

SERVICE-SAFETY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Jim Matuszak. Committee members present were John Kevern, Jim Matuszak and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Mathew Beredo, Law Director, Jon Eckel, Service Director and Doug Dariano, City Engineer.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Jeff Hoffmann, 310 Mulberry Street, asked that service to the 500 homes on the north side of the railroad tracks be considered when discussing locations for a city fire station. He added that the proximity of the existing fire station to the Senior Center is a valuable asset for the Senior Center.

PRESENTATION REGARDING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Joe Hollon, the City's electrician, was present to update the Committee on some changes made to the traffic signal at Fort Meigs and Roachton Roads in response to numerous phone calls from drivers who felt that they were being held on Fort Meigs Road for an unnecessarily long time even though there was no traffic on Roachton Road. Mr. Hollon said that two weeks ago he took the light out of coordination with the other lights and now the light on Roachton stays green until a car activates it on Fort Meigs Road. He observed that the wait time has been decreased from one minute to twenty seconds. Ms. Kabat said that she heard back from one individual from the Brookhaven subdivision who is happy with the change.

APPRAISER FOR CARRONADE DRIVE/ECKEL JUNCTION ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

Ms. Kabat said that the Administration had met with the individual Committee members since last month's committee meeting. Mr. Dariano and Greg Bieszczad of Poggemeyer Design Group showed the same presentation to the Committee that was presented at the Open House for the Carronade Drive/Eckel Junction Road roundabout. The committee had several questions regarding the materials presented and Mr. Dariano and Mr. Bieszczad responded to all of them.

Mr. Matuszak asked if roundabouts are such a great solution, in general, than why don't we have any others. He also asked if there are any intersections where roundabouts would be inappropriate. Mr. Bieszczad responded by stating that if an intersection is a two way stop it would be less expensive to do the two way stop. However when you get to the point of a four way stop or a traffic signal a roundabout would work better. Mr. Matuszak pointed out that, in his opinion, the Carronade Drive/Eckel Junction Rd. roundabout would essentially only have three arms rather than the four depicted in the presentation. He explained that the projected traffic on Eckel Junction Rd. from Carronade Drive to SR199 would be virtually nonexistent relative to the traffic that would exist on the remaining three arms. He asked Mr. Bieszczad if that would reduce the overall effectiveness or the benefits of a roundabout. Mr. Bieszczad said he did not think it would.

Mr. VanHoozen asked if a roundabout was planned when this project was put in the pipeline in 2008. Mr. Dariano said that it was because it looked like an attractive way to manage traffic. It was claimed that a roundabout will always provide a higher capacity and lower delays than an all ways stop control operating with the same traffic volumes.

Mr. Matuszak said that the benefits of a roundabout, if any, at Carronade Drive and Eckel Junction Road are contingent upon Carronade Drive being extended through to SR199 and he questioned whether the plans to extend Carronade Drive have been etched in stone by the township and ODOT. Ms. Kabat said that she is being told by the Township Administrator that it will be built by September of this year. Mr. Matuszak asked if Ms. Kabat would get documentation evidencing the commitment to extend Carronade Drive through to SR199 for Mr. Beredo's review. She said that she will check with the Township. Ms. Kabat clarified that a contract to engage the services of an appraiser does not require City Council approval but she knew there were questions so she wanted to make sure they don't run into any issues.

Mr. Matuszak asked again if the option to make a right turn from Eckel Junction to northbound SR199 could be kept open rather than making it a cul-de-sac. Ms. Kabat said that she spoke with Mike Stormer of ODOT and they will consider the option once Carronade Drive is extended and they look at traffic counts. Mr. Matuszak noted the city's apparent comfort with predicting traffic counts for 2015 and beyond back in 2008 for purposes of the roundabout but seemingly lack of interest in predicting traffic counts a year or two out for purposes of the right turn only option.

Mr. Kevern and Mr. VanHoozen said that they are in favor of proceeding with hiring an appraiser for the right of way. Mr. VanHoozen said he has been troubled for years by SR199 and if we don't allow this roundabout to go through we are going to end up with a stop sign and that won't manage traffic. He said that this project has been in the pipeline since 2008 and this is a linchpin to a solution on SR199. Mr. Kevern said that moving this along also allows us to tackle the north side of Eckel Junction Road at SR199. In contrast, Mr. Matuszak emphasized that he neither approves nor disapproves of the project right now but would rather defer moving ahead with the project given the one-year delay imposed by ODOT so that we don't have to commit taxpayer funds to a project based on the promise that Carronade Drive will be extended through to SR199 this fall. He said that a lot of questions could be answered in that year, including the cost of other projects that might be competing for the same taxpayer funds in this year's budget.

Rick Gilts, 11268 Eckel Junction Road, said that he has owned property on Eckel Junction road for thirty years and he wants to compliment the City and Township on the recent changes in that area; he believes it is safer. He said that if a roundabout can control and manage traffic efficiently he believes it is a great idea. Mr. Matuszak asked Mr. Gilts what he thought of retaining a right turn from Eckel Junction onto northbound SR199. Mr. Gilts said that he would prefer not to see that. He said that the long range plan for the last twenty years has shown a cul-de-sac, and he does not know that it would be safe to allow the right turn, plus there would be additional traffic going past his house.

AWARD THE 2015 SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Mr. Dariano reported that bids were opened for the 2015 Sidewalk Program on February 12th. Three bids were received and the low bid of \$92,652.31 was received from Paragon CMS of Cleveland. Mr. Dariano said the City has not done business with this company before, but they checked their references and they are also working for LMHA. He recommended awarding the contract for the 2015 Sidewalk Program to Paragon CMS. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Rettig inquired as to a timeline or a date by which the committee will be making a recommendation based on the data and information received from the administration regarding the Fire Division's existing and/or future station(s).

Ms. Kabat later stated that with regards to the Fire Division data presented to the Committee last month, she went to a Fire Division meeting and went through the document with them. She said the Software Specialist is pulling in the data from May through December of 2014 and making the modifications requested by members of this Committee. She said that if the Committee has any additional questions to let her know. Ms. Kabat stated that the Administration does not have a set timeline regarding this issue; they are here to serve City Council in the role of data collection.

Former Fire Chief Jim Artz gave some background on the fire division and said that he is glad to see that the City would like to add more part-paid firefighters. He referenced an article in the Blade that said there is a need for more firefighters because we use mutual aid, but that is what mutual aid is for.

Chris Finkbeiner commented on the infrastructure needs of the City and said that he feels it is important to keep the infrastructure in good condition. He asked if the City has a plan. Mr. Matuszak gave Mr. Finkbeiner a copy of the street master plan.

Pete Scarborough spoke respectfully in response to the comments made by former Fire Chief Jim Artz to clarify some of the points made by Chief Artz and to state that the Perrysburg Professional Fire Fighters collective role is to provide the committee with data and information to make informed decisions.

Mr. Matuszak said that the City only has so much money so it is important to prioritize projects and to use the taxpayers' money wisely. He said that because he does not have all of the information he would like to have in order to make informed decisions regarding several of the projects before the committee, he is not comfortable approving spending on projects such as the Eckel Junction Road/Carronade roundabout because he doesn't know that that would be the best use of such funds at this time. Mr. Matuszak further stated that there is roughly \$800,000 unspoken for in the budget. He mentioned that Councilman Mackin had requested at a previous meeting that the Administration gather information on Capital Reserve Funds for the purpose of setting some amount aside for future capital projects. Mr. Matuszak concurred with Mr. Mackin's recommendation and further stated that he would like to see a significant amount be put aside for future use for the Fire Division. He said that we know at some

point soon we'll need money for either the renovation of the existing fire station or for the construction of an alternate or additional fire station so we should start setting the money aside now. He said that if we plan and prioritize properly, we will be able to satisfy more of the people more of the time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matuszak, Chairman
Service-Safety Committee

Next regular meeting: Monday, March 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.