



MINUTES

KEIZER CITY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING JOINT WORK SESSION

Monday, September 13, 2004

Robert L. Simon Council Chambers

Keizer City Hall, Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER

Council President, Jacque Moir called the work session to order at 5:40 pm. Those present are listed below:

Present:

Lore Christopher, Mayor (arrived later)
Jacque Moir, Council President
Judy Smith, Councilor
Richard Walsh, Councilor
Charles Lee, Councilor
Michel Gaynor, Councilor
James Taylor, Councilor
Bruce Rector, COP
Bill Quinn, COP
Kevin Baker, COP
Margarethe Pommerening, COP

Staff Present:

Chris Eppley, City Manager
Chief Marc Adams, Police
Sgt. Lance Inman, Police
Capt. Jeff Kuhns, Police
Tracy Davis, City Recorder

Also Present:

Bill Adams, Today's Choices,
Tomorrow's Communities and
Director of "No Meth, Not in Our
Neighborhood"

DISCUSSION:

Future Goals And Plans Of Action For Community Oriented Policing (COP)

Kevin Baker explained that the purpose of the meeting was to get direction from Council so the committee could set goals and objectives for the next year.

Bill Quinn complained that no one from COP was invited to speak at the Council meeting where the committee was discussed and the work session was agreed upon. He added that although at first he was shocked at the idea of disbanding the committee, the more he thought about it the more he favored it. He explained that the committee is ineffective; it is supposed to be made up of District meetings which appear to be non-existent and therefore there is very little input from the community districts. He added that the Police Department was doing a good job in the community and encouraged the disbanding of the committee with the formation of an ad hoc committee to address specific problems when necessary.

Kevin Baker responded that although he had leaned toward disbanding of the committee, after consideration he felt it would not be

in the City's best interest to eliminate the committee. He added that the committee is a victim of its own success. Problems have been solved, the Police Department has done an excellent job, but COP has a unique roll nonetheless, serving as a point of contact for citizenry.

Councilor Gaynor noted that he felt it was extremely important for the committee to remain in place because when an issue comes up that needs to be addressed, it is invaluable to have a third party. He recommended that the committee be put on hold rather than be disbanded. He confirmed that the committee is indeed a victim of its success in that the perceived problems have been eliminated.

Councilor Smith asked, before disbanding the committee, if members had anything they would like to do or had any suggestions on tweaking the committee. She suggested that added responsibilities might give the committee direction.

Councilor Moir added that she would hate to see the community lose the resource of the Community Policing Committee because over the years they have accomplished good things. She noted that the committee may need to "re-invent" itself and that there are new issues coming around that may give the committee a direction.

Councilor Lee explained that he is part of the "No Meth, Not in Our Neighborhood" committee and thought that this might be an issue COP could participate in because there is no real directed effort from the citizens. He added that organization efforts have been made and the committee now falls under the jurisdiction of "Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Communities" and the YMCA and introduced Bill Adams who then addressed the group.

Mr. Adams explained that the area has become a high-intensity drug trafficking area adding that other drugs have come and gone in the past and meth is not the last drug that will have to be dealt with. He pointed out that increased use may be attributed to reduced Police protection, the fact that there are lots of places for the drug traffickers to hide, and a remarkably slow court system. Meth is unlike drugs of the past because with Meth the user is wide awake and energized and stays awake for several days. This results in a group of people involved in criminal behavior with a lot of time and energy to apply to crime. He explained that because Meth is a "feel good" drug and is highly addictive, it often takes many experiences with treatment to get it under control..

The cooking of meth creates gases which hover at the floor level and affect the children in the home. Every time a meth house is exposed,

there are children needing medical attention. Because the meth user is up for several days and then sleeps deeply for several days when they come down, the children are left without care. When the user is arrested, the children are put in foster homes, which is causing a strain on the foster care system.

Mr. Adams suggested that it was important to make the community unattractive to people that want to engage in the production of meth amphetamines by encouraging neighborhoods to prevent the establishment of the meth houses. This could be done by strengthening the neighborhoods through neighborhood watches and utilizing the faith community. There are churches in the area doing top-of-the-line, cutting edge drug treatment. Education and prevention is another way to prevent usage of the drug as well. Mr. Adams concluded that the point of all this is to provide strength through unity and working toward a common goal with members of the Keizer community adding that Community Policing could be a big key in this effort.

Responding to inquiry from Councilor Gaynor, Mr. Adams noted that federal studies show the cure rate to be 9-10%, but that new methodology shows that 30-40% can stay off the drug for a year. Addiction is a constant battle, but this percentage is better than the first. Awareness can help prevent the problem; there are some prevention of programs in place as well, but it will take more than one measure to cure this blight.

Councilor Taylor thanked Mr. Adams for coming to the meeting and noted that the COP committee is issue oriented. When there is an issue to address, the committee is occupied with a task. He concluded that the drug issue is a societal problem and the group might be able to lead the crusade to eradicate drugs and the related crime from the community.

Chief Adams reviewed the resolution forming the committee and added that the problem is that there is so little participation. He questioned what brought about this change suggesting that causes might be (1) the lack of a full-time coordinator who recruits new people and helps coordinate and focus people towards projects; (2) citizen apathy – inactive neighborhood associations; and (3) the community policing philosophy is ingrained in the Keizer Police Department now and previously it was not. He concluded that he felt it would be better to create the Keizer No Meth Committee rather than assigning the task to the Community Oriented Policing committee.

Councilor Walsh wondered if the emphasis should be to get the news out, recruit members and get out to neighborhoods distributing information, and encouraging active support of neighborhood associations as well as serving as a listening post and a public relations sort of organization.

Bruce Rector agreed that citizen apathy was a problem until there was an issue to address. He agreed that meth was a huge problem adding that he felt it should be a separate committee because it would be a huge task and also because some committee members might not be interested in devoting their time to the issue.

Mayor Christopher noted that she was leaning towards changing the COP Committee to an ad hoc committee. She added that crime stats should be forwarded to neighborhood watch commanders and continue to be forwarded to members of Community Oriented Policing committee.

Members discussed neighborhood associations, and the lack of participation adding that they, too, are issue driven. Participation of the police department in the associations was discussed as well.

Kevin Baker stated that the committee was not effective at the present time, but he did not want to argue either way on the existence of the committee – that was the decision of Council. He concluded that he did not have a strong argument on the continuation of this committee unless Council wants to give direction on how to support the City.

City Manager Chris Eppley stated that the end of a committee is not a cause for grief. It means the committee has succeeded in fulfilling their charge and it is time to move forward and do something else. He concluded that if Council should decide that this committee has succeeded in their task, it would be his recommendation that the successes be recognized and the disbanding of the committee be considered in a positive light. He commended the committee on successful completion of their mission and thanked them for their service.

Margarethe Pommerening noted that the oomph was gone from the committee; she would like to serve, but there was nothing to serve. If there is nothing left for the committee to do, she was not opposed to ending the term of the committee.

Council members individually addressed the Community Oriented Policing Committee and thanked them for a job well done. Additionally members commended the Police Department for being community oriented and an effective force in the community.

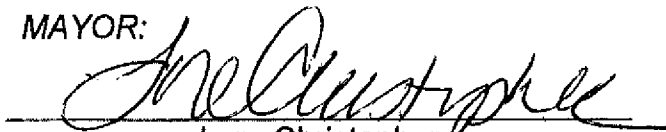
As his last official act, Kevin Baker requested that City Council consider honoring a member of COP for her years of service to the community. Council responded that she would be honored as Volunteer of the Quarter at the September 20th Council meeting.

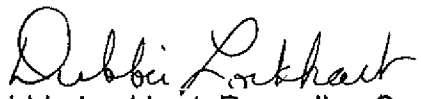
Councilor Taylor asked that members be polled to form a committee to address the meth issue in the community. Consensus was to form a Meth Task Force. Councilors Smith, Taylor and Lee added that they would want to be involved.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

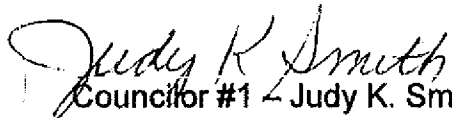
APPROVED:

MAYOR:


Lore Christopher

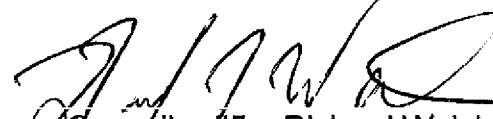

Debbie Lockhart, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

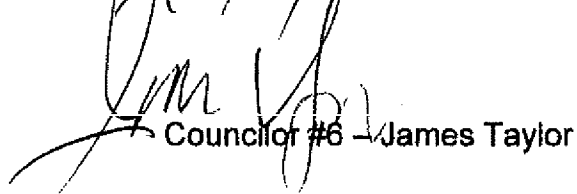

Councilor #1 – Judy K. Smith

Councilor #4 – Jacques Moir


Councilor #2 – Michel Gaynor


Councilor #5 – Richard Walsh

Councilor #3 – Charles E. Lee


Councilor #6 – James Taylor

Minutes approved:

October 18, 2004