



TOWN OF SUMMERTON

SOUTH CAROLINA

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

September 7, 2022 at 6:00PM

Council Members: Mr. Tony Junious, Mayor, Mr. Darion Canty, Mayor Pro-Temp, Mrs. LeAnn Berry, Mr. James Lloyd, Mr. Ritchie Way and Mr. Terrance Tindal. Also present was Mrs. Amanda Salka, Town Manager, and Mr. Smiley, Town Attorney.

PRESENT

Mayor Tony Junious called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ritchie Way

INVOCATION

All

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. LeAnn Berry made a motion to approve the agenda as outlined. Seconded by Mr. Darion Canty, all was in favor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Junious went over some "house rules" before introducing the Finalists of the Chief of Police. They were as follows: each candidate will have 20-25 minutes for introduction and Q&A. The first 3 minutes is the introduction process in front of the panel. The Q&A will come from the citizens. Each citizen will be allowed 2 minutes, at the most, for questions and answers of each candidate. There won't be any outbursts. Please await for the acknowledgment of the chairperson before asking questions. There will be no personal attacks on the candidates. Please keep question professional, no profanity or yelling, or you will be asked to leave by law enforcement. Candidates, if any questions that are asked of you, that makes you uncomfortable and doesn't have anything pertaining to the panel tonight, you do not have to answer the question.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Candidate# 1—Mr. Trey Miles

Mr. Miles thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He has been in Law Enforcement for 16 years and Fire Service for 18 years. He has held 7 positions during his career. He worked in every field in law enforcement from patrol to investigations, narcotics, gangs, training and administration. In administration he worked with budgets, grant writing, and acquired equipment for the department. He started off in Coward, worked in Lake City and in Sumter County. He is very community orientated and works well with children. He works with a non-profit group with sports and children. He lived in Florence County the majority of his life, until he moved to Sumter County.

Q& A

Question: How do you keep your officers motivated?

Answer: By providing training that you can't normally get, by working with and helping them to achieve their goals. Providing them with equipment and training that they need. Also give them a good atmosphere to work in.

Question: Will you work different shifts to keep an eye on them for accountability to their work ethics?

Answer: Yes. I am not a "sit in the office" type of guy, never have been. I go out to the streets and walk/talk with businesses because I want to be seen as part of the community. I will be on duty at night and in the day. If you can't do the right thing when no one is watching, then this isn't the right line of work for you. I am very big on body cameras, it keeps officers in check.

Question: Fairness in every situation and no favoritism of who you are or whose child you might be?

Answer: I do not discriminate, I treat everyone the same as I can. I will give them respect, even if respect is given in return. I will always kill with kindness.

Question: The challenges that you see in small towns, do you see anything that would hinder you for making and helping out town grow with our law enforcement?

Answer: Hardest part of any small town is funds. But you can't have funds if you have a very high crime rate, or with no type of revenue. As a Police Chief, you are not just a Police Chief. You are here to help the town grow in all sorts. You being part of the community. I would live to see this department grow. With only one officer on shift, that isn't safe. I am here for the community.

Question: what experience or training do you have in addressing a citizen with mental illness, how would you deal with the situation?

Answer: It is a very common issue. I have 16 years of service in law enforcement and over 2000 hours in advance training. Some is of mental illness, which is a requirement. A police officer is more than just a person who writes tickets or arrests someone. They are problem solvers, and counselors. I have dealt with different type of people to where I have learned how to speak with them about the issue. I will get them as much help as they need.

Question: Did you make a statement that the town can't get funds with a high crime rate?

Answer: No, I said you can't get funds with a high crime rate, that's not the case at all. You want your property value to be higher, you want revenue coming in. You want a company or business to come here. When you have lower crime rates, the property value will increase, that happens in every city or town.

Question: What degree do you have?

Answer: I do not have a college degree. I have experience on the job, advance leadership and management, grant writing. I have some classes from SLED and working with case management systems.

Question: You have training in grant writing?

Answer: Yes

Question: With a town that doesn't have a Community Center for kids to play in an such, what kind of role would you help with a grant to Community Center for hte your to have a place to go and things to do?

Answer: I can assist with help writing a grant for that. I would have to see what grants are available.

Question: In your opinion, what is the biggest law enforcement challenge in a small town?

Answer: Funds is a big thing everywhere. The relationship between the department and citizens. With a small town the retention of the officers and the relationship with the citizens is the biggest challenge.

Question: how prepared are you to go into the businesses to introduce yourself to let them know that you are here for them should they need you?

Answer: That would be one of the first things that I would do. I will walk the streets and introduce myself to everyone. I have always been very into the community.

Question:

Answer: I will not be the person to be sitting in the office.

Question: How would you promote officers, other than job experience?

Answer: I would offer as much training that is available. Promotions would be based on training, along with job experience.

Introduction of Candidate# 2 Mr. Donel Dixon

Mr. Dixon thanked Council for choosing him to be one of the candidates for the Chief of Police. He started law enforcement in 1997, this year makes 25 years. He listed several credentials and training classes that he has attended. He believes in high integrity.

Question: Any experience or training in active shooter or kidnapping?

Answer: I have taken 3 active shooter response courses. At my current employment we request for extra manpower. He listed the proper procedure of how to deal with the situation.

Question: How are you going to take accountability of your officers and will you be working with them on different shifts (ie. To make sure that no one is sleeping on the job, checking the stores and doing what they are supposed to be doing)?

Answer: Most definitely, even on time off I will cruse around to hold accountability of what everyone is doing on calls. Making sure paperwork is being done properly and correctly.

Question: If you found any of your officers actually doing something illegal, are you going to jump right on it ocare you going to bypass it?

Answer: I also go by adopted Policy and Procedures. It would be very unfortunate for the officer that is doing something unethical o against the law, but they did made that choice. Proper investigation will be conducted.

COUNCIL & MAYOR REPORT

Question: Where do you see the greatest need for Police presence in the Summer-ton Community and how do you plan to address this?

Answer: I don't think 1 particular area supersedes another, every area is just as im-portant. I believe in community policing. I believe all officers be right with the community and businesses.

Question: In terms of mental illness, what training do you have in that area and how would you address that if some is having a meltdown and the police is called?

Answer: I take mental illness very seriously. I don't want any officer, at any giv-en time, to approach someone going through mental illness, to think that they are intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics. The officers will be trained to han-dle that type of situation.

Question: How do you plan to work with the sheriff's department for the outer ly-ing roads past Fourth street?

Answer: we have a great relationship with the sheriff's department to help with assisting.

Question: Body Cameras use?

Answer: No Camera will be turned off at any time during a traffic stop or call. If the camera is off, a written reprimand.

Question: How many officers do you think would be enough?

Answer: at least 2 officers on day and 2 officers on nights or at least 1 officer on day shift and 2 on nights.

Question: Getting officers in school for training? How would you handle coverage while officers are in training?

Answer: If there isn't cover, I don't leave town. A lot of times I would go out and run traffic calls if needed and I am a certified instructor to where training can be done inhouse if needed.

Question: In your opinion, what is the biggest law enforcement challenge in Sum-merton?

Answer: Building trust and transparency. Lot of time public has the misconception of law enforcement..

Question: What are somethings that you are prepared to do for the youth in the Community?

Answer: Everything! Meet & Greet, I am big on kids. Doing activities with the kids. Kids confide in officers vs parents. Movie night with a big projector and popcorn.

Question: School security?

Answer: We would have to get approval with the Sheriff's Dept first, but we would introduce ourselves to the staff and students.

Question: If you are out of town, will officers cover for you?

Answer: If any officer isn't available, I will be here. I won't leave town unprotect-ed.

Question: This would need a force of 6 or more to cover all shifts and have coverage?

Answer: Yes, at least 6 or more.

Question: Pay for those officers?

Answer: There are grants available to apply to go towards pay and training officers.

Mrs. Berry made a motion to enter into executive session for Item #A read verbatim. Seconded by Mr. Lloyd, all in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Canty made a motion to return to open session. Seconded by Mrs. Berry, all in favor.

RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Lloyd made a motion to authorize \$410,000 of ARPA funds for SCIIP Grant. Seconded by Mr. Canty, all in favor.

Mrs. Berry made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lloyd, all was in favor. Meeting ended at PM.

ADJOURN

Respectfully Submitted,


Frances Feagin
Town Clerk

