

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 26, 2021**

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With no objections, the minutes from the November 24, 2020 meeting were approved.

### PROPHOENIX MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Chief Jones requested approval of the annual maintenance agreement renewal with ProPhoenix in the amount of \$33,601.25. Mr. Weber asked if this has been the cost each year. Chief Jones stated that they capped us at 4% increases through March of next year. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract.

### VEHICLE DISPOSAL

Chief Jones requested approval to dispose of a 2013 Tahoe with a Kelly Blue Book value of \$7,151 to \$10,050 and a 2014 Tahoe valued at \$8,384 to \$11,695. Both vehicles have well over 100,000 miles on them and will be auctioned off. Mr. VanHoozen asked if the vehicles can be used elsewhere in the City. Chief Jones said the mechanics recommended that we get rid of the vehicles. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of disposing of the vehicles.

### VEHICLE PURCHASE

Chief Jones stated that three of the 2015 Tahoes the Police Division is currently using have more than 110,000 miles on them, and he requested permission to purchase three Ford Explorer Hybrid police vehicles from Baumann Ford at a cost of \$155,965.98. He said the price includes the upfitting for each vehicle which will be done by P & R, but is part of the contract with Baumann Ford. Chief Jones requested that the legislation be passed as an emergency because of the time it takes to get the vehicles in. Mr. VanHoozen asked what the time line is, and Chief Jones said it will probably take 14 weeks. Chief Jones said his goal is to rotate three vehicles each year. Mr. Weber asked if they have been using the hybrids for a few years. Chief Jones said that 2020 was the first year they purchased the hybrid vehicles. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase.

### PURCHASE AND UPDATE OF DISPATCH CONSOLES

Chief Jones stated that the dispatch consoles were last updated in 2012. He said that they are still using Windows 7 and the server also needs to be updated. The equipment can be purchased under the state bid from P & R Communications for \$61,660 with \$200 for shipping and \$5,000 for installation for a total project cost of \$66,860. This will upgrade

all dispatch consoles including the one in the basement. The one at the fire station does not need to be upgraded. Chief Jones requested that this be passed as an emergency because there is a six-week lead time to get the equipment. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase.

### REVIEW OF ECKEL JUNCTION ROAD & SR25 DEVELOPMENT/STARBUCKS

Ms. Kabat stated that the Starbucks project at SR25 and Eckel Junction Road was approved by the Planning Commission in July of 2018. In July 2020, Starbucks requested a site plan amendment to close the Eckel Junction Road curb cut and push it west. The City requested that it be limited to a right-in, right-out only, but the Planning Commission approved the site plan amendment as submitted. In the Code, the only appeals process is for the applicant if the plan is denied. The applicant submitted a Traffic Impact Study and nothing in the study gave the Planning Commission pause about the decision. Mr. VanHoozen noted that the Planning Commission approved the site plan amendment by a 3-2 vote without the Law Director present. Ms. Kabat reviewed some traffic data from the SR25/Eckel Junction Road area. Mr. VanHoozen asked why the City requested the right-in, right out. Ms. Kabat said they felt it would be safer, but with no evidence to back that up. Ms. Born asked if the Planning Commission can change their decision. Ms. Kabat said not unless the applicant requests it. Ms. Sandretto stated that the decision could be appealed to Common Pleas Court by those who can show they have standing. She said that in her opinion, the property across the street would not be able to establish standing. She said that there are currently no legal remedies for the Planning Commission, City Council, or any of its committees regarding this matter. Mr. VanHoozen said that he understands it can't be changed, but they were told at a City Council meeting that we have a remedy. Ms. Kabat said that we have remedies down the road if we see increased traffic accidents. She said there could be an opportunity in the future to put in a median to prevent left hand turns, but we would not do that until we see evidence of a safety issue. Ms. Sandretto noted that this remedy would create a right-in, right-out for properties on both sides of the street. Mr. VanHoozen stated that it is hypothetical at this point.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Firefighters Josh Amstutz, Mike Hickerson, and Fred Kyle were present to ask for additional hours in excess of the 80 hours the Administration is currently giving to employees due to Covid illness or exposure. Mr. Amstutz stated that once the 80 hours are exhausted, the firefighters have to use sick time, and they only get 150 hours per year. Ms. Sandretto noted that they accrue that much sick leave each year, and it accumulates in a leave bank. Mr. Amstutz said that he appreciated the City being proactive with cleaning, masks, PPE to help prevent Covid, but he asked what is being done when they get it. He said that the City received \$1.7 million dollars in CARES Act money and other communities such as Bowling Green and Perrysburg Township are doing some extraordinary things for their EMS/First Responders. Ms. Kabat explained the federal policy regarding Covid leave, and she said that this is a bargaining issue. Ms.

Born said that she agrees we need to take care of our first responders. Mr. VanHoozen and Mr. Weber said that this is new information to them, and they will look into it.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairman  
Safety Committee

***Next meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.***