

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**JULY 24, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Haraz N. Ghanbari. Committee members present were Deborah Born and Jim Matuszak.

### CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Nancy Szczublewski, 125 Partridge Lane, asked if there had been any progress made on restricting street parking of trailers and boats. Mr. Ghanbari said that they are still working on draft legislation and hope to have something soon.

Tom Friess, 311 West Indiana Avenue, asked if there has been any action taken regarding the intersection of West Indiana Avenue and Findlay Street. Mr. Ghanbari said that Ms. Kabat has not moved forward on authorization for a traffic study. Mr. Friess said that this has been going on for years, and he asked how you get something done. Police Chief Dan Paez said that he was unaware of the issue. He stated that the volume of traffic has increased along Indiana Avenue the last few years. He said that he would check to see if a study has been done for that intersection. Mr. Matuszak asked Mr. Friess if controlling the speed would resolve the issue. Mr. Friess said that there needs to be a red light similar to the one in Waterville near the park. Chief Paez said that a study is very important because if you plan to put in something to stop traffic it affects traffic on down the line.

### PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT POLICE VEHICLE

Chief Paez requested permission to purchase a replacement Chevy Tahoe police vehicle from Tim Lally Chevrolet through the State Purchasing Program at a price of \$32,791.40. He explained that the entire Police Division fleet is Tahoes so there is consistency from one vehicle to another for the officers' safety. This consistency also makes it easier for the mechanics to stock replacement parts, and the equipment can be moved from one vehicle to another. Chief Paez said that when they purchased Ford Crown Victorias they were replacing them every three years or about 80,000 miles. The Tahoes are lasting five years and 150,000 miles. Mr. Ghanbari asked what is wrong with the vehicle the new vehicle will be replacing. Chief Paez said that it has approximately 140,000 miles. Mr. Ghanbari asked if the old vehicle will be sold at auction. Chief Paez said that sometimes the vehicles can be repurposed by other City divisions. Mr. Ghanbari asked if this purchase is in this year's budget. Chief Paez said that it is. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this purchase.

### PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY BACK-UP COMMUNICATION CENTER IN THE NEW FIRE STATION

Chief Paez requested permission to enter into a contract with Bender Communications to purchase and install a back-up communication center in the new fire station at a price not to exceed \$160,000. Chief Paez explained that this would be used in case of an emergency with the communications center located in the police division. He said that we have the mobile command center that could get us through an emergency for a

short period of time, but this back-up communication center would be a duplicate system, only on a smaller scale. He explained that there are three phases to this project. The first phase is the placement of the antenna on the water tower adjacent to the new fire station location. The cost of phase one is \$17,605. The second phase is connecting the antenna and the radio room at the fire station. Chief Paez said that it would require about 400 to 500 feet of coax and there could be signal loss over this distance. Instead, they are proposing putting an equipment cabinet in the base of the tower, and then running Cat 5 wire to the radio room. The second phase would cost \$7,165 which includes the cost of the climate controlled cabinet. The third phase would be the dispatch equipment in the fire station building. This phase would cost \$61,496, for a total project cost of \$150,716. Chief Paez said that they are requesting an ordinance not to exceed \$160,000 to cover the cost of running the power to the cabinet and any miscellaneous conduit or hardware that may be needed. Mr. Matuszak asked why the antenna can't be placed at the fire station. Chief Paez said that the tower already exists, and you need the height for the antenna. Mr. Matuszak asked about the annual maintenance costs. Chief Paez said that the console is covered for three years, and there was discussion about the radio replacement program. Chief Paez requested that this be passed as an emergency because the quote is good for thirty days and there is lead time on getting the equipment. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING CSX TRACKS

Mr. Ghanbari gave an overview to the Committee about a conversation he had with CSX about the railroad tracks in the City. He said that he sent a letter on behalf of the Safety Committee to Ed Harris, the Executive Vice President of Operations of CSX about the safety of the tracks, especially at the four crossings that the City Administrator and Division Heads identified. Mr. Ghanbari said that CSX did an analysis and are proposing closing five vehicle crossings and two pedestrian crossings. CSX said that they would pay for the cost of closing the crossings and pay the City \$20,000 for each vehicle crossing closed and \$5,000 for each pedestrian crossing closed. The five vehicle crossings that they propose closing are on Eckel, Mulberry, Elm, Locust, and Maple. CSX said they would also expedite repairs of the other crossings if the City agrees to these closings. Mr. Ghanbari the Ohio Rail Development Commission, who does not have an affiliation with CSX, for an inspection of the crossings. The Ohio Rail Development Commission noted East Boundary as "Fair/Poor," Maple Street as "Fair/Poor," Locust Street as "Fair," Indiana and Mulberry as "Poor," and the Eckel Junction Road and Fort Meigs crossings as "Poor." Mr. Ghanbari said he wants Ms. Kabat to review the finds of the ORDC. He also indicated he wants the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to inspect the crossings as well, because if the committee and the City can demonstrate to CSX that these are actually in as bad condition we claimed they were, but can have the backup of the ORDC and the PUC that might force the hand of CSX to fix these now rather than the waiting on us to decide if we want to close crossings. Mr. Ghanbari indicated it was important to discuss this with Police, Fire, Schools, the Post Office and Residents that would be impacted. Ms. Born said that she prefers to not see any of the crossings closed. Mr. Matuszak asked, absent negotiations, what is scheduled to be fixed this year. Mr. Ghanbari said the crossing at

Indiana/Mulberry is scheduled to be repaired. Mr. Matuszak stated that closing crossings will save CSX money, and we need to determine whether the closure is for safety or to save money, because his concern is not the profitability of CSX.

#### NOISE ORDINANCE LEGISLATION

Ms. Born read the codified ordinance about a general prohibition on noise. She said that she would like to clarify what is an offensive noise. Mr. Matuszak said that everyone has a different tolerance of noise, and these ordinances are probably impossible to enforce. Chief Paez said that when they do receive noise complaints, they usually give warnings and that most people are reasonable. He said that once you write a citation, you have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that all elements are there. Chief Paez said that he would like to get voluntary compliance, and it is hard to legislate. Ms. Born said that she would like to make it easier for the Police Division to enforce the noise ordinance. Ms. Born said that she will let the Chief review the language.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Haraz N. Ghanbari, Chairman  
Safety Committee

***Next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.***