Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held February 28, 2023

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman VanHoozen.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present were Jan Materni, Barry VanHoozen, and Mark Weber. Also present were Police Chief/Safety Director Pat Jones, and Deputy Fire Chief Tom Granata.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

APPROVAL OF 01/24/2023 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

RIVERCREST/ROTARY PARK CROSSING

Chief Jones stated that there has been discussion in the past about where to put a crosswalk for pedestrians crossing between Rotary Park and Rivercrest Park on Fort Meigs Road. He stated that if it is too close to the expressway overpass, there is a sight obstruction. He said that he met internally with the City Engineer and Service Director, and they believe the best spot would be near the tennis courts. He said that the walkway comes out there, but there is a ditch on the other side of the street so a culvert would be needed. He said one concern with this location is that the school zone flashers are there, and they cannot be moved. Chief Jones stated that a few years ago the cost for this was around $10,000 but he will have the Engineer update that number. Mr. VanHoozen asked if that cost included going over the ditch, and Chief Jones said he believes that it does. Mr. VanHoozen asked Chief Jones his opinion, as Safety Director, about the crossing. Chief Jones stated that he always has concerns about a mid-block crossing. He said in Bowling Green they have Hawk signals which requires traffic to stop, but you have to have a traffic warrant for that. Chief Jones said he will reach out to TMACOG to see what traffic warrants are required and to discuss options. He said he will also have the Engineer update the cost of installing a crossing. Chief Jones reported that the City was awarded a grant for 100% of the consultant fees to do an overall comprehensive plan for non-motorized transportation.

Debbie Syrigos, 1806 Osprey Court, said that currently there is no legal way to cross between the parks except at the intersection. She suggested a pedestrian bridge but acknowledged it as an unlikely solution due to the cost. She said that she tried the crosswalk at McKinley Woods, but the cars did not stop, and she would not recommend that as an option. She encouraged the committee to continue working on the issue to establish a safe crossing.

Carol Defibaugh, 1644 Eaglecrest, recommended striping the road as a crosswalk.

Candy Gremler, 1803 Osprey Court, asked if something could be attached to the overpass to warn drivers about the crossing. Chief Jones said that we would probably not be permitted to put it on ODOT property.

AMBULANCE(S) PURCHASE

Chief Jones requested permission to purchase two ambulances from Penn Care at a cost of $382,467 each. He explained that one ambulance was included in the 2023 budget and the second is in the budget amendment. He said there is a two year lead time, so they would like to get them ordered as soon as possible. Mr. Weber asked if these are replacement units. Deputy Chief Granata stated that one of the current units would be repurposed and the other would be a reserve unit. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this request.

AMBULANCE BILLING RATES

Chief Jones reported that the topic of ambulance billing rates was discussed at Finance Committee, but he wanted to update the Safety Committee on what they are working on. He distributed information to the committee showing our current rates, the rates of neighboring communities, and the current ordinance regarding ambulance rates. He said that our rates are below all those communities, and we are even below the Medicare approved rates. He said that they are proposing an increase in line with the rates of Perrysburg Township for BLS, ALS I, and ALS II runs, with a $50 discount for City residents. He said that they would also like to introduce a $200 flat rate if they do not transport but provide some emergency medical care. Chief Jones said that once we have a Law Director, they would to update the ordinance to read that fees will be determined from time to time by City Council, then the rates can be approved by resolution instead. He said that there is no action requested at this time.

DOWNTOWN PARKING (E. THIRD/ELM AND W. THIRD/WALNUT)

Mr. VanHoozen said that he asked that this item be on the agenda because of people raising concerns about line of sight issues at Elm and East Third Street. There was discussion about the similarities between this intersection and the intersection of Walnut and West Third Street. Chief Jones said that he can speak to the City Engineer about this area.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF DORA

Chief Jones reported that there have been no issues with the Downtown DORA nor the Levis Commons DORA. Mr. VanHoozen asked about communities that allow open containers as opposed to a DORA cup. Chief Jones said that he would have to research the language regarding DORA's because it has changed over time, but he would prefer the use of DORA cups anyway. Mr. Weber asked if there has been any issues with trash. Chief Jones stated that with the bigger events there has been some issues, but that is because of the event, not the DORA.

AMENDED BUDGET

Chief Jones highlighted the safety related items in the amended budget. He said that the deputy police chief position has been added back in. He said that this position will help with day to day operations and be part of succession planning. He also discussed the purchase of firearms and automatic license plate reader cameras. Mr. VanHoozen asked if there was conversation about adding a 40 hour firefighter for peak hour coverage. Chief Jones said there was some conversation, but nothing is in the budget. Mr. Weber asked about fire safety trailer improvements. Deputy Chief Granata explained that the funds are for technological improvements so the trailer is less labor intensive. Mr. Weber asked about pond maintenance, and Deputy Chief Granata said that is for the pond at Fire Station 39 which they use for training.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Materni thanked the Police Division for their assistance with the Girl Scouts touring the police station. Ms. Materni reported that she received an email from a resident regarding feral cats.

Mr. Weber asked what measures the City has in place to deal with emergencies like the train derailment that has been in the news. Chief Jones stated that the City has an Emergency Management Plan in place, and there was a brief discussion about redundancy plans and involvement with partners in case of an emergency.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson

Safety Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.