

SAFETY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jim Matuszak, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, Pat Jones, Police Chief, and Rudy Ruiz, Fire Chief.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the process for approving minutes of the prior committee meeting. Ms. Born read a prepared statement and chose not to make a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Mr. Matuszak was not present at the meeting, and as Chairman, Mr. VanHoozen could not make a motion for approval. Jon Orser, 125 E. Front Street, offered his opinion about the order of events involved with approval of the minutes and the introduction of legislation at City Council meetings. Ms. Sandretto stated that per the Ohio Revised Code, the main goal of minutes is accuracy. She said that she thought Council was in agreement on the process of approving committee minutes discussed at a prior City Council meeting. She said that this is a discussion that should be held at the next City Council meeting so all Council members can give their input.

PURCHASE OF A NEW MEDIC UNIT

Fire Chief Rudy Ruiz was present to request approval of a contract with PennCare to purchase a new medic unit. The cost of the Braun Chief LX Ford F-550 4x4 with gasoline chassis is not to exceed \$249,937. Chief Ruiz said the new unit will be replacing a unit with over 120,000 miles. He said that they established a committee to determine the needs of the Fire Division and invited three vendors to participate. One vendor did not participate due to Covid-19. Chief Ruiz said that this unit will not be diesel which will make it easier for the City's mechanics to fix it and will cut down on repair costs. Ms. Born asked why this purchase was delayed. Ms. Kabat said that several large purchases were delayed to monitor revenues due to Covid-19. Chief Ruiz said that he felt comfortable with delaying the purchase until later in the year. Mr. Matuszak asked about a third medic unit. Chief Ruiz said that they always have a back-up and this purchase will allow the 2014 unit to become the back-up. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this purchase as an emergency measure due to the time involved in delivery of the unit.

UPDATE ON HB 669

Mr. VanHoozen reported that HB669 was voted on and approved by the legislature and the Governor. Ms. Kabat distributed legislative summaries for HB669 and HB674. Police Chief Pat Jones stated that HB674 has passed the House but there has been no movement in the Senate. Ms. Kabat said that HB669 memorializes some practices such as sales of alcoholic beverages to go, and it expands the liquor permit to include outdoor seating. She said it did not allow an entity to create a DORA, and the legislation expires

December 31, 2022. She clarified that it allows businesses to expand their liquor permit outside of their building onto their private property, but not onto public property without the City's approval.

ADDITIONAL CROSSWALK ON FORT MEIGS ROAD

Mr. VanHoozen said that this issue came from the Recreation Committee, and Ms. Born stated that it originated in PRAC. They suggested a crosswalk between Rotary and Rivercrest Parks. Ms. Kabat said that we don't put crosswalks at driveways, and there are site line challenges in that area because of the overpass. Ms. Born asked about a stop sign. Ms. Kabat said the Uniform Traffic Code would probably not permit that. Chief Jones said that you can't put a stop sign in that location, and there are issues with the mid-block crossings like the one at Cherry and Front Streets. He said that from a safety perspective, he doesn't think it would be a good idea, not even a Hawk signal. He said there is a signaled crosswalk at Eckel Junction and Fort Meigs Road. Mr. VanHoozen said it was worthy of discussion, but there is no solution at this point.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairman
Safety Committee

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