

SAFETY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 24, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Barry VanHoozen, and Mark Weber. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, Police Chief Pat Jones, and Fire Chief Rudy Ruiz.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Barbara Wilch, 201 East South Boundary Street, requested that golf carts be allowed in the City. Mr. VanHoozen said that the Committee will be discussing golf carts later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With no objections, the minutes from the February 23, 2021 committee meeting were approved. Ms. Born voted present.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE CARDIAC MONITORS

Ms. Sandretto stated that the Fire Division would like to purchase five cardiac monitors from Philips at a cost of \$179,259.40. She said the current monitors are becoming obsolete and will not be serviceable after the end of the year because of outdated technology. Mr. VanHoozen asked how old the current monitors are. Chief Ruiz said he believes they are about six years old. He said they get used on almost a daily basis. Chief Ruiz explained that they tested three different systems, and this one was preferred 2 to 1 by the firefighters. Mr. VanHoozen asked if this purchase is in the budget, and Chief Ruiz said that it is. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase.

GOLF CARTS

According to the Ohio Revised Code, golf carts are considered under speed vehicles which are not allowed on the street unless allowed by the local community. The ORC also requires that an inspection be done to ensure that the golf cart has a windshield, turn signals, brake lights, headlights, and a horn before they are allowed on streets. However, even if a golf cart has been approved, it still is not allowed on streets unless the local community allows golf carts. The Committee discussed concerns about vehicles that cannot go over 20 mph travelling on streets with a 35 mph speed limit. Ms. Sandretto was asked if we can restrict golf carts to streets that are 25 mph or lower. She said ORC section 4511.214(2)(a) does not say you can limit it, so upon her initial reading she would say no, you cannot. She said that she will do some research to see if other communities have done it. Ms. Wilch said that Bluffton and Toledo both allow golf carts. Mr. VanHoozen said that his main concern is safety, and the Committee will discuss further when they get more information.

NOISE ORDINANCE/FOOD TRUCKS

Ms. Sandretto said that it has been brought to the City's attention that a food truck that sits on commercial property adjacent to residential property has a loud generator. She said that she does not think the mobile food truck ordinance needs to be changed. She said in reviewing the language in the City's noise ordinance, she would recommend that some of the language be repealed because there is no method to test for vibration. Ms. Sandretto said that the City purchased new noise level monitoring equipment, and the Police Chief measured the noise level of the food truck that the complaints were received about, and the noise level fell within allowable levels. She noted that the mobile food truck owner bought a new generator. Val Parritt, 313 Elm Street, said that this issue has been ongoing for two years. She said she would like the food truck legislation to be amended to not allow food trucks adjacent to residential areas. Ralph Weiland, 315 Elm Street, said there has not been a lot of effort by businesses to try and mitigate this. He said it affects his health; it is annoying, and he had heart surgery four years ago. Mr. Weber asked if it was better when the food truck was parked on Third Street. Mr. Weiland said that it was better for the residents on Elm Street. Mr. Weber said that the issue with it being on Third Street is that it was parked in the wrong direction and was serving to the street side. Ms. Kabat noted that many residential areas employ food truck for parties and events. There was discussion about issues with plugging into businesses because of cords and mismatched electrical sources. Ms. Sandretto said that Chief Jones has pulled some noise legislation from other communities with rules regarding activities adjacent to residential areas. She said this is the best place to start to look for a solution without causing unintended consequences. Ms. Born said that the food trucks should not be in areas adjacent to residential; they should be at Country Charm, Fort Meigs Shopping, and downtown. Mr. VanHoozen said that they will continue with the process. Mr. Weber and Ms. Born said they will keep the residents updated.

DOWNTOWN PARKING

Mr. VanHoozen said that he received an email from a downtown business owner regarding employees from another business parking all day. Ms. Kabat said there was a change regarding law enforcement not being able to chalk or mark tires so this issue pops up every once in a while. Ms. Kabat said that the City could add more parking on West Second Street similar to what was done with East Second Street, but we can't regulate who parks there. Chief Jones agreed that the U.S. 6th Circuit made it almost impossible to enforce parking limits. Mr. VanHoozen said that he wanted this to be on the agenda to speak publicly about our options, but our options seem limited. There was a brief discussion about how to better market the available parking in the downtown area.

SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

The issue of a school speed zone on Louisiana Avenue near Seventh Street was raised by Mr. Weber. Ms. Kabat said that she is still working on it, but there may be a work around that would allow a school speed zone in that area. She has a call into School

Superintendent Tom Hosler to discuss it with him. Chief Jones provided the results of a stealth speed study done in the 700-800 block of Louisiana. He said that the average speed of traffic both northbound and southbound was below the posted speed of 35 mph but there were some outliers. Mr. Weber asked Chief Jones what he thought about a school zone in that area. Chief Jones said that if there is a simpler way than what is laid out in the Ohio Revised Code, it can't hurt.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Born said congratulations on the new officers and promotions in the Police Division.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairman
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.