

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF EASTVALE

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

4:30 P.M.

Rosa Parks Elementary, 13830 Whispering Hills Drive, Eastvale, CA 92880

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:33 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioners Present – Commissioners Johnson, Cruse, and Vice-Chairman Kiltz.

Commissioners Absent – Chairman Allis

Staff Members Present – City Manager Jacobs, Lieutenant Yates, Fire Chief Williams, Assistant City Clerk Hall, and Recording Secretary Wuence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by Vice-Chairman Kiltz.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Don Pettinger, a resident, expressed his concerns regarding the lack of daytime Burglary (459) Patrol by the Sheriff's Department and his perception that the City and Riverside Sheriff's Department were not being forthright with communications to residents and local newspapers. Specifically he noted a thread on the Eastvale Community News Facebook page stating that the Eastvale Community News contacted the Sheriff's Department to inquire about why there were several police vehicles on Limonite on the morning of Tuesday, March 25. The Eastvale Community News Facebook page reported that the reply they received from the Sheriff's Department was that routine patrols were being conducted. Mr. Pettinger felt it was clearly not routine patrol but a special traffic operation based on the number of police vehicles present on Limonite. Mr. Pettinger stated that the priorities of the Riverside Sheriff's Department should be Residential and Motor Vehicle Burglary Patrol. Mr. Pettinger stated that if the focus is on traffic enforcement, rather than the Burglary Patrols, Eastvale may become known as a revenue enhancing city.

Lieutenant Yates noted that the traffic enforcement operation for March 25 was originally planned for the schools, but since schools were out on Spring Break, the operation was moved to Limonite. Lieutenant Yates noted that residents have requested increased police presence at these locations because of traffic collisions. He noted that in addition to the traffic enforcement, the Sheriff's Department has held other special operations recently for bike safety and helmet usage, truancy, sex registrants, drugs and burglary.

City Manager Jacobs and Lieutenant Yates explained possible reasons for miscommunication between the Sheriff's Department and the local newspaper.

Mr. Pettinger also inquired if the vehicle registration stops in local shopping center parking lots were routine operations. Lieutenant Yates stated that he had not directed any special operations focusing on vehicle registrations; however, he had ordered increased patrol focusing on handicap accessible parking violations.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Mr. Pettinger for coming and expressing his concerns and stated that patrols are based on trends, staff, crime rate statistics, safety and addressing citizen concerns.

City Manager Jacobs noted that in the past Eastvale Community News may have contacted Riverside County Sheriff's Dispatch instead of Lieutenant Yates directly. Riverside County Sheriff's dispatch may not be aware of special operations within the City of Eastvale. City Manager Jacobs noted that the City tries to provide information to the Eastvale Community News as soon as it is confirmed to be complete and accurate. The City has a full time Public Information Officer that is dedicated to informing the public and media.

Vice-Chairperson Kiltz asked Lieutenant Yates which vehicle code violations bring revenue to the City, County or Sheriff's Department. Lieutenant Yates noted that the Sheriff receives no revenue and that parking citations provide more revenue to the City than moving violations would.

City Manager Jacobs noted that any revenue received is insignificant, and the City does not rely on revenue from traffic violations to balance the budget. She noted that a fine schedule can be provided if necessary.

Chris Hook, a resident, noted that due to increased patrol by the Sheriff's Department in the area of 68th Street and the 15 Freeway overpass, he has seen a decrease in "rolling stops" and speeding. Mr. Hook also requested that the Sheriff's Department look into people abusing the use of handicap placards at the Target and Von's shopping centers.

Mr. Hook noted his concern about the policy and procedures for street sweeper parking citations. He noted that on one occasion, after he had witnessed the street sweeper and the Sheriff's Deputy Vehicle exit his community, he briefly parked in the street yet still received a parking citation.

City Manager Jacobs noted that in the past the Community Service Officer (CSO) vehicle followed the street sweeper but the new procedure is for the CSO vehicle to drive in front of the street sweeper and ticket any vehicles that are blocking the sweeper from cleaning the street.

Lieutenant Yates noted that he would remind the Community Service Officers of the proper procedure.

Commissioner Johnson suggested revisiting the policies and procedures for street sweeper parking citations to possibly allow for parking on the streets after the street sweeper has already swept.

Mr. Hook noted that in the past the street sweeper has not cleaned his street at all on the assigned street sweeping day. City Manager Jacobs asked Mr. Hook to please contact the City when that happens.

4. MINUTES:

4.1 Minutes – February 25, 2014 Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes from the February 25, 2014 Meeting.

Motion: Moved by Kiltz, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 3-0-1 with Johnson, Cruse, and Kiltz voting aye and Chairperson Allis absent.

5. TRAFFIC CONCERNS:

5.1 Traffic Saturation Around Schools.

Recommendation: Introduce and provide information regarding traffic saturation around schools.

Lieutenant Yates noted that after several traffic safety issues, there would be several officers stationed in a small area around the schools every other week. He noted that a calendar of the enforcement schedule for the schools would be sent to City Manager Jacobs.

Commissioner Cruse inquired if the patrols are for schools only or city-wide.

Lieutenant Yates noted that two officers have been requested for the 8 schools. These two officers will patrol the schools in the morning and afternoon alternating between the 8 schools.

Commissioner Cruse inquired if the public had been notified about the concerns and problem areas.

Lieutenant Yates noted that school assemblies, education and warnings have been used to inform the public about these problem areas and now citations are being written.

There was discussion about the viability and costs of acquiring a motorcycle officer for the City.

City Manager Jacobs noted that there would be an informal budget study session on April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Lieutenant Yates noted that a new system will track all traffic collisions for documentation.

Lieutenant Yates noted that a press release would be sent out with the results of the traffic saturation operation; however, because safety is the focus of the operation, revenue is not tracked.

Commissioner Cruse suggested that the public be notified that the revenue from traffic saturation operations is insignificant to avoid the perception that the operations are revenue based.

City Manager Jacobs noted that the City is not legally allowed to make a profit on services provided and that the goal of being proactive is safety.

Jennifer Madrigal, Editor of Eastvale News, noted that the newspaper is trying to get a better idea about community contact information and is improving reliability.

Vice-Chairperson Kiltz noted that there was some confusion about the signage of the two exits at the Eastvale Community Park.

City Manager Jacobs responded that staff would work with the JCSD to clear up any confusing signage at Eastvale Community Park.

6. *NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:*

6.1 Neighborhood Watch Update.

Recommendation: Neighborhood Watch Update.

City Manager Jacobs provided the staff report for this item. She stated that a zone map was requested at the last meeting and the burglary problems in specific zones would determine Neighborhood Watch. She discussed the possibility of breaking up zones 62 and 64.

Commissioner Cruse passed out and reviewed the Eastvale Neighborhood Watch Committee Responsibility handout.

There was discussion regarding an announcement of the Committee at the upcoming Town Hall Meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Kiltz provided tips to prevent residential crimes and break-ins.

Lieutenant Yates noted that information flyers addressing prevention of burglary crimes would be created similar to the flyers addressing stolen vehicles and break-ins. The tips would also be posted on the City of Eastvale website.

Commissioner Cruse requested staff create a press release announcing the Eastvale Neighborhood Watch Committee and Committee meetings, volunteers, etc.

Motion: Moved by Cruse, seconded by Kiltz to form the Eastvale Neighborhood Watch Committee.

Motion carried 3-0-1 with Johnson, Cruse, and Kiltz voting aye and Chairperson Allis absent.

7. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS:

City Manager Jacobs stated that a power outage had occurred in the early morning hours of March 25 at Swan Lake due to a fire caused by a blown transformer in the park. Electricity was expected to be back later in the day on March 25. No medical emergencies had been reported as a result of the outage.

Fire Chief Williams stated that Southern California Edison was working to repair the damage and there were 5-6 large generators on the property. Electricity was expected to be up before nightfall.

Lieutenant Yates noted that in addition to the private security at Swan Lake, the Sheriff's Department would patrol at night.

City Manager Jacobs noted that the City offered assistance to the park manager if needed.

7.1 Ready Eastvale.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

City Manager Jacobs provided the staff report for this item. She noted that two Emergency Preparedness Grants had been received by the City.

One grant in the amount of \$19,614 would be used to purchase a generator for City Hall.

The other grant in the amount of \$10,207 would be used to provide CERT Training classes at the Eastvale Community Center by the end of 2014. The classes could be used by Neighborhood Watch block captains.

City Manager Jacobs noted that the City is looking for more Emergency Preparedness Grants and will try to get the word out.

Commissioner Cruse suggested a big event be held to announce and showcase search and rescue resources.

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR CRIME PREVENTION:

8.1 Public Safety, Crime Prevention And Traffic Related Communications.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

City Manager Jacobs provided the staff report for this item. She noted that there was a section on the City website under Residents/Crime Prevention that is a resource for the community to help residents protect themselves from crimes. She noted that the Sheriff's Department Tips and Information Flyers could be posted to this section. She requested the Committee contribute information to share with the community to this section of the website.

9. CITY STAFF REPORT:

City Manager Jacobs noted that a Bicycle Rodeo would be held at the schools before the end of the school year. The event would be coordinated with JCSD.

City Manager Jacobs noted that the State of the City Address would be held on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Chris Hook, a resident, noted that helmet manufacturer, Shoei, may donate helmets and assist with the Bicycle Rodeo event. He would send contact information to City Manager Jacobs.

10. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Cruse inquired if there was follow up or feedback to the Girl Scout Troop recommendations for traffic safety.

City Manager Jacobs noted that another traffic count would be conducted in May and staff would come back to the Commission and City Council with information. She noted that the City was applying for a grant to obtain a flashing speed sign.

There was discussion regarding grants for crossing guards and liability if the state provides funding.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

*Submitted by Margo Wuence, Recording Secretary
Reviewed and edited by Ariel M. Hall, CMC, Assistant City Clerk*