



***Public Safety Committee  
(Virtual Meeting)***

*Chaired by Council Member Jones*

*Committee Members: Jones, Moore, Williams, and Johnson*

**May 20, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**Participating  
Remotely (4):**

Chairman Victor Jones, Committee Member Christopher Williams, Committee Member Britt Moore, and Committee Member Tyrone Johnson

**Also Present  
Remotely:**

Council Member Michael Holmes

**Staff Present:**

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager, Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

**Staff Participating  
Remotely:**

JoAnne, Carlyle, City Attorney; Kenneth Shultz, Police Chief; Major Ken Steele; Laura Altizer, Senior Budget Analyst; Bobby Fitzjohn, Director of Financial Services; Steve Lingerfelt, Director of Communications & Information Services; Jeron Hollis, Director of Communication and Public Engagement; Ryan Ferguson, Marketing Manager; Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk;

*As part of the city of High Point's COVID-19 mitigation efforts, in-person attendance was not allowed at this meeting. Instead, the meeting was live-streamed, and the public was provided a link to listen to the meeting as it was being live-streamed.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Victor Jones called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF ITEMS****2020-167      Watchguard- In-car camera/body-worn camera systems**

Staff is requested to discuss the Watchguard- In-car camera/body-worn camera systems to be utilized by first responders of Information Technology Services and the High Point Police Department.

Kenneth Shultz, Chief of Police, provided the history of the Watchguard's in-car camera systems (cameras); said the High Point Police Department (HPPD) currently have 135 units in service; described how the camera's worked; said most of the systems were no longer covered under warranty and were approaching the end of their serviceable life expectancy; outlined what the cameras were used for; spoke to the benefits of the cameras such as: using the videos as evidence, for training purposes, used to identify fault at traffic accidents, and to address citizen complaints; and said the cameras were secured and tamper proof. Chief Shultz continued discussion regarding the expenses that were being used for the current cameras; said the cost included warranties and repairs; over a million dollars to date over past 13 years had been spent; and spoke to expectations from the public. Chief Shultz said the proposal for the camera systems included the 135 new dash cameras as well as a body camera systems; they were better quality cameras that would increase effectiveness; spoke to the five year warranty for each unit; and to adding cameras to other critical units, and officers who did not have them.

Chairman Jones asked if the new cameras warranty was included in the price. Chief Shultz replied yes.

Chief Shultz provided a video that simulated how the cameras worked; spoke to how videos were prepared for legal consideration; and to being in compliance legally in video footage storage and retention.

Chairman Jones asked how often were video footage was used for legal purposes; spoke to saving the city money, in regards to false claims against officers; to the importance for council to know the background, cost, warranty; and benefits of the cameras; and said that the proposal for the cameras would be brought before the Finance Committee at the May 28, 2020 meeting. Chief Shultz replied he did not have an exact number of videos used for legal purposes; explained how officers obtained footage for evidence for prosecution; and said the videos were also used for citizen complaints.

Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager said that the finance implications for the cameras would be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney, asked if there was a copy of the proposed lease agreement. Chief Shultz replied that he was working with the Purchasing and I.T. departments for that information. Ms. Carlyle replied that she would follow up with them.

Committee Member Williams asked if the cameras were automatically started; the size of storage on site for the videos and audio; and asked the requirements of who can view or have access to the video footage.

Chief Shultz replied that some cameras automatically started when blue lights were activated on police vehicles, or manually activated according to the Manual Activation Policy; said the body cameras have the same policy; discussed the amount of storage that was on site for video footage; and explained the legal guidelines on viewing the video footage.

### **Update-COVID-19**

Chairman Jones asked Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager, to provide an update on what the city was doing in regard to the COVID-19.

Mr. Ferguson said the governor would present a Phase 2, Safer at Home statement today at 5 p.m.; Guilford County had over 904 COVID-19 cases; and roughly 49 deaths. Mr. Ferguson continued discussion regarding the gradual reopening of the Library; spoke to the different accesses to the Library; to waiting on further guidance and recommendations from the state on addressing other restrictions such as the playgrounds that were closed; spoke to what City Hall was implementing; to upgrading public areas with flexy glass; to wearing mask; having service modifications completed; to how building permits were being processed with positive feedback from citizens; said the county confirmed the funds received from the federal government for High Point based on the needs related to COVID-19; spoke to having weekly department head meetings to coordinate and communicate on internal issues; and to protecting employees at the water and sewer plants by taking extra precautions due to their limited personnel.

Chairman Jones thanked staff for their time and efforts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

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Victor Jones, Chairman  
Public Safety Committee