

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 25, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jim Matuszak and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Laura Alkire, Law Director, and Pat Jones, Chief of Police.

### **DISCUSSION ON ELECTRIC SCOOTERS**

Ms. Kabat stated that at a previous meeting the Committee was given copies of the City Code and the Ohio Revised Code regarding vehicles, bicycles, electric bicycles and motorcycles. She said the state legislature currently has legislation regarding electric scooters before it. Police Chief Jones stated that House Bill 295 would add requirements for low speed electric scooters. He advised waiting until the State passes their legislation so we can mirror our ordinance. He added that the City of Kettering has suspended e-scooters and e-bikes because of safety concerns. Councilman Kuhlman was present at the meeting and said that he personally owns an e-scooter, and he implored the Committee to pass legislation regarding where the scooters can be used while we're waiting for the State to act. Mr. Matuszak said that he thinks we should wait on the State and common sense should prevail in the meantime.

### **DISCUSSION ON PLACEMENT OF ITEMS IN CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Ms. Kabat stated that there are several sections of the Code regarding items in the right-of-way. She said two references fall under general offenses – obstructions and advertising in the right-of-way, and in the Planning and Zoning Code it addresses signage in the right-of-way. Ms. Kabat said that Mr. McCarthy brought this up during discussion regarding signage in the right-of-way on Maple Street. She stated that she had a discussion with him regarding the placement of swing sets, basketball hoops, large landscaping rocks, and cement animals in the right-of-way. Mr. Matuszak asked what Mr. McCarthy's recommendation was. Ms. Kabat stated that he did not make a recommendation, he asked that the Committee review it. Ms. Alkire said that there were circumstances where things in the right-of-way have been removed. She said she would be leery about making any modifications to loosen restrictions. Mr. VanHoozen said that he thinks Mr. McCarthy felt that in relation to Maple Street, removing the signs could have been over zealous. Ms. Kabat stated that the Planning and Zoning Division received a complaint about the signs. Mr. Matuszak said that discretion needs to be used, just like a police officer does not have to write a ticket for one mile over the speed limit. It was noted that Planning and Zoning having that type of discretion is not included in the Code. There was discussion regarding aesthetics versus safety issues. Mr. Matuszak asked Chief Jones if he felt we needed to change anything, and Chief Jones said no. Mr. VanHoozen stated that the Planning and Zoning Committee can discuss the subject of signs in the right-of-way.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Born reported that it seems like people are slowing down on Maple Street.

Ms. Kabat stated that developer Mark Rich reached out to the Administration with concerns regarding the ordinance that was passed regarding trailer parking. She distributed a copy of the correspondence to the Committee. Due to this ordinance, the construction workers building new homes are not allowed to park their trailers overnight. Dr. Rich asked that the Police Chief be given discretion regarding this issue. Ms. Born asked if Ms. Kabat knew what area Dr. Rich was talking about, and Ms. Kabat said she believes it is the Canterbury subdivision. Ms. Born noted that the ordinance has helped the Partridge Lane residents.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairman  
Safety Committee

***Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.***