

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members Joe Frederick, Wendy Margolis, and Larry Browne, as well as Borough Manager John Davis, Mayor Ron Strouse, Council President Jack O'Brien, Borough Fire Marshal Scott Fleischer, and CBRPD Chief Karl Knott.

The **Minutes** of the April and May 2021 meetings were approved as submitted.

Lacey Avenue Permit Parking Request

John discussed observations from the neighborhood. Since the last meeting, proper spaces were repainted at the fire hydrant and several driveways. There are currently eight spaces on the south side of Lacey Avenue near Church Street which would be included in this permit parking zone. While there has not yet been a formal study, John observed the street daily for a period of time and the requirement of 65% capacity does not seem to be met daily for a permit-only parking. Diane Bradley, property owner, as well as her tenants, spoke on the issue affecting their parking. They feel the issue is more at the end of the day when residents come home from work rather than during the day. Wendy suggested the zone be designed as permit parking only for overnight parking, which would eliminate cars from a local business being parked indefinitely on the street. John will discuss that possibility with the Borough Solicitor and will observe the street closer to evening hours. The group will reconvene next month to discuss the findings further.

Nejad Gallery Loading Zone Request

This request for a loading zone on State Street has been discussed many times. There is currently a 15 minute parking space and the property owner would prefer that space be converted to a loading zone. It has been denied in the past as some businesses prefer the fifteen minute space, and there is a large loading zone in front of The County Theatre, which can be utilized by other businesses on the street, including Nejad Gallery. Wendy suggested waiting for a few months as businesses, including the theater, are reopening, and revisiting the issue. Mr. Nejad was not able to make it to the meeting; John will invite him and neighbors to a meeting in a few months.

West Ashland and South Hamilton Sight Distance Complaint

John reviewed this concern, along with Ralph Mazer, property owner. There is a metered parking space very close to the intersection, which does not include all-way stop signs. This is clearly in the sight triangle and obstructs the view of drivers. An accident study for the intersection was reviewed; there have been nine non-reportable accidents over the past ten years. Chief Knott agreed that the concerns are valid. Truck traffic is also a concern for the narrow street with parking on both sides of the street; it could be restricted, but would still allow for delivery trucks as needed.

On a motion from Larry Browne, seconded by Wendy, the Committee voted unanimously to remove one parking space on West Ashland Street. This will be forwarded to Borough Council for approval to approve the ordinance advertisement.

Public Events

Chief Knott noted all of the planned events, including the East Ashland Street block party, Doylestown at Dusk Car Show, along with several others, have all gone through the process and have been approved.

Central Bucks Regional Police Commission Update

Mayor Strouse thanked the CBRPD for their assistance with the Memorial Day Parade. Beginning with the next meeting, the Police Commission meetings are returning to a live format.

Chief Knott noted, in response to questions from Noni, fraud cases have increased recently. There was some discussion on ways victims are being targeted, and ways to help via social media and others. Chief Knott noted, thanks to LCB grants, more officers are often deployed on weekends to try to control and deter alcohol-related crimes in town. Chief Knott will be working with the Fire Marshal to monitor occupancy limits in local establishments.

New/Old Business

John discussed the parking study in the Hamilton/Harvey/Doyle area. He had indicated to the residents that he would keep an eye on the area, as he has done. Any parking issues in that area are not reaching Hamilton Street, or Doyle Street. Harvey Avenue does appear to be closest to being appropriate for restricted parking, but is not quite reaching the numbers required. If requested, the issue can be revisited again.

Larry would like to start an exploratory committee to look into the development of a community support team, in order to assist the community with weather or other emergencies. He has discussed it with Scott Fleischer, who is in support. Charging stations, warming stations, and evacuations are all possible areas where a team could be helpful. In response to questions from Wendy, Scott explained this team would be made up of community volunteers as a support to Fire, Police, and EMS, and will become part of the Borough's emergency response plan. Mayor Strouse asked for details on how other communities have implemented this plan. Training is provided free of charge online through FEMA. Larry and Scott will return to next month's meeting with more details.

John reminded the Committee all meetings going forward will be held in person.

Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.