers (who by the way, are killing more people in this country than terrorists), but also, drug dealers, active shooters, and every other type of criminal.

What do criminals have in common?

Whether they are an intoxicated driver, a burglar, a drug dealer, a terrorist, or an active shooter, perpetrators all have certain things in common. Before they commit their crime(s):

1. They drive;
2. They walk;
3. They ride;
4. They often carry with them observable evidence of their intended crimes;
5. Police officers make them nervous;
6. Those nerves translate into visibly-detectable behaviors;
7. They must lie and those lies can be detected by the trained professional;
8. They commit observable minor infractions in the presence of police, giving officers with a desire an opportunity to stop them;
9. They are dangerous to you and the people you are sworn to protect.

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All officers will take a reactive role to the intoxicated driver who kills a family of four, the active shooter who opens up in a crowded mall, the drug-dealing gang-banger who does the drive-by shooting, and the terrorist who detonates the bomb.

Sometimes with proactive policing the officer can put out the cigarette butt, rather than waiting for the forest fire.

If given the funding for these 3 new positions and the equipment for the positions, this will give the department much needed resources to handle the growing problems relating to drugs, drug use and the other crimes related. This in turn will make the City a safer place to live and work.

Chief Hasty stated the amount requested for salaries for the new positions is $149,500.00 and the equipment cost would be $140,500.00.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if there were any grants available.

Chief Hasty stated they are continually looking for grants but most are phased in. He stated they are exploring options.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked about the line item for the Vulcan Portable Burner.

Chief Hasty explained that this is for the Evidence Custodian to destroy evidence. He stated it is a portable incinerator that provides a safer way to burn marijuana and destroy other evidence.

Chief Hasty stated they are also requesting new shotguns in the amount of $28,125.00. He stated they currently have several different types of shotguns and they need to be the same so everyone will know how to operate just one type. He stated he does not have any idea of the age of the shotguns but they have been here for a long time.

Councilman Smith asked what they would do with the old shotguns.

Chief Hasty stated they would sell them back and get credit from the company.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked how many shotguns they are requesting.

Chief Hasty stated 45. He stated if we get the credit, the amount requested will not be as much. He stated they are also requesting 50 new handguns at a cost of $22,500.00. He stated we need a couple extra in case one is kept by the SBI in the case of an officer shooting.

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Councilman Smith asked the caliber.

Chief Hasty stated 40 caliber. He stated they are staying with the same—Smith & Wesson.

Chief Hasty stated to help fight against drugs, we are requesting $12,000.00 for a new K-9 and associated equipment. He stated we currently have one drug dog and one that tracks and detects bombs. Chief Hasty pointed out that they may be able to get two dogs for this amount.

Councilman Bobbitt asked about obtaining the military dogs.

Chief Hasty stated they are trying to do that.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if there has been a decrease in drug activity with the new City-County Drug Task Force in place. She asked how many of our officers are on the Task Force.

Chief Hasty stated we have two officers. He stated the Task Force is making progress but it is such a lucrative business that every time they take one drug dealer off the street, two more takes his place.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if we work with the Emporia, Murfreesboro and other police departments.

Chief Hasty stated yes. He stated they also work with Northampton County, Nash County and Wilson, as well as the Federal agencies.

Chief Hasty pointed out that the drug dog is used a lot and that information is included in his departmental report submitted to Council each month.

Chief Hasty stated they are requesting $9,000.00 for a vehicle impound yard. He stated this would be an area at Public Works to keep seized vehicles. He stated garages charge outrageous storage fees.

Councilman Smith stated if the owner of a seized vehicle is hauling drugs, why do we care what it costs them to get the vehicle back.

Chief Hasty stated it could be the vehicle of a crime such as the mother of the young man recently killed in her vehicle. He stated we had to impound the vehicle for evidence and she

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could not afford the towing bill much less the storage fees. He stated this is the type of situation he is talking about—not drug dealers.

Councilman Bobbitt asked about security for the impound yard.

Chief Hasty stated they would have cameras and a tall fence with barbed wire—and the price includes those things.

Chief Hasty stated they are also requesting $8,000.00 to outfit the mobile command vehicle with radios.

Chief Hasty stated they are requesting $10,000.00 for a Lets Covert Syst3m for CID.

Chief Hasty stated they are requesting bikes to do more community policing. He stated it is easier to sneak up on people with bikes. He stated they can get 5 bikes for $9,000.00.

Chief Hasty stated under Capital Outlay, they are requesting 7 vehicles plus equipment. He stated there are 11 2007 models on the road. He stated they have taken parts off the old vehicles not used and used a transmission from one when the transmission went out in a 2011 model.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he used to get good Highway Patrol vehicles that the Superintendent had used.

Chief Hasty stated we are not guaranteed to get those.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he knew a former trooper that got him numerous cars.

Chief Hasty stated the First Sergeant here is on medical leave.

Councilman Smith asked which model is the better patrol vehicle.

Chief Hasty stated departments are going with the Ford Interceptor which is a SUV. He stated they have a larger cargo space. He stated we have had a lot of front-end problems with the 2007 Dodges and they do not ride good.

Councilman Smith asked if he is looking at this SUV.

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Chief Hasty stated yes.

Councilman Smith stated Lawrence White called him and asked if we were getting ready to bid for vehicles. He stated Mr. White told him that he could get the same price that is on State contract.

Mayor Doughtie stated he feels that if they can do it, we should explore that route.

Councilwoman Cowen stated there are other things involved in doing this and the Finance Director should check on that.

Mayor Doughtie asked how many vehicles the vehicle impound yard could hold at one time.

Chief Hasty stated 15 but they do not feel they would have that many at one time.

Mayor Doughtie stated the old Fire Station No. 2 is used for different things but the bay area would be perfect. He stated he believes the Civil Air Patrol uses the building.

Fire Chief Coggins stated they are using it for storage.

Councilman Smith asked if we rent the building to them.

Fire Chief Coggins stated no. He pointed out that a newly formed Boy Scout Troop also meets at the old station.

Councilman Smith asked if there is a fence at the building.

Fire Chief Coggins stated not around the whole area. He stated if Chief Hasty needs to use the station, he can get the Boy Scout Troop and Civil Air Patrol to move out.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if there were spaces at the new airport for the Civil Air Patrol.

Chief Coggins stated he thought they may have discussed that.

Councilman Smith asked the cost to remodel the station for use as an impound yard.

Chief Hasty stated they would need to change the windows and locks.

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City Manager Scherer stated the roof will also need to be replaced.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated from a long term standpoint, he would rather spend $9,000.00 for a permanent impound yard than spend $5,000.00 on a roof for a temporary location.

Chief Hasty stated the concrete would cost around $3,000.00 and the 8-foot barbed wire fence with two 20-foot wide gates would cost around $5,845.00.

**Fire Department**

Chief Coggins stated Fire Marshal Jean is still working in a part-time capacity in the amount of $25,000.00. He stated the full-time position is $40,000.00 to do that job. He stated Fire Marshal Jean is mentoring Wes Hux until he gets his Level III which will take another year or so.

Chief Coggins reported that there is an increase for the line item for telephones and postage. He explained that in the past year, we have switched cellular companies and now each department is in charge of their own cellular phone bills.

Chief Coggins stated he had requested $16,000.00 for building maintenance but he feels that number can now be reduced to $11,000.00. He stated there were some issues at Fire Station No. 2 but they have been resolved and he feels the $11,000.00 will take care of both stations.

Chief Coggins reported that they are asking for an increase in the line item for training, meetings and schools to $20,000.00. He stated he will present information on the justification for this request at the end of the meeting ***(copy of this document is on file in the Clerk’s Office and hereby incorporated by reference)***. He also explained that the department’s goal is to have its own training facility. He stated they want to put a concrete slab with three shipping containers on it at Public Works to use for live burn training.

Chief Coggins reported that they are requesting an increase in the line item for maintenance and repairs of vehicles due to the age of our apparatus and vehicles. He stated the average age of most of their vehicles is 15 years old. He stated a number of their vehicles were donated by VEPCO. He pointed out that the Expedition purchased last year for the department is the first new vehicle for the department.

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Chief Coggins stated he is requesting an increase in the automotive supplies line item.

Chief Coggins stated the “Learn Not to Burn” program in the past was funded by grants, the Rotary Club and other agencies. He stated these funds are no longer available. He stated they are requesting an increase from $3,000.00 to $4,000.00 to continue this important program for school children. He stated this line item also funds the Fire Safety Day started last year.

Councilwoman Cowen suggested that Chief Coggins contact the School System and the different schools’ PTA organizations. She stated she feels the parents would donate money for this program.

Chief Coggins stated they are requesting a $3,000.00 increase in the line item for uniforms. He stated they need to buy five sets of turn-out gear every year. He pointed out that they have had three firefighters leave recently and the new firefighters do not wear the same size.

Chief Coggins stated they are requesting a $5,000.00 increase in the line item for equipment to replace outdated equipment. He explained that anything new comes out of equipment such as lawnmowers, washers, dryers, computers, etc.

Chief Coggins stated they are requesting $6,000.00 for career development. He explained that this provides a chance for firefighters to receive a 5% raise during the year. He stated this is a part of their succession plan that has been in place for 10 years.

Chief Coggins stated they are requesting $169,600.00 for 4 new personnel which would increase the staff on each shift from 7 to 8, and they are also requesting $16,000.00 for turn-out gear and uniforms for these 4 new positions. He pointed out that he has applied for a grant for the government to pay for the positions for 2 years. Chief Coggins stated he has been with the department for 26 years and over those last 26 years, the number of staff has increased by 2. He stated that he realizes the City has a big bill to pay the first of July.

Chief Coggins stated under Capital Outlay, he is requesting $500,000.00 for a new pumper truck. He stated we can get by a few more years with what we have but he wanted to let Council know that the need is coming.

Chief Coggins stated the $60,000.00 requested for air packs will get them closer to the 25 they need.

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Chief Coggins stated they are requesting $10,000.00 to redo the rear parking lot at Station No. 1 which is in dire need of replacing.

Chief Coggins stated they are requesting $20,000.00 for tool for the apparatus.

Chief Coggins stated they are requesting $30,000.00 for a staff vehicle—F-150 pickup truck.

Chief Coggins stated his top 2 priorities are the parking lot and air packs.

Councilman Smith asked about the tools for apparatus.

Chief Coggins explained that they are tools such as saws and extrication equipment.

Chief Coggins stated last year he proposed a salary survey with other departments but did not get a response. He stated this year, he is requesting a 5% across the board plus the 2% proposed for all City employees for a total of 7%. He distributed copies of documents prepared by the Human Resources Manager showing the 5% increase and the 7% increase ***(copies of this document is on file in the Clerk’s Office and hereby incorporated by reference)***. He explained that it is his job to be a voice for his men. He stated the assumption is that they do not do a lot. He stated they work in Centennial Park and make improvements to the gazebo as needed. He stated some of the things that they do, some may not agree with. He invited anyone interested to come and spend a day with them.

Councilman Bobbitt asked about the need for more personnel.

Chief Coggins explained that if they had extra staff, they would not have to take the big truck to car accidents and small calls.

Chief Coggins stated a generator and digital radios are on his wish list.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.



 **Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, NCCMC City Clerk**

 5/3/2016

**Approved by Council Action on:**