

SAFETY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Mark Weber, Barry VanHoozen, and Deborah Born. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator/Safety Director, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, Amber Rathburn, Finance Director, Patrick Jones, Police Chief, and Christopher Sargent, Lieutenant.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Born voted present because the minutes were approved at the last Council meeting. The minutes from the August 24, 2021 meeting were approved 2-0, with Ms. Born voting present.

ASR CONTRACT

Ms. Kabat explained that this is a five year agreement with Northwood, Perrysburg Township, Lake Township, and Rossford. We will be reimbursed for four fifths of this annually over the life of the contract, as the contract holder and lead entity. Mr. Weber asked if everyone is happy with the services received so far. Ms. Kabat stated they have not had any blackouts or dropped calls since the inception of the program. Ms. Born asked if we have a warranty in use for this. Ms. Kabat answered that they are looking to replace some pieces over the next two years and that it will bring the warranty back to renewal phase. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend entering into this contract.

2022 BUDGET

Chief Jones introduced Lieutenant Christopher Sargent and then walked the Committee through the details of the 2022 budget. Chief Jones explained that they are running out of room as they are growing and will be looking to put in the amended budget money to finish their second floor, which will be approximately \$1.4 million. In 2022, the Police Department is looking to hire three additional patrol officers. Ms. Born stated that she is really glad they will be hiring additional Officers and thinks that it is needed. Mr. Weber asked if it is four officers minimum on patrol per shift, which Chief Jones said is correct, but that he is looking to make that minimum five or six, depending on the shift.

Mr. VanHoozen noted that the consolidation of the line items makes it harder to understand. Mr. Weber asked Chief Jones if he would like to publicly address the chatter about an Animal Control Officer. Chief Jones explained that animal control according to our ordinance is different than nuisance wildlife control. Officers actually handled seventy percent of the dog related calls because the calls would come in after the Animal Control's Officers normal hours or on the weekends. Ms. Born asked if it was taking a lot of time away from the Chief and his officers. Loose dog calls average out to less than one every other day, so he cannot justify the need of a

fulltime Animal Control Officer. Ms. Born thinks it would be more advisable to have the ACO position filled.

Chief Jones stated that the Crossing Guards will receive a dollar increase per hour in January, making \$13.65 an hour. He stated that Rossford's Crossing Guards are actually School employees, rather than City employees like Perrysburg. The Committee members discussed Crossing Guards with Chief Jones and that if it is a busy intersection, he will make sure someone is there. Mr. VanHoozen asked if they will be purchasing forty-four new tasers and if there is any resale value to the old ones. Chief Jones stated there is potentially some resale value, although very small. Mr. Weber asked about auctions. Ms. Rathburn said they will begin using a new company and that she hopes to get higher bids this way. Ms. Born asked if we could have an Officer at the Council meetings and Chief Jones answered that it is something we could look into or talk about. Mr. VanHoozen asked if there is anything not in the budget that they need and Chief Jones said that everything in there is what they need besides the second floor which would be in the amended budget.

Ms. Kabat stated that Chief Ruiz will be at the next Committee meeting to discuss and then she gave the Committee a general overview of the Fire Department's budget. Mr. Weber asked about CodeRed and Ms. Kabat explained that it is a service that the City currently uses for weather alerts, but can also be used to alert residents of things such as water main breaks or a high speed chase. Ms. Kabat stated that the replacement engine, costing \$900,000.00, will go back into the amended budget.

GOLF CARTS

Chief Jones said that with golf carts it will be difficult to enforce and from a safety standpoint, golf carts cannot go than twenty miles per hour. This means they are at a disadvantage already on a road that is twenty-five miles per hour because people speed, are backing up and may not see the golf cart, as well as semi-trucks being on those roads. Ms. Born agreed that it is a safety issue. Mr. VanHoozen said since it was brought to the Committee, they needed to do their due diligence and that he appreciates Ms. Sandretto and Chief Jones' diligence. Mr. Weber agreed that it is not the right choice at this time. Mr. VanHoozen suggested they keep this information on file because this matter probably will not go away.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Born wanted to address the parks having issues with the bathrooms and vandalism. Chief Jones said that they were able to identify the individuals who were responsible for some of the vandalism and that they are looking to put some camera systems in place in some of the parks and various locations throughout the City. Chief Jones said in the meantime they will also be putting more Patrol in the parks. Ms. Born also mentioned the issue of alcohol in the parks. Chief Jones stated that sometime it is an issue because alcohol can be concealed in a tumbler. Ms. Sandretto clarified that alcohol can be allowed in the parks if there is a permit and it is approved. The alcohol must be in a fenced in area or with clearly defined borders. The art sculpture event in discussion did go through the process and had a permit.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.