

ALARM ORDINANCE REVIEW
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALARM ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010, in the CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM, located at CITY HALL, 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT MEMBERS:

Member Lamerson	Present
Member Linn	Absent
Member Mary Ann Suttles	Present

Mayor Kuykendall attended the meeting as well.

C. Approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2010 meeting.

Minutes of the September 22, 2010 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

D. Discussion of alarm ordinance.

Chief Kabbel said that the last ordinance he prepared was what he wanted to take forward, but with the comments from Committee members as well as those from the public and City Manager, they have decided to take out the permitting process and go after the alarm violators. He said that it would still have in play the responsibility of the alarm company, and the user only would come into play when they had a false alarm.

He said that with the original plan they were going to give all of the alarm owners information up front, but now when they have their first false alarm they will receive the information. After the second false alarm they will be given a form to go to their alarm company to be completed and returned, showing what action has been taken to correct the problem. Once they have their third false alarm the City would start charging them a fine, beginning at \$100 and going up \$100 each time thereafter, in a year.

Member Suttles asked if they would still need the software system. Chief Kabbel said that they would still need to purchase the software module that ties in with the

Department's CAD (computer-aided dispatching) system. Additionally, he said that he would still ask for a two-year trial period, but after the first year he would come back to the Council and have a better idea of whether they needed to continue with the part-time person, or if it was something that could be assumed by the crime prevention unit.

Chief Kabbel said that this new proposal would probably not cut the calls to 40-60%, but the first year maybe 20-40%. He said that they will have to do more work up front, but he would hope to get it up to 40% in the first year.

Member Suttles asked how they would pay for it if there was no permit process. Chief Kabbel said that through the history in other cities they see that when there is an ordinance in play people do not take the time to fix it and they will still have the alarms. They had three alarms just this morning and they average nine alarms a day. In the repetitive people they will see those fines going out the first month. He said that they would have to use their operating budget to purchase the needed equipment.

Member Suttles said that it appeared that they had cleaned it up a little and she felt that Member Lamerson would be pleased. She said that if it would work for the Police Department and was enough to move forward she had no problem with it.

Chief Kabbel said that he appreciated the comments and support, and even if they could reduce the calls by 50% in the second year that would be a considerable savings.

Member Lamerson said that he has not had a chance to digest the new proposal, but it did look much better.

Chief Kabbel said that if everyone was comfortable with it he hoped to have it on the November 9, 2010, Council Meeting agenda. Member Suttles asked Member Lamerson that if he had any concerns, to bring them to her and Member Linn first.

Chief Kabbel said that one other highlight that was still included in the ordinance was the requirement that the alarm companies had to do an enhanced verified response, which means they have to call the first responsible party within the first 20 seconds of an alarm, and then call the Police Department.

Mayor Kuykendall questioned the wording on Page 5 with regard to requiring the installers to have Arizona State Contractor's licenses. Member Lamerson said that they would be requiring a particular group of people to maintain a license for repairs and installations. He said that they do not require such certifications for automobile people.

Mayor Kuykendall said that when they are installing an alarm system they are becoming involved with the electrical system, so they are required to be licensed.

He said that he had no problem with that. Chief Kabbel said that the requirement was struck from one of the sections which had required even those just monitoring the systems to be certified. Mayor Kuykendall said that if it was a plug in system that was one thing, but if it was more than that, they would be licensed.

Mayor Kuykendall said that he saw nothing wrong with an alarm business, but he thought they should be a Prescott business. Chief Kabbel noted that there were about 50 different businesses that operate in Prescott and probably less than 25% are actually located in Prescott. Discussion was held on whether sales tax was charged and it was agreed that there would be tax charged on the equipment and installation, but not the monitoring.

Further discussion was held on whether the installers should be licensed contractors. Mayor Kuykendall said that before the Police Department calls a tow truck they have registered with the City; they would not call one that was not on the list. He did not see this issue any different. Chief Kabbel said that was included in the past revision, but was removed because of some contention.

Chief Kabbel said that Rowle Simmons, who has an alarm business in town, recently checked his contact list and found that 40% of the information was not valid.

Mayor Kuyekdall said that the YCCA spends a lot of money trying to get people to use licensed contractors and he does not look at this any different. Member Lamerson said that he would have to ponder that. The company and the users could be one in the same. Mr. Kidd added that they would not be creating a different class.

Member Lamerson said that he agreed that any time they could elevate public safety he was okay with it. He said that they were requiring people tinkering with alarm systems to be certified, but they do not require people working on automobiles to be certified. Lt. Reinhart said that a difference he saw was that they have not been having problems with vehicles. Mayor Kuykendall said that if someone does plumbing that is not licensed, the City would not approve it.

Member Lamerson said that he did not have a problem with collecting sales tax for a product sold in the City.

Mayor Kuykendall asked if they had any direct hook-ins to the City's system any more. Chief Kabbel said that they did not, other than some of the City-owned buildings.

Member Lamerson said that he would look over the proposal. Chief Kabbel said that they hoped to get this item back on the November 9 agenda. It was agreed that Member Lamerson would review the new proposal and if there were any concerns they would try and schedule another meeting in a timely manner.

E. Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting of the Alarm Ordinance Review Committee of October 27, 2010, adjourned at 3:55 p.m.