

SAFETY COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Nelson Evans. Committee members present were Nelson Evans, Jim Matuszak and Rick Rettig.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Evans said that this ordinance was discussed at last month's meeting because there is nothing in the Code designating who can declare an emergency. Police Chief Dan Paez said that if there is an emergency, there has to be a declaration to collect FEMA funds. This ordinance would allow the Mayor to declare an emergency. Mr. Rettig asked if this is standard language from other communities. Chief Paez said that it is. Mr. Matuszak clarified that in the Mayor's absence the Administrator could declare an emergency. Chief Paez said that is correct. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the emergency declaration ordinance.

STREET PARKING

Mr. Evans said that a draft ordinance regarding street parking was distributed at the last meeting. Chief Paez said that there has been a lot of discussion regarding street parking, and one of the things that is currently in the ordinance is that vehicles can remain parked for 48 hours unless they notify the Chief of Police. They do not have to provide a reason or request approval, they just have to provide notification. He said that many people drive a company vehicle through the week and then park it for the weekend, so he's recommending changing the time limit to 72 hours, and for longer periods you would need to get approval from the police chief. Mr. Matuszak asked if they moved the vehicle a short distance if the clock would start over. Chief Paez said that it would. Mr. Rettig asked what the penalty is for violating this code section. Chief Paez said that parking tickets are \$15 unless it involves handicapped parking, which are around \$200. There was a brief discussion regarding abandoned vehicles on private commercial property. Chief Paez said that abandoned vehicles and tow away zones are addressed in a different section of the code. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the proposed change as recommended by Chief Paez.

Residents of the Quail/Partridge area were present to discuss ongoing parking issues in their neighborhood. Chief Paez said that he checked and the police have been out to the location regarding this situation 25 times. He said that he drove by and the truck was legally parked in the street and there were trailers in the driveway.

Gayle Duty said that he is confused because if he drove 55 mph in a 35 mph zone and he were caught, he would be ticketed. Mr. Duty said that there is an ordinance prohibiting parking trailers in driveways and yet the police drive by and do nothing. He said that he feels if the residents were fined or given a ticket that the problem would go away. Chief Paez said that the section Mr. Duty is referring to is part of the Planning and Zoning Code. Mr. Duty asked why a ticket is not issued when the police see vehicles parked over the sidewalk. Chief Paez said that the entire sidewalk needs to be obstructed for them to be

in violation. Mr. Duty said that the residents also park their vehicles on their lawn. He asked if this is a violation and Chief Paez said it would depend on the circumstances.

Greg Szymanski said that the 48 parking rule is really a 96 hour rule because you can't call until a vehicle has been parked for 48 hours, and then they are given an additional 48 hours to move it. He said that he feels his property values are being diminished because of the damage done to the yard and the trailers parked in the driveway. The Committee said that they sympathize with the residents, and Chief Paez said that the City is not ignoring the problem. Mr. Rettig said that he thinks it would be beneficial to look at parking rules regarding recreational and industrial equipment. Mr. Evans encouraged the residents to be persistent.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Evans, Chairman
Safety Committee

Next meeting: To be determined.