



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 4, 2012
5:00 PM
Erlingheuser Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Ann Pitney called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

All those present rose for the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

At the request of the Vice-Chairman, the Recording Secretary called the roll. The following Commissioners were present.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico			X
Commissioner Ann Pitney	X		
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		
Commissioner Paul Heon	X		
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		

Also in attendance:

Chief Kevin Hale
Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake
Alderman Phil Tripp

Recording Secretary recorded four (4) Commissioners present at the time of the roll call. The Vice-Chairman declared a quorum and proceeded with the agenda of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2012 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the March 7, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

Commissioner Tyszka said there are two corrections to the minutes. Mr. Musante's name is spelled incorrectly is should be "Musante" and not "Musanti". Page 6 correction: should not be "residents", it should be "residences".

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the March 7, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes with the corrections as noted. Commissioner Heon seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commission Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon		X	X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka			X			

PUBLIC SESSION

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak during the public session.

Ann Curtis
123 N. State Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Curtis said she has lived on North State Street for 73 years. She is asking for a "handicap sign" to be installed in front of her home. She wrote a letter to the Board asking for this sign and was rejected because it can't be enforced. She said she understands if someone comes and parks in the handicap spot. She said she didn't ask to have it enforced. If someone parks there then they park there – it's OK. She moved from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor because of the steps. She has to have her brother bring in her groceries because she is unable to do it. If she could park in front of her home and then move the car at night to the garage it would be very helpful to her. She cannot carry groceries herself.

Ms. Curtis said she spoke with Mrs. Pitney and Mrs. Pitney told her the Board denied all requests for handicap signs for parking spaces in front of homes. She said she would write a letter to the Board stating she doesn't care if the sign is not enforced. She said she doesn't expect the Police to enforce it but the handicap sign would give her a better chance to park in front of her home. She said she is not asking the Police to do any extra work. She just wants to be able to park there and be able to bring in some of her groceries especially the perishables.

Vice-Chairman Pitney said the Board has denied hundreds of requests such as hers. If the Board were to give Ms. Curtis what she requests they would have to give a handicap sign to all the other people who requested a sign.

Ms. Curtis asked what the Board can do to help her. There is a driveway but it is two and a half houses away and she can't walk with a cane and carry bags. If she went to the back yard and parked she would have to come up 16 steps to her door.

Chief Hale said the Police Commission spends the majority of time on parking issues. A lot of them on North State Street and on the Westside of town. They are congested areas and by restricting and adding handicap parking compounds the problem and makes it worse. If there is a legitimate handicap tag it is OK but if there is no tag then the Police have to enforce it. The limitations would be much harder in the winter months. There are two handicap parking signs in front of City Hall but the State of Connecticut put them there.

Ms. Curtis said there are a lot of places to park on North State St. but the people are too lazy. She said her tenant parks his car there and he has a free garage and he still parks there. She said she has no one to turn to for help.

Chief Hale said we've been consistent with regard to these handicap parking signs. He said he will go up to North State Street and take a look at the area.

Commissioner Heon asked if Ms. Curtis can park in the neighbor's driveway to unload her groceries.

Ms. Curtis said they have two cars that they park there. She said her brother has eight garages and there are twelve cars in and out of the driveway and you can't park your car there. She asked that the commissioners please ride by her house and look at the area.

John Kichar
50 Day Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Kichar said there is a dog on Mary Street that barks all night long from 10:30/11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. in the morning. He said how many times can I call the Police.

Chief Hale asked the address.

Mr. Kichar said 8 Mary Street.

Mr. Goldson asked if Mr. Kichar has talked to the people who own the dog.

Mr. Kichar said no, because he gets loud. He said he mentioned it to the Police at the Block Watch meeting.

Commissioner Tyszka asked how many times he has called the Police Dept. about the dog.

Mr. Kichar said two times. The man living behind him works the second shift. He said he doesn't know if the dog is out all night but he starts barking at 7:00 a.m. He said he sits on his porch and the dog is barking.

Chief Hale said he will follow up on this.

Phil Tripp, 2nd Ward Alderman
57 Eagle St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Alderman Tripp thanked Chief Hale for volunteering to go up to Ms. Curtis's house to review the area. It is a very congested area. There is one driveway down in the back and the houses are stacked one or two deep in there. If the Chief or the Commission can help her it would be appreciated.

Commissioner Tyszka said that North State Street was a two way street at one time and was made one way because of the parking problems. At that time the Board of Police Commissioners did what they could but you need cooperation from the people living in the area.

Alderman Tripp said with regard to the no turn on red signal at Main St. and Maple St., he did some research and the right turn on red was instituted because of the "Oil Embargo" in 1975 and it restricted right turn on red only if there was a sign posted. This was to cut down on gas consumption, congestion and pollution. In 1978 the Legislature made it generally acceptable to take a right turn on red unless there was a "no turn on red" sign posted. He said it was a luxury to take a right on red this evening at Maple Street and it should be an extremely compelling reason before the no turn on red sign is put up.

Frank Heusser
Wakelee Avenue
Ansonia, CT06401

Mr. Heusser said he wanted to make sure the Commissioners received his packet of information.

Vice-Chairman Pitney said yes, they have received it but they received it late yesterday and they haven't had an opportunity to review it.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to approve the monthly reports as submitted.
Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly Reports:

1. Departmental Monthly Report
2. Car Maintenance Report
3. Officers' Activities Report
4. Detective Bureau

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to accept all of the communications and the late communications and review them. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson		X	X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		X			

Communication A: Letter dated April 2, 2012 to the Board from Chief Kevin J. Hale requesting approval for policies # 1.003, #2.000, #2.001, #2.002, #2.003, #2.004, #2.005, #2.006, #2.007 and #2.008

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked for a motion to accept and approve the Policies from Chief Hale.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept and approve the Policies (# 1.003, #2.000, #2.001, #2.002, #2.003, #2.004, #2.005, #2.006, #2.007 and #2.008) received from Chief Hale with any necessary corrections. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

Late Communication:

1. Frank Heusser: Information packet

Vice-Chairman Pitney said the Commissioners will review the information received from Frank Heusser during the month and will take it up at the next meeting.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated there was a late communication and the Board has to open public session to see if there is anyone who wishes to speak to the late communication.

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Board regarding the late communication.

Ken Plavnicky
 15 Mountain View Road
 Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Plavnicky said that Mr. Heusser should be put back on the Tow List because he lives in Ansonia and has his business in Ansonia and is paying a lot of taxes. He said that the Board should give him another chance.

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to close the public session. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board to discuss issues concerning a new pension recipient.

Chief Hale said that this is in Finance.

2. Stop sign request on West Main Street at Kingston Drive

Chief Hale said there was a review of the accidents in that area from October 1999 to March 2012 and there were no accidents. A metro count study showed 6928 cars came through during a 10 day period. The posted limit is 25 mph but the mean speed was only 19.3 mph. The Maple Street Bridge was closed for part of the time so there was nothing to compare the numbers with. The sight line is not the greatest but the speed was below the limit and there were no accidents.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion not to put up the stop sign on West Main Street and Kingston Drive. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked Chief Hale about Mr. Musante's dead-end sign on N. Prospect St. Ext. from last month.

Chief Hale said there is no sign there and he will have one installed.

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked Chief Hale about the pole.

Chief Hale said he reported it to United Illuminating Co.

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked about the "No Parking from here to corner" sign for Page Street.

Chief Hale said that this sign is on the list to be done.

Chief Hale said that N. Spring Street was requested to be made a one-way street. He said they are doing a survey right now and will have a report for next month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for a "No Turn on Red" sign on Main Street northbound at Maple Street

Chief Hale said he received this request from the employees of Farrels. Cars on Main Street consider this a right turn on red. DOT should have no problem with approving this request but it must come from the Board of Police Commissioners. The employees can't get out of the parking garage with the cars not stopping to allow them to exit out of the garage. The cars keep driving and making the right turn on red. For the safety of the people working at Farrels the Commission should recommend the State put in a "no turn on red" sign.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to recommend the State of Conn. DOT install a "No Turn on Red" sign on Main Street at Maple Street for safety.

Commissioner Tyszka asked if this coming down Main Street.

Chief Hale said no, north bound and the people at the light turn right on red. This is being done continuously.

Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

2. Request for a “No turn on Red” sign on Division Street at North Division Street

Chief Hale said with the opening of the Ansonia Riverwalk there has been an increase in pedestrian traffic at that intersection. There is a mix of people and cars there. There is going westbound when you go right to Stop & Shop. There is no crosswalk there. The City will put a crosswalk there in that area. The Engineer will look at it. There are more people at the intersection and in that area and we want to make it safer.

Chief Hale said the back way to Stop & Shop either direction there is a lot of traffic and people in the intersection. This request has to go to the State Traffic Commission.

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to request a “No turn on Red” sign at N. Division Street and Division Street from the State Traffic Commission. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson		X	X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		X			

ORAL REPORT: Chief Kevin Hale

Chief Hale presented the following oral report to the Commission.

Personnel:

- Three (3) officers are on long term workers compensation.
- One (1) FT dispatcher working ½ day on workers compensation.
- There is one Police Officer just finishing FTEP.
- There is one Police Officer starting the FTEP.
- There is one new recruit started last Friday.
- They will be testing for the position for Sergeant.

Miscellaneous:

- They have met with BOAT on the Police budget.
- N. Prospect Street Ext. The dead-end sign will be installed.
- They approved the business parking on Wakelee Ave.
- They are waiting on the island for the intersection on Beverly Drive and Highland Ave.
- They will be installing the “No parking” sign on Page Street.
- PWD removed the “handicap sign” on Jewett St. Originally No Parking sign was installed.
- They will be replacing the boiler with a new boiler in the Police Station this summer. The funds will be through grants.
- Chief Hale thanked the Commissioners for approving the Policies earlier this evening.
- There is Motor Vehicle enforcement with an electronic plate reader. It can read 1800 plates a minute. It is on one cruiser. The Police Officers are finding unregistered vehicles all the time.

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to accept Chief Hales’ oral report. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson		X	X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		X			

Commissioner Heon discussed the use of video cameras attached to hats. He said they are finding most of the Officer's actions are justified. They are receiving feed back in real time and the Sergeant can review what is happening. He said he will forward some information on this camera for hats to the Commissioners for review.

Chief Hale said he will take a look at it but this service is not free.

Vice-Chairman Pitney said there may be grant money available. She suggested the Department purchase 4 hat cameras and the officers share them. She said Commissioner Heon will get the Board some information on the cameras.

Vice-Chairman Pitney asked if there were any questions or anything else for the Board to consider.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. to discuss Personnel matters. Invited to Executive session are Corporation Counsel Blake, Craig Manemeit, Attorney, James Frolish, Brian Harte. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

Commissioner Heon made a motion to go back into regular session at 5:54 p.m. There were no decisions or votes taken in Executive Session. Commission Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Corporation Counsel Blake said the Board will address Officer Harte in the July meeting.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson			X			
Commissioner Paul Heon	X		X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)						X
Commissioner Ann Pitney			X			
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		X			
Commissioner Paul Heon			X			
Commissioner Frank Tyszka		X	X			

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JoLynn Flaherty

Acting Recording Secretary

Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority