

Village of Wellington

*12300 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, FL 33414*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

6:30 PM

Village Hall - Council Chambers

Public Safety Committee

Mohammad Junaid Akther

Michael Arena

Richard Christmas

Jacqueline Hutman

Brad Johnson

Cherie McBrayer

Michael Weil

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

II Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

III Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Members present were Junaid Akther, Michael Arena, Richard Christmas, Jacqueline Hutman, Brad Johnson, Michael Weil and Cheri McBrayer. Also present were Lt. Eli Shaivitz, PBSO and Chief William Rowley, PBCFR.

Staff present were Nicole Coates and Laura Aldrich.

IV Opening Comments

Opening comments included member introductions and welcomes.

V Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**a. [PSC-137](#) SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Mr. Weil called for nominations for the position of Committee Chair.

Ms. Hutman nominated Mr. Weil to continue in the position. Mr. Akther supported the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Weil called for a motion.

Mr. Akther made the motion, seconded by Ms. McBrayer. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 to have Mr. Weil continue to serve as Chair.

Mr. Weil called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Mr. Akther nominated himself. Ms. Hutman indicated her support of the nomination and stated that Ms. McBrayer would also be a good choice.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Weil called for a motion.

Mr. Akther made the motion, seconded by Mr. Christmas. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 to have Mr. Akther serve as Vice Chair.

VI Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Christmas, seconded by Mr. Akther to approve the June 24, 2020 agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

VII Approval of Minutes

a. [PSC-136](#) MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2020 JOINT MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES

A motion was made by Mr. Arena, seconded by Mr. Christmas to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 joint meeting of the Public Safety and Education Committees as presented. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

VIII Staff Report

Ms. Coates reviewed the Village's coordinated pandemic response and Wellington's current cumulative case numbers, including area trends and hot spots. Palm Beach County was expected to draft an order requiring facial coverings. The order was expected within the next couple of days. The County had also put together a business compliance team for the purposes of conducting outreach and education and to gain compliance with existing orders. All Wellington area business openings and closings were posted on the Village's website and updated daily. Village Hall lobby hours would be adjusted as of June 29th with hours Monday thru Thursday 8am to 1pm, closed on Fridays. Staff was also preparing for hurricane season and conducting internal drills.

IX Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Report

Lt. Shaivitz introduced himself to the new members of the Committee.

Ms. McBrayer reported that she had begun a neighborhood watch group and residents had expressed concerns with Azure Park and the frequent use of dirt bikes in and around the park.

Lt. Shaivitz responded, stating that PBSO continues to address these and similar issues, citing golf cart and speeding complaints. He suggested that these issues be reported to the PBSO non-emergency number at 688-3400 and provide as much information as possible including location, day and time of day when possible.

There was additional discussion regarding the use of golf carts in Wellington on public roads and private properties. Lt. Shaivitz provided the current rules and restrictions.

X Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Report

Chief Rowley welcomed new members and provided a brief history of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue in the western communities. All PBCFR facilities continued to follow social distancing guidelines including the use of masks when engaging with the public where distancing is not possible. Staff was using time to ramp up inspections and training while limiting community events. They have also provided support to mobile testing units that provided mobile testing to special needs residents.

XI Old Business

There was no old business.

XII New Business

a. [PSC-135](#) SELECTION OF TOP COP AND TOP FIREFIGHTER FOR 2020

The nominations for Top Cop and Top Firefighter were presented. Members commented that all candidates had impressive service records making selection of just one difficult.

Ms. Hutman recommended D/S Poritz, commenting that he has done a great job for Wellington and its neighborhood watch groups.

Mr. Weil commented on D/S Taschner and the backup letter received with his nomination documents.

Ms. McBrayer also commented on D/S Poritz and his work in the community.

Mr. Akther agreed with Ms. Hutmans recommendation of D/S Poritz.

Mr. Akther made a motion to nominate D/S Poritz for Top Cop, seconded by Ms. McBrayer. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Mr. Christmas asked to be recused from voting for the Top Firefighter as he personally knew all three candidates.

Mr. Arena commented that he also knew all three candidates and that they were all exemplary. He would be happy with whichever candidate the Committee selected.

Mr. Wiel commented that he was impressed with Lt. Lombardo and that he didn't realize how much of their work was related to medical responses.

Mr. Johnson agreed with the nomination of Lt. Lombardo although he was impressed with Captain Dube as well. He asked a question regarding jurisdiction noting that some were located in Royal Palm Beach.

Chief Rowley responded that Battalion 2 including Wellington as well as Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee Groves and Westlake. It covered all nine stations including Wellington.

Ms. Hutman commented on Captain Dawsons impressive career and noted that he was the 2018 Top Firefighter award recipient.

Ms. McBrayer nominated Captain Dube. Mr. Akther concurred.

Ms. McBrayer made a motion recommending Captain Dube for Top Firefighter, seconded by Ms. Hutman. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

XIII Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XIV Closing Comments

Ms. Coates responded to a question regarding meeting frequency, stating that the Committee met on a quarterly schedule on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Their next meeting would take place on September 23rd beginning at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Akther asked whether the Committee might be able to meet every two months rather than quarterly.

Ms. Hutman noted that would put an additional burden on Village staff.

Ms. Coates stated that all Wellington Committees observed a quarterly meeting schedule.

Ms. Hutman asked about plans for a joint meeting with the Education Committee for 2020.

Ms. Coates responded that a joint meeting was typically hosted in the March time frame and that they would look at the possibility of a joint meeting in 2021. She could, however, discuss this with the Education Committee chair and gauge interest in holding a joint meeting sooner.

Mr. Weil suggested a date later in the Fall after schools have determined their reopening plans.

Ms. Coates repeated that the next meeting was currently scheduled for September 23rd and staff would work on coordinating the next joint meeting.

Ms. McBrayer commented that she enjoyed meeting via the Zoom platform.

XV Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm