



**MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
LEGISLATION AND CODES
11/16/2020 at 7:20PM**

Roll Call:

Members present: Daniels (chair), Schaber, Thomas
Meeting called to order at 7:20 PM.

New Business:

Item 1. DISCUSSION OF INCOME TAX CREDIT

Mr. Daniels brought forward examples of municipalities that incentivize police officers living within the municipal limits that they serve. There are 8 that live within the city. The rest in the county. There are some new officers that they are getting ready to hire. He suggested that they be granted a \$1,000 income tax credit, prorated. He believes this promoted true "community policing". He does not believe in "defunding" the police. There are 8 eligible officers at this time, with possible additions with new hires. We had 12, but it is now down to 8. Essentially, it would be a 2% city income tax credit.

Mr. Thomas asked McDonald if there would be an issue with the collective bargaining agreement. He does not feel there is any violation/concern with collective bargaining agreement. Law Director Russell explained that in 2016 the state legislature enacted a law that says there must be a uniform municipal income tax code. This is not something that could be put into existing code; however, they could work with administration to develop a program outside of the tax code.

Mr. Ratliff asked if they already violated that code when they made a change regarding fees and penalties. Law Director Russell believes that they are OK because they reviewed that at the time. Ratliff wondered if they could raise this even further than \$500. This is when people would have to pay estimated payments. He said that he would review for an opinion.

Mr. Meade asked if they could achieve the same goal if they limited the program to 5-10 years. Mr. Daniels did not think so. Mr. Daniels thinks there is a benefit to neighborhoods to have a police officer living there.

Mayor Schertzer asked about a reduction on property taxes like with a Community Reinvestment Area. They were unsure if they would have the authority to do that. It might be something to explore.

Mr. Schneider asked about option to expand this to other people who work for the city.

Mr. Thomas believes that this should be addressed within the collective bargaining agreements of each unit.

Mr. Daniels said that he does not want to pick a favorite. He sees a direct advantage to having a police officer on the street. It is probably not a one shoe fits all and he is willing to consider other ideas.

McDonald said they are having trouble recruiting. The last opening, they had more openings than they had qualified candidates. They have had a number of people retire who happened to live in the city. He does not believe that officers are actively moving out of the city limits.

Mr. Daniels said that he received a call from David Miller (Patton Street) regarding loud music coming out of cars. McDonald says that the noise ordinance depends on where it is occurring. However, they do enforce under disorderly conduct. He offered to call Mr. Miller.

There being no further business to come before this committee, the chair adjourned the meeting at 7:32PM.

Josh Daniels, Chair

Tarina R. Rose, Council Clerk