

Regular Meeting
Oakland City Hall
15 E Main Street
Thursday Jan 6, 2022
City of Oakland
7:00 P.M.

Council members present: Fred Ehler, David Stolz, Donna Taylor, Jim Craven, Bob Michaels

Also present: Clerk Vickie McQueen, Jacob Smallhorn, Belinda Clifton, Jim Clifton, Roy McCammon, Rachel Wright, Todd Miller, Jennifer Clark, Doug White, Eric Tillis, Jack Sanders

David Stolz sat in as Mayor

Agenda was Amended to have Michael resign at end of meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Motion: Michaels 2nd- Taylor Motion Approved 4 ayes

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion: Michael 2nd-Ehler Motion Approved 4 ayes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Michaels 2nd- Taylor Motion Approved 4 ayes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Tillis spoke to council about he had been in the process to purchase a house here in Oakland, the city purchased it through the Strong Communities Grant. Would like the City to let people know what they are doing when doing something like this. Please keep the people informed on the progress of this Grant.

Jennifer Clark wanted to say the Haley Lewis (school resource office) has been absolutely wonderful. She had reservations in the beginning about having a SRO, but it has been great and Haley is wonderful with the kids, teachers, staff and parents.

Todd Miller spoke about the Tornado siren not being heard on his end of town. The siren has not been working correctly and has been worked on a couple times. They have taken the computer board to be either rebuilt or replaced with one that will work in cold weather. Jack Sanders had to manually press a button on siren the evening of a tornado watch in our area. When doing this it does not rotate. This would be the reason it was not heard everywhere.

Roy McCammon spoke about the Fireworks for 2022. They are not sure if there will be any because the cost is going to skyrocket. Wanted to let them know about this in advance. If the majority of the residents want it and want us to spend the money, we will have to figure out on how to get the money for it. McCammon wants to consult with

others involved, including the Oakland Area Chamber of Commerce, before making any decision.

Monthly Police Report

Monthly Police Report **DECEMBER 2021** (ACTIVITY: DECEMBER 1ST – 31ST)

<u>ACTIVITY & STATISTICS:</u>			
Traffic Stops:	7	Warrant Attempts:	2
Warnings –	3	Reports:	12
State Citations –	4	Field Contacts:	40
City Ordinance –	2	Vehicles Towed:	1
DUI Arrests:	1	Motorist Assist:	-
Traffic Arrests:	-	Security Checks:	59
Drug Arrests:	1	Assist Other Agencies:	2
Criminal Arrests:	1	Traffic Crashes:	3
Warrant Arrests:	1	Calls for Service:	42

ARRESTS *(All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty)*

- 1) Emma J. Skinner, 23-year-old female of Kansas, Illinois, was arrested on a Coles County warrant for failure to appear on unlawful use of weapon, unlawful possession of firearm, and obstruction cases.
- 2) Emma J. Skinner, 23-year-old female of Kansas, Illinois, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, possession of hypodermic syringes and needles, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 3) Jared F. Temples, 39-year-old male of Oakland, Illinois, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence – alcohol concentration in blood or breath of 0.08 or more.
- 4) Richard M. Fowler, 57-year-old male of Oakland, Illinois, was arrested and released on a notice to appear for disorderly conduct.

ASSISTED OTHER AGENCIES

- 1) Assisted the Coles County Sheriff's Office with a motor vehicle collision.
- 2) Assisted the Coles County Sheriff's Office with a warrant service.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

- 1) Report of counterfeit and/or prop currency being tendered at a financial institution
- 2) Domestic situation
- 3) Theft of utility services report
- 4) Report of suspicious behavior.

- 5) Traffic crash report – deer
- 6) Civil problem
- 7) Suspicious person
- 8) Civil Problem
- 9) Traffic violation complaint
- 10) Report of dog running at large
- 11) Civil problem referred to housing authority
- 12) Suspicious person
- 13) Civil paper service
- 14) Loud noise complaint
- 15) Dog running at large
- 16) Domestic situation
- 17) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 18) Returned lost/found property
- 19) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 20) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 21) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 22) Vehicle reclamation
- 23) Disorderly conduct report
- 24) Dog running at large
- 25) Severe weather observation
- 26) Tornado siren activation
- 27) Storm damage assessment
- 28) Child custody matter
- 29) Runaway juvenile
- 30) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 31) Family problem
- 32) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 33) Motor vehicle collision – deer
- 34) Wellbeing check
- 35) Domestic situation
- 36) Juvenile behavioral / mental health situation
- 37) Civil problem
- 38) Wellbeing check
- 39) Neighborhood problem
- 40) Suicidal individual
- 41) Loud noise complaint / disorderly conduct
- 42) Suspicious activity report.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

- The Oakland Police Department received a \$500.00 donation from Neal Wood of REMAX reality to be used for “Shop with a Cop”. This is a program that the OPD has not had the opportunity to be involved in until this point. With this generous donation the OPD was able to provide essential clothes, winter coats, and toys to several area children in need this holiday season. This is a program that the OPD plans to continue in the future.

ISSUES & INFORMATION

- Weather Siren Memo
- Police Vehicle Memo
- Letter of Commendation for Officer Jack G. Sanders

Attached at end of minutes

Public Works Report:

Caleb worked on a service line by Bub Goberts
Regular monthly work
Working on equipment and servicing equipment on these cold days
Will look at replacing some equipment at Budget meeting
Looking for a meter to measure when the fire dept uses water

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- A. Motion to replace panel & clay valve, install alarm system on Water Tower up to \$17,000 and pay a \$25 monthly fee
Motion: Michaels 2nd: Ehler Approved: 4 ayes
- B. Motion to purchase new 2022 Police vehicle for \$45625.00
Motion: Michaels 2nd: Taylor Approved 4 ayes

Committee Reports:

Public Works and Personnel: Nothing to report, everything stays as is
Police: Purchase of police vehicle

Good and Welfare: None

Bills Reviewed and Voted Payable:

Motion: Michaels 2nd: Taylor Motion Approved: 4 ayes

Motion to Adjourn: 7:52pm

Motion: Michaels 2nd: Taylor Motion Approved 4 ayes

Vickie McQueen

TO: Officer Jack G. Sanders # 70

FROM: Ethan A. Brewer, Chief of Police

DATE: 01/04/2022

SUBJECT: Outstanding display of bravery during deadly late-season tornado outbreak.

A deadly late-season tornado outbreak, the deadliest on record in December, produced catastrophic damage and numerous fatalities across portions of the Central and Southern United States from the evening of December 10 to the early morning of December 11, 2021. Eight states — Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, Ohio and Indiana reported tornadoes that killed more than 80 people and brought devastating damage to communities. This includes the EF-2 Tornado that ripped across portions of Shelby, Moultrie, and Coles Counties in Illinois. This tornado reached wind speeds of 125 MPH and measured 200 yards wide, causing catastrophic damage to property.

On the evening of December 10, 2021, Officer Jack G. Sanders of the Oakland Police Department was on duty assigned to the evening patrol shift. Officer Sanders had been closely monitoring the tornado outbreak and the severe weather moving into the Coles County area. Around 9:00 PM, the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for Coles County which included Oakland. This prompted the Coles County Emergency Operations Center to activate all weather sirens in Coles County to warn residents to take immediate shelter.

Officer Sanders quickly learned that Oakland's weather siren malfunctioned and did not activate to warn the residents of Oakland to take immediate shelter. Officer Sanders also learned that due to this malfunction the Coles County Emergency Operations Center unable to remotely activate Oakland's siren. Officer Sanders knew if he did not act quickly, countless lives could have been lost if the residents of Oakland did not receive advanced warning of the impending tornado. Officer Sanders quickly rushed to the Oakland City Hall in an attempt to manually activate the tornado siren and warn the residents of Oakland.

Officer Sanders was able to manually activate Oakland's weather siren by pressing and holding a test button which only activated the siren for 15-30 seconds at a time before the button had to be pressed again. Officer Sanders knew that if he left to seek shelter for himself the residents of Oakland would not be warned in time. Officer Sanders disregarded his own personal safety and continued to manually set off the siren in an attempt to warn and possibly save the lives of countless Oakland residents. Officer Sanders continued to manually set off the siren until he heard the roaring sound of heavy winds and debris impacting City Hall. Only then did Officer Sanders take shelter in the bed of his pickup truck that was parked inside City Hall.

The actions Officer Sanders on the evening of December 10, 2021 was an outstanding display of bravery, courage, and dedication to protecting and serving the residents of the Oakland community. It was later learned that the EF-2 Tornado that ripped across Coles County dissipated before reaching Oakland. However, if it did not dissipate, and continued on its path, countless lives could have been lost if it wasn't for the actions of Officer Sanders.

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