

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Public Safety Committee
Earlham City Council
March 11, 2024

The Public Safety Committee of the Earlham City Council met on Monday, March 11, 2024, at Earlham City Hall. Chairperson Visser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and the following answered roll: Visser, Nelsen. Fredericksen arrived at 6:20 p.m. Also present: Mayor Lillie, Clerk Hibbs, Police Chief Stringham.

1. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Nelsen, second by Visser, to approve agenda.
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Discussion and possible action on Residential Swimming Pool regulations.
Packet included several examples from other cities regarding this. Members noted that most of the examples stated a pool holding 24” of water or deeper required a 4-foot fence, and committee feels that seemed reasonable. Question arose about what to do with existing pools. Committee felt you could not make new pools require a fence without doing something about existing ones. Mayor asked about covers in lieu of fences. Visser said he talked with Adel, who had a lengthy discussion on this subject. They felt fence was best option, since cover could have an undetected rip/hole which a child could fall through and not be able to get out. Suggestion that owners put in a fence, or bring something from their insurance company stating they are fully covered for liability and the City is not liable. (*Fredericksen arrived.*) Discussion on height of fence, how far away from pool, and climbable versus non-climbable. Need to be careful of over-governing. Fence can be no closer than 6-8 feet from pool. Discussion on hot tubs needing cover. Clerk will contact our insurance provider to ask about typical liability amount for residential pools. Clerk require building permit? Fence needs a permit, and needs to be inspected. Clerk will put together something for next council meeting. Time frame? Proof of insurance or building permit in 30 days of notification.

3. Discussion and possible action on Police call-out time and possible utilization of Madison County Sheriff’s Department – Chief Stringham.
Need to address call-out time. Two of our officers live out of town and do not want to do call outs. Chief said he is not going to do all call-out himself. Chief spoke with Madison County Sheriff regarding his office doing our call-outs. They would charge us \$5-6/hour, or approximately \$12,000 a year, to take care of emergency calls. Non-emergency calls would float over to morning police shift. This solution would help retain current officers, and when needed, help recruit new officers in the future. Committee felt this was a good solution. Discussion on specifics.

4. Other - None

5. Adjourn
Motion by Fredericksen, second by Nelsen, to adjourn.

Being there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Joel Visser, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk