PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019
6:30 P.M.
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
(COMMUNITY ROOM)

1. Chairman Robert Santangelo Calls Meeting to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Robert Santangelo, Chairman
Councilman Carl Chisem
Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski
Councilman Philip Pessina

MEMBER ABSENT: Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta

STAFF PRESENT: William McKenna — Chief of Police
Michael Timbro — Deputy Chief of Police

STAFF ABSENT: Capt. John Lozefski — Administrative Commander

2. Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2019
Councilman Pessina moved for approval of the Public Safety Commission (PSC) Minutes for February 25, 2019; Seconded by Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only
None

4. Correspondence
None

5. Monthly Reports
Chief William McKenna advised that they’re still doing as well as Deputy Chief Michael Timbro reported in the February 25, 2019 PSC Meeting; that in the Replacement Overtime, they’re down $25,000.00 for the month of February 2019 compared to February 2018; and in the Regular Overtime, they’re down a couple of thousand dollars. He added that they still do not anticipate a need for an appropriation this year; and that once the weather breaks, Private Duty jobs will increase.

6. Old Business
   a. Animal Shelter
      Nothing new to report since the last PSC Meeting.

7. New Business
Chairman Santangelo stated that while there’s nothing under New Business, Councilman Pessina had something to say. Councilman Pessina said he had three (3) things he wanted to say…
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- He took this opportunity to thank Chief McKenna and Deputy Chief Michael Timbro, stating that he was impressed for the way the Middletown Police Department (MPD) had gone above and beyond at recent funerals of not only Council persons, but City employees; that the families truly appreciate it, and it says a lot about the MPD. Chief McKenna said that he owes the credit to the Traffic Unit who conducts the escorts; and to Lieutenant Paul Maturo who’s become the “go to” person when covering wakes, with a Beat Officer and a District Car, adding that it’s all done at Straight Time.

- Councilman Pessina said that in light of the pending St. Vincent DePaul’s move to Green Street, he respectfully requested that Chief McKenna could give the PSC, maybe sometime next month, some kind of a report on how the MPD is going to handle the rears of the Main Street buildings between Green and Ferry Streets, and the general area. Chief McKenna said that Captain Gary Wallace has been attending the meetings; that they have discussed strategies they could put in place, etc.

- Councilman Pessina asked if there was a Traffic Unit Supervisor that will help with the LBGTQ Pride Parade. Chief McKenna said that Christopher Smedick (Assistant General Counsel) got the Department involved early, before anything was finalized; that (Support Services) Lieutenant Heather Desmond and Traffic Unit Sergeant Douglas Clark have been regularly meeting with Mr. Smedick. While the length of the parade is not as long, due to the number of people marching, etc., they’re anticipating this event to be similar to the Memorial Day Parade and, as such, are going to plan for something just as big. The difference is that this year there’s going to be two separate festivals – one on the (South) Green and one at Harbor Park. At this time, Chairman Santangelo, Councilman Pessina, and Councilwoman Kleckowski said they believe the one at Harbor Park was not going to happen. Deputy Chief Timbro asked Councilman Pessina about the date, time, and place of the next Committee Meeting that covers this event; and it’s tomorrow (Tuesday, March 19, 2019), at 5:30 P.M., City Hall, Room 208. A brief Q&A discussion followed regarding St. Vincent DePaul moving to Green Street. Chief McKenna relayed that everyone has to help out, including the soup kitchen policing their own; that MPD will, of course, be there; that a conversation with the proprietor of Forest City Wines & Spirits is planned, as their back door remains open to the public along with the front door; that perhaps they could change that so the back door could remain locked; that this will be a work in progress.

8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters  
(A gentleman spoke about an incident that occurred the previous year; after a brief moment, it was decided to address his concerns off the record.)

9. Meeting Adjourned...
Councilman Pessina made a Motion to adjourn; Seconded by Councilman Chisem. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

Next Public Safety Commission Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa B. Perichi  
Recording Secretary