

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

4:00 PM

3rd Floor Council Chambers

Public Safety Committee

Victor Jones, Chair

Britt Moore

Tyrone Johnson

Chris Williams

Mayor Jay Wagner (Alternate)

Mayor Pro Tem (Alternate)

Public Safety Committee - Council Member Jones, Chair**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was informally called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Following a roll call by Chairman Jones, the following attendance by committee Members was duly noted.

Present:

Chairman Victor Jones
Committee Member Britt Moore

Absent:

Committee Member Chris Williams
Committee Member Tyrone Johnson

Also Present:

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

Staff Present:

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Travis Stroud, Chief of Police; Peter Abernathy, Captain-Police Officer; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

1. *PowerPoint Presentation: 2021- Dirt Bikes/ATVs Enforcement Policy*

[2021-522](#)**Presentation-Dirt Bikes/ATVs Enforcement Policy**

Chief Travis Stroud-High Point Police Department will be giving a presentation on Dirt Bikes/ATVs Enforcement Policy.

Attachments: [DB-ATVs PPT](#)

Travis Stroud, Chief of Police-High Point Police Department (HPPD) recognized Captain Peter Abernathy with the HPPD in attendance that would be available for any questions; made a PowerPoint Presentation regarding Dirt Bikes/ATVs Enforcement Policy (Policy); acknowledged that there was a problem; highlighted public comments from a council meeting that voiced concerns regarding dirt bikes/ATVs encounters, and responses from council and the city manager; spoke to and explained the purpose for

the Policy; outlined the procedures for high speed police pursuits; spoke to the safety and well being of citizens; provided statistics regarding police pursuits; and provided facts and fictions pertaining to police pursuits as followed:

- HPPD policy prohibits pursuits: FALSE (40 pursuits entered in our documentation module in 2021)(65 terminated pursuits in 2021) (documented by Field Sheet)
- Every pursuit undergoes an extensive review: TRUE (Regardless of arrest/apprehension Distance, time, top speed, etc..)
- Current policies in place do not allow them to give chase in situations such as this, unless it involves a felony: FALSE (This is too broad - Not all felonies)
- Ramming, bumping, pushing one vehicle into another or physically forcing a vehicle off the road or to a stop is prohibited unless the use of deadly force would be authorized: TRUE (PIT Maneuver = Department wide training-will be added to policy once trained)

Chief Stroud continued discussion regarding the action plan for the HPPD as followed:

- This is a problem we do not plan to ignore.
- The plan must be mapped out and well organized.
- Multi-phase plan.
- Results will take time.
- Coordination with the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.
- City Government must be on the same page with response.

Chairman Jones inquired on the criteria for police regarding a pursuit chase. Chief Stroud replied and said that if the pursuit created a danger that it would not meet the criteria to pursue and would be terminated; explained the procedure for calling out traffic stops that included tag numbers, location, etc...; and said that sometimes the pursued does get away due to safety precautions.

Captain Abernathy outlined the process regarding a terminated pursuit; said that information and data would be gathered to try and determine who was operating vehicle; explained reasons for terminating pursuits such as safety hazards; said that the PIT maneuver was very effective when applied correctly, however that the PIT maneuver would not be used regarding dirt bikes and ATVs.

Committee Member Moore inquired on the process for when pursuits cross over into other jurisdictions. Chief Stroud replied that the process was outlined in the Policy; and that other jurisdictions are notified whenever this occurs.

Chief Stroud discussed and explained what's involved regarding the Pursuits of Dirt Bikes/ATVs as followed:

- Chances of successful capture are slim.
- High speeds and reckless driving that is much worse than the initial violation.
- The riders desired response = for police to pursue.
- If the chase does come to an end = Crash.
- No insurance - who pays?
- Law Enforcement best practice = Do Not Chase.

Captain Abernathy shared experiences involving dirt bikes and ATVs that included accidents, etc...; and spoke to successful outcomes.

Committee Member Jones inquired on accidents that had occurred to date; and on the exposure that could happen to citizens such as being involved in an unintentional accident due to a dirt bike or ATV being in a blind spot of the citizen's vehicle. Captain

Abernathy replied and said that there had not been any major crashes; spoke to damages that incurred to vehicles; said that the dirt bikes and ATVs were not registered or insured; and that there would be an investigation for any accident that occurred.

Chief Stroud spoke to the negatives regarding dirt bikes and ATV accidents; and to having discussions with the District Attorney regarding legal actions that could be taken.

Chairman Jones inquired on the timeframe for the action plan; and inquired on a response to the citizens regarding having an action plan in place. Chief Stroud replied that it would take months to fully complete the plan; and spoke to assuring everything was in place before the action plan would begin; spoke to being transparent to the community regarding the action plan.

ADJOURNMENT

*Chairman Jones asked if there were any additional comments/questions.
Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.*

R e s p e c t f u l l y
Submitted,

V i c t o r J o n e s ,
Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
City Clerk