



**MANAGER'S BRIEFING SESSION**  
**September 8, 2015– 4:00 P.M.**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Mayor Bill Bencini; Mayor Pro Tem James Davis (Ward 5); and Council Members Latimer Alexander (At-Large), Cynthia Davis (At-Large) (joined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.), Jeff Golden (Ward 1); Chris Williams (Ward 2), Alyce Hill (Ward 3), Jay Wagner (Ward 4) and Jason Ewing (Ward 6)

**Absent:**

Council Member Jay Wagner (Ward 4)

**Staff Present:**

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Budget and Performance Manager; Loren Hill, President-High Point Economic Development Corporation; Jeron Hollis, Communications & Public Engagement Director; Jeff Moore, Director of Financial Services; Chief Sumner, High Point Police Department; Major Larry Casterline, High Point Police Department; Major Ken Schultz, High Point Police Department; Brian Beasley, Attorney-High Point Police Department; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk;

**News Media Present:**

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

***Note: All hand-outs distributed at this meeting will be attached as a permanent part of these proceedings.***

*Handouts: FY 2014-2015 Year-End Financial Report (unaudited)*  
*High Point Police Department 2014-2105 Statistical Review*

City Manager Greg Demko introduced Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager for Community Services. Mr. Hemann comes to High Point from Oxford, North Carolina, where he served as City Manager. Prior to that, he was Executive Director for Downtown Salisbury.

**1) FY 2014-2015 Year End Financial Report (unaudited)**

Eric Olmedo provided an overview of the Year End Financial Report for FY 2014-2015.

General Fund:

The total budget summary identifies the total of revenues over expenditure/commitments is about \$1.35 million. Mr. Olmedo explained staff feels comfortable appropriating fund balance this early in the year due to the \$1.35 million. Revenue is \$677,000 greater or .7% greater than anticipated. On the Expenditure side of the General Fund, about 92.9% has been spent out of current expenditures. Bottom line on the General Fund, the city is ahead by about \$500,000 (better than anticipated). Mr. Olmedo noted these numbers are indicative of the city's practice of conservative budgeting on the revenue and expenditure side which has resulted in exceeding expectations.

Water/Sewer Fund:

The Water/Sewer Fund summary identifies an increase of \$1,029,975 in revenue over expenditure/commitments.

Mr. Olmedo reported this will result in the city being to the good by about \$1,000,000 in additional fund balance. Mr. Demko pointed out this goes back to the city's Financial Plan with Davenport & Company, with the debt structures, the improvements and the revenues are right on target with the levels of spending.

Electric Fund:

The total revenues for the Electric Fund are about 103.1% of the budget; total expenditures are about 102.3%. Mr. Olmedo explained the main driver of the \$1.8 million being over the current budget for the operating expenses is related to the city's wholesale power bill being \$1.839 million over what was budgeted. Revenues and expenditures are up (essentially a pass-thru).

Council Member Alexander inquired about the rate stabilization. Mr. Olmedo advised this would be in the current year and wasn't sure this has been determined yet.

Solid Waste Fund:

The city is slightly over budget in the Solid Waste Fund. A net positive of \$301,000. Mr. Olmedo reminded Council that the Capital roll forward does include about \$5,000,000 for the MRF that is appropriated and awaiting outcome of a decision by Council on the MRF.

Stormwater Fund:

Mr. Olmedo reported there is a major Capital Project in process (Jacob's Place) that is about \$3.6 million. Staff estimates the result would be about \$425,000 to the positive in the Stormwater Fund.

Mass Transit Fund:

Mr. Olmedo explained staff has been waiting on a receivable from the FTA for some time now, which has now come in. He pointed out there is about \$530,000 in reserves for the anticipated bus purchases. About \$2.3 million has been added to the bottomline in the Mass Transit Fund, which will make up the fund balance deficit over the last couple of years.

Council Member Alexander asked that Council be briefed regarding the old buses once replaced and mentioned some past discussions about the possibility of the Fire or Police Department getting one for a recovery vehicle.

Mr. Demko advised that staff will be putting together formal business plans for each of the funds as well.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis asked if the city was anticipating an increase in health insurance this year. Mr. Demko explained that the city has received some preliminary quotes and there are some indications that there will be some increases, much due to the mandated federal health care plan. Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis noted that the city absorbed the increase last year in the budget and felt since the revenues are better than anticipated, it might be possible to absorb some of the increased cost again. Mr. Demko advised this would be a policy decision to be made by Council.

Council Member Golden questioned if any of the Transit Study has been implemented. Deputy City Manager Randy McCaslin advised that there would be a Manager's Briefing the first meeting in October on the Transit Study.

Mr. Demko reported overall, the city is in good financial shape due to conservative budgeting and explained the big saver in the General Fund was the sales tax, which the Legislature is still discussing and should be watched closely. He also pointed out the Tax and Tag Program on vehicles has also helped out quite a bit.

**2) Presentation: High Point Police Department- 2014-2015 Crime Statistics**

Chief Sumner prefaced his presentation by sharing that most of the crime stats are done on a calendar year, but the goals and objectives are set by fiscal year. He then introduced the following staff members who were present: Brian Beasley, Police Attorney; Major Kenneth Schultz; and Major Larry Casterline.

The city's crime index last fiscal year decreased. Indexed Crime are the actual numbers indexed to a population of 100,000. Chief Sumner explained there was a 2.2% increase in the violent rate for the first time in years, but this was driven by more aggravated assaults which came in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. The Police Department has already addressed the specific driving factors and have now seen a little bit of a turn-around. The great news is that property crime decreased again and burglary was down by 28%.

Chief Sumner pointed out the city's violent crime last year was the lowest since 1979. He advised that crime spiked in the 1990s which prompted the initiation of the Violent Crimes Task Force, which was followed by the Drug Market Intervention, Gang Intervention, Domestic

Violence Initiative and all these have resulted in the city consistently driving the crime rates down. He reported that the property crime is lower than it has been in the last 42 years.

#### Types of Police Calls for Service:

Chief Sumner advised that his department handled approximately 119,271 police calls for service in this fiscal year, which was a slight increase over last year. He pointed out Intimate Partner Domestic Disturbance/Other Domestic Disturbance used to be the number one call for service, but it was fourth last year and this was another indicator that the Domestic Violence Initiative is working. He mentioned the Report compiled by the Department of Justice shows that High Point has eliminated homicide over the last six years on domestic-related offenses; lowered calls; low recitivism rate (14% compared to national rates of about 35-40%); repeat calls have decreased.

Council Member Alexander asked how the second highest reason for calls (animal related) could be resolved. Chief Sumner advised it would take time, but felt the recent revisions to the ordinance would help with the addition of the educational aspect. Council Member Golden asked if it might be possible for the police department to identify the specific kinds of animal-related calls on reports. Chief Sumner explained they do have the ability to add codes, search the notes for the calls and would start tracking the specific calls. He noted they could tell them how many dogs are running at-large, how many vicious dogs and would soon have a code to identify calls that come in regarding dog tethering.

#### Self-Initiated Calls:

Chief Sumner pointed out traffic stops (22,363) are number one in terms of spending the most time on; followed by Criminal Process; Special Checks. He noted the department is spending a significant amount of time on the right activities.

#### Charge and Arrests:

Regarding Charges and Arrests, Chief Sumner pointed out because the department uses extensive deterrence, there is an understanding that the arrest is not always a fix for the problem because changing the behavior without arresting is better and much easier sustained. He noted that they realize the arrests and charges have resulted in a decrease, while at the same time they are still getting reductions in crime. High Point's arrests and clearance rates clearly indicate that they are solving a high percentage of the cases.

#### Traffic:

Chief Sumner reported that collisions have increased every year for the past five years (primarily due to speed, inattention, running red lights, etc...). Chief Sumner noted they generally focus on areas/corridors where the most crashes occur. He explained they have also looked at the fatalities, but have not been able to pin-point any specific patterns for fatalities.

Council Member Alexander asked the Chief if the department is being supported by the court system when they write citations. Chief Sumner noted the police department can say they have zero tolerance in certain areas, but the courts won't be influenced by this because they will make their decisions one case at a time, based on a person's record, etc.... Police Attorney Beasley explained the courts are not necessarily dismissing a lot of citations, but are reducing the

charges. Council Member Alexander felt that following through with a conviction in court for the citations would change attitudes since it would result in an increased insurance premium for several years.

Council Member Golden brought up the possibility that Guilford County Schools may do away with funding Drivers Ed and asked if any thought has been given as to what impact this could possibly have on crashes, etc.... Chief Sumner advised that 16-19 is already the highest age group for the liability of crashes, and added that he is a big proponent for continuing Drivers Ed in schools.

At this time, Chief Sumner gave a quick update on the heroin overdoses and noted the heroin overdoses for the month have stayed at the average, with only four deaths reported.

Police Department Personnel:

The police department is pretty good on personnel with eight vacancies and one animal control officer vacancy. He advised that 50-60% of his officers have college degrees above a two-year degree. He informed Council that the State requires officers to do a mandatory minimum training of 25 hours a year in order to keep their certification and pointed out they go way beyond any type of mandatory minimum.

Update on Officer Involved Shooting in Archdale:

Chief Sumner reported the officers involved have done all the things required while on administrative leave and he has read all the preliminary investigative reports, has been debriefed by the SBI and he has no concerns at this point.

He advised the department will be making some changes in personnel and effective September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Majors were transferred to new positions: Major Schultz will have Field Operations North; Major Casterline will have Major Crime Deterrence and Prevention; and Major Steele will have Field Operations South.

[Council Member C. Davis joined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.]

The Chief announced another change involving Field Training Officers. Effective September 20<sup>th</sup>, all FTOs will be on one team (the David Team). He explained doing this would result in continuity of command and he preferred it be done in this manner.

Chief Sumner shared that Major Steele is doing an exhaustive staffing study, since one has not been done in five years. The study will show whether or not the city has the right number of officers and whether or not the current officers are properly deployed. Council Member Alexander felt the Police Department was doing a great job operating being short-staffed and applauded Chief Sumner for his efforts. Chief Sumner thanked Council Member Alexander for his remarks, and agreed that the department has operated as efficient as possible, but realizes they can no longer compensate for being under staffed. To keep the efficiency from dropping, they are going to have to add a few officers and the study that is currently being done by Major Steele will clarify the needs.

Decision to Use Narcan:

Chief Sumner advised that he has recently decided to start the training that allows the officers to carry Narcan (the antidote for heroin). He noted they can probably get Narcan at no cost and pointed out that Guilford County will train the High Point Officers which will take a minimal amount of time.

Transition to Sig Sauer Pistol:

Chief Sumner reported the transition to the Sig Sauer Pistol is now complete and most shooters scores increased. Testing and evaluation went very well. Council Member Golden asked what the officers did with the old pistols. Chief Sumner explained these were traded in to Sig and Sig negotiated offers for any officer desiring to purchase it, of which most officers did purchase theirs at the trade-in price.

<u>Mobile</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Force</u>	<u>Training:</u>
Chief Sumner reported the Mobile Field Force Training is currently being updated.			

Fair and Unbiased Policing:

Chief Sumner shared that he would be adding Fair and Unbiased Policing this year and through the NC Police Executives, they would bring this to the State as a training course. He felt this would be a good enhancement to the training. A group out of Florida would be providing instruction.

Community Day 2015:

The High Point Police Department will be sponsoring a community event on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club in High Point.

Bomb Threat Incident at Courthouse:

Council Member C. Davis mentioned an incident reported in the News & Record regarding a bomb threat at the Guilford County Courthouse in High Point. Chief Sumner explained it was a bomb threat called into the Clerk's Office and one was also called into Davidson County, but nothing was found.

Traffic Control- Coltrane Jazz Festival:

City Manager Greg Demko asked Chief Sumner about his thoughts on traffic control for the Coltrane Jazz Festival. Chief Sumner noted the feedback he has received has been extraordinarily positive. Mr. Demko felt the work that the police department did was amazing for the size of the event and the small size of the area.

There being for further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lisa B. Vierling, MMC  
City Clerk