

SAFETY COMMITTEE

JULY 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Barry VanHoozen, Mark Weber, and Jan Materni. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Patrick Jones, Police Chief, and Brian Thomas, City Engineer.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0.

JULY 3RD FIREWORKS AND STATE CODE

Ms. Kabat stated that the Mayor's office received more emails, calls, and texts about fireworks than ever before. Chief Jones reviewed aspects of the ORC with the Committee members. Ms. Kabat added that this is the first event privately displayed fireworks were allowed under the new code. Chief Jones stated that people live close to each other, so he sees and understands the concerns of citizens. He reminded the Committee members that there are still enforcement mechanisms in place for him and his Officers, and that they can still enforce the noise ordinance if necessary.

Ms. Materni stated that she does not like fireworks because the potential damage done is not confined just to the property of those shooting off the fireworks. Ms. Kabat stated that Administration does not have a recommendation, but they can keep this Committee informed as more holidays occur where fireworks are now allowed. Ms. Materni prefers that we opt out. Mr. VanHoozen and Mr. Weber agreed that we will keep an eye on it, along with incidents reported, and to give it time. Ms. Kabat suggested to wait one year and get through all of the holidays before making a decision. The Mayor wanted Safety Committee to be aware.

PARKING ON WALNUT STREET

Ms. Kabat stated that they are back to the drawing board for the intersection of 3rd Street and Walnut Street. Mr. Thomas stated that plans were submitted for parking, denied, and then died off. He added that there are not approved plans because information was missing. Mr. Thomas stated that he does not recommend moving the stop sign up and that the catch basin is eventually going to fail. The idea is to have angled parking and make that part of 3rd Street a one way street.

There was a discussion amongst the Committee members and Administration on the placement of the stop sign. Mr. VanHoozen stated that you essentially have to stop twice, once at the stop sign for the crosswalk, and a second time once that is clear and you ensure no cars are coming. Chief Jones stated that there has been one accident there. Mr. Thomas added that statistically, there will be more if that area is paved and parking is allowed there. Mr. VanHoozen thanked Mr. Thomas for the explanation and costs.

ELM STREET AND 3RD STREET INTERSECTIONS

Barbara Wilch, 201 East South Boundary Street, is requesting that the City allows golf carts, as well as having public education on what crosswalks mean and who has the right of way. Ms. Kabat stated that Administration does not recommend they modify the code to allow under speed vehicles. Chief Jones explained to the Committee what low speed versus under speed vehicles are. Ms. Wilch added that golf carts are battery operated, have many advantages, and that they are good for communities. Chief Jones stated that it is a safety concern with vehicles titled as an under speed vehicle, especially being surrounded by many higher speed limit roads.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber brought up the crossing in the school zone on Louisiana Avenue. Ms. Kabat mentioned the active transportation plan. Mr. Weber wants to see flashing yellow lights at this intersection. Ms. Materni also mentioned the school zone crossing on Findlay Street. Mr. Weber stated that the Louisiana Avenue one is more of an issue with the higher speed limit on that road. Ms. Materni agreed that both crossings are a problem. Ms. Kabat stated that this is back on their radar.

Mr. VanHoozen requested that they enter Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Weber. The Committee entered Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. VanHoozen requested that they return from Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Weber. The Committee returned from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.