

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**MAY 28, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Mark Weber. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jim Matuszak and Mark Weber. Also present was Laura Alkire, Law Director.

### AMENDING THE CODE BY ADDING CHICKENS, ROOSTERS, AND HENS TO PROHIBITED SPECIES DEFINITION

Ms. Alkire explained that in 2017 City Council authorized an amendment to the Planning and Zoning Code regarding backyard chickens. However, at that time the section of the code dealing with prohibited species was not updated to reflect this amendment. Ms. Alkire asked that the Committee recommend to City Council an amendment updating the definition of prohibited species to include chickens that were not permitted in 2017. She added that the microchip program is still in effect. Mr. Weber said that the code contradicts itself, and he can't support the amendment as is. Ms. Born agreed, and Mr. Matuszak said that it sounds like there is some interest in revisiting the 2017 City Council decision. There was discussion regarding previous complaints about chickens and the decision made in 2017. Ms. Alkire said that we can see if the Planning and Zoning Committee wants to reconsider the issue. Mr. Weber said that referring to them as chickens is inaccurate because the term chickens includes roosters. He said they should be referred to as laying hens. No action was taken.

### AMENDING THE CODE REGARDING MOBILE FOOD TRUCK PENALTIES

Ms. Alkire gave a brief summary of the current legislation regarding food trucks. She explained that the way it is written, the City Administrator is listed as the official authorized to issue notices of violation of the food truck rules. Ms. Alkire requested that the Committee recommend approval of a code amendment that would give the Police Division the authority to issue the notices. Ms. Alkire said that the code amendment would not change the penalty, just who issues the notice of violation. She added that this is not a criminal offense. She said that the benefit of having the Police Division handle this is because they are on duty 24 hours a day. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the code amendment as an emergency since it is currently food truck season.

### AMENDING THE CODE REGARDING PARKING OF TRAILERS, SEMI-TRAILERS, AND BOATS WITHOUT MOTOR POWER ATTACHED

Ms. Alkire said that she sent a communication to City Council in February regarding the ongoing situation on Partridge and Quail. In April, she and the Mayor met with the Szczublewskis and Dutys and they asked for a prohibition on parking of trailers that are not hitched. Ms. Alkire said that it is important to remember that if approved, this code amendment would affect the whole City. She added that it is not always wise to pass a law to address one issue, and if the Committee decides to move this code amendment forward, she would recommend doing all three readings and passing it as a non-emergency to allow for public debate. Ms. Alkire said that internally the only way they have to gauge the issue is by the number of complaints received. Police Chief Pat Jones said that over the last week he had his officers look around town to see how many

instances of unhitched trailers, semi-trailers or boats that they saw. He said that the officers found some unhitched boats and construction trailers parked. He said that they have received a few complaints in the past, but they have just asked the people to move them, and it is normally because they are partially blocking a sidewalk or driveway. Mr. Weber said that if this approved City-wide, he is concerned about construction trailers and asked if an exception could be written in the language. Mr. Matuszak agreed with the need for an exception, but he said that he's not sure it needs to be written and we can just let the police use their common sense. Chief Jones said that he agrees with using common sense, but the officers have to be careful so they are not accused of showing favoritism. The Committee agreed 3-0 to move this code amendment forward for a first reading.

Tracy Roseman, 130 Partridge Lane, said that she is the one that the Szczublewskis and Dutys are complaining about and this is a personal vendetta. She provided the committee with copies of the police reports. She said that she uses the trailers for her non-profit business Mom's Mobile Mission, and in the last six months the trailers have only been at her house when they are hitched to a truck. She said that they use them to go pick up items to be distributed. She said that they got rid of their boat, and the camper is parked in their rear yard and is only out when they are going camping. Jeff Hoffman, 310 Mulberry, serves on the board of Mom's Mobile Mission and stated that it could be a hardship if Ms. Roseman couldn't park the trailers unhitched. Mr. Matuszak asked what the hardship would be, and Mr. Hoffman said that if they needed to leave the trailer for a couple of hours prior to going to pick up donations it would be a hardship. Mr. Matuszak recommended that they come to the City Council meeting to present their side of the story. Mr. Matuszak asked if it is legal to park a pod in the street. Ms. Alkire said she would check on that.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber reported that the two new police lieutenants will be sworn in on Tuesday, June 3, 2019.

Ms. Born said that she attended the Wood County Police Memorial. She said it was a nice event and she was happy to see Chief Jones there.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Weber, Chairman  
Safety Committee

***Next meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.***