

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

6:22 p.m., Monday, January 11, 2016

COMMITTEE ROOM

Room 239, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member James Taylor, Jr., Chair
Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Vice Chair
Council Member Molly Leight
Council Member Jeff MacIntosh

OTHERS PRESENT: Council Member Dan Besse (in at 6:25 p.m.)
Council Member Derwin L. Montgomery
Council Member Denise D. Adams

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order and stated without objection, the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda. No items were removed for discussion.

Council Member MacIntosh made a motion to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Burke and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

C-1. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES -
December 14, 2015.

GENERAL AGENDA

G-1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, THE CITY OF GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, THE CITY OF HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA AND NMS LABS, INC. FOR DNA TESTING OF COLD CASE EVIDENCE.

Mr. Barry Rountree, Chief of Police, Winston-Salem Police Department, gave the presentation on this item.

In response to Council Member MacIntosh, Chief Rountree explained the in-house lab currently only performs alcohol and drug testing and does not test for DNA.

Council Member Burke made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member MacIntosh and carried unanimously.

G-2. UPDATE ON THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES AFTER RELEASE PROGRAM.

Mr. Evan Raleigh, Deputy Director, Community and Business Development Department, gave the staff presentation on this item.

In response to Council Member Leight, Mr. Raleigh stated the Successful Outcomes After Release (SOAR) program works with other agencies to refer individuals for placement.

In response to Council Member Adams, Mr. Raleigh stated staff works with the participants of the program by assisting them with resumés, skill development, and provides encouragement, guidance, and support to the participants while they are employed with the City.

Council Member Montgomery thanked staff for their work with this program and noted the difference supporting these individuals has on a successful outcome. He requested information on the types of offenses the participants were incarcerated for, the length of time served, and how long ago their incarceration occurred, and if the City is providing the participants with information on furthering their education.

In response to Council Member Burke, Mr. Raleigh clarified a livable wage is considered \$10.25 an hour.

Council Member Burke requested a report before Monday on the companies that have hired participants from the SOAR program in the City and what the Chamber of Commerce has done to encourage companies in Winston-Salem to promote diversity.

Chair Taylor noted the Chamber of Commerce was very interested in the SOAR program and expressed interest in hiring participants from this program in the coming years.

Council Member Leight noted the Piedmont Triad Regional Council provides a re-entry program that begins to work with participants six months prior to their release by providing them with skills and training needed once they are released.

Mr. Raleigh stated the City will be hiring for the third SOAR class in the spring of 2016, and those that may be interested in the program can find more information by visiting the City's website at www.cityofws.org and performing a keyword search for "SOAR".

Additional Item:

Council Members Besse and Burke stated their apologies for having missed the recent police promotions ceremony.

Chief Rountree stated the Winston-Salem Police Department recently promoted 13 officers. He recognized Ms. Katrina Thompson, Assistant Chief of Police and Captain Danny Watts, Professional Standards Division.

Katrina Thompson, Assistant Chief, Winston-Salem Police Department, stated she was thankful and blessed to work with the many professionals she has worked with over the years. She stated she looks forward to continuing their work strengthening the relationship between the police and community.

Mr. Danny Watts, Captain, Winston-Salem Police Department, thanked the Council for the opportunity to work for the Winston-Salem Police Department.

Chair Taylor recognized the Fire and Emergency staff members also in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:52 p.m.