

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 13, 2022

This Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7:02 p.m. by Tony Lombardo, Chairman.

PRESENT: Mike Lampa, Justin Ring, Jennifer Wagner, Anthony Lombardo, Julie Field, Steve Michniak

ABSENT: Jon Hannan

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Kevin Grimm, Fire Captain
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MR. HANNAN.

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2022 AND FEBRUARY 14, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Lampa. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Old Business

None.

New Business

Discuss Safety in Our Schools

Mrs. Field said she'd spoken to some of the Council Members and Mr. Daulbaugh, the School Superintendent, and she wanted to bring up the topic of safety in our schools at the Council Meeting because the whole community was in this together and it was all of our responsibility. There had been some recent school shootings in the country and she wanted the community to know the school district and the City administration were addressing the concern. She did not intend to discuss

specifics of what the schools were doing. She thought maybe this group tonight could brainstorm, or assist, or help.

When Mrs. Field talked with Mr. Daulbaugh this morning, she was impressed with the safety measures and plans that were in place to keep the schools safe. She wondered if there was anything the City government could do to add to the school's efforts. She had thought about having a police officer in the school buildings. She suggested adding an additional police officer, so that an officer could be solely available for the school buildings if a need should arise. An Executive Session may be needed to discuss the coordination of pay for such an officer. She had not discussed the idea with the Police Chief yet.

She said City Council had a lot of issues to consider and to prioritize and the more police officers available to the community the better off the citizens were. She understood difficult times in the national economy were coming, which caused crime to go up, etc., so she had wanted to present her thoughts on safety in the schools. She asked for input from Council.

Mr. Ring though an armed officer in every school would be fantastic, but the resources were needed in order to do that. Currently there was a School Resource Office (SRO-Officer Fogleman) who was at the schools a lot. Mr. Ring wouldn't mind adding an additional officer. He thought the City may need to shift some priorities to add to the safety forces. The City had hired a lot of people at City Hall and was spending money on infrastructure, but if the City wanted to hire an additional officer it would have to start to look for places to reduce spending to increase spending for the safety forces. If this was where Council wanted to focus, there would need to be discussions on what other things would have to be given up or things to reduce spending on.

Mr. Michniak noted that each state had laws regarding their schools (curriculum, etc.) and he wondered if municipal corporations/cities, in Ohio, had the authority to pass ordinances to required how the school had to structure its security, layout, etc. He asked Mr. Beni to look into this. He didn't think Council would legislate mandates, but he wanted to know if it could if the School refused to spend any money or take any steps for safety.

Mrs. Field said she wasn't suggesting mandating locks or procedures, because each school district would do what they could to be safe, and Streetsboro had security in place. She didn't think it was City Council's job to mandate specifics; she just wanted to talk about what City Council could do to help, and staffing seemed to be an option. She didn't want the School to feel alone in this and she didn't think the School did feel alone, but wanted them to know that the City Council and administration was willing to work together with them and supplement them for the benefit of the whole community.

Mr. Lampa didn't feel the City should pay for a security officer because what was the City getting out of it? He wouldn't want the School Board telling City Council how to govern the City, and didn't think City Council should tell the School how to run the schools. He would support an additional officer if the cost was split 50%/50%.

Mrs. Field thought the discussion was getting too detailed and might need to be continued in

Executive Session and not in the public. Mr. Beni said it couldn't go into Executive Session unless Council was going to discuss specific hiring; the general concept of cooperating with the School would not be a topic for Executive Session.

Mayor Broska said he had talked with Mrs. Field prior to the meeting and he had expressed to her that this meeting was not the appropriate venue for this topic. He and Mr. Daulbaugh have had conversations about this issue. Mayor Broska had talked to him about the possibility of adding another SRO at the School's expense. The City had been fully funding an SRO, who was at the high school on a daily basis, for a very long time; it originated as a DARE Officer and evolved into an SRO. Mr. Daulbaugh said he would take the idea of adding an SRO for the 3 school buildings at the Campus area to the School Board. Mayor Broska said there was no way to make the school students 100% safe, but with the safeguards the Schools have enacted and adding an additional SRO at the Campus area, at the School's expense, things were better. He said Streetsboro was the only city in the area that fully funded the SRO.

Ms. Wagner suggested a retired police officer may want to come back as a part-time SRO, like they have in Twinsburg, which is less expensive than a full-time officer for either the School or the City, whoever is paying for this additional officer. She would reach out and see if any retired officers were interested.

Mrs. Field said she had wanted to discuss this issue at a Council Meeting to get everyone's input because everyone had good ideas. She wanted to see how Council felt about it. Mayor Broska said he wished Mrs. Field would have talked to him before putting this on the agenda and he could have allayed her fears, but she said she had no fears and wanted to keep this on the agenda. Mayor Broska said Council should let the School pursue this as they wish, and if the School chose not to fund an additional SRO, which he didn't think would happen, an officer would cost the City 50% and the City would get the officers back for the busy summer months after school was out of session each June.

Mayor Broska commented that the School Board could have a private Executive Session for safety and security measures and maybe three people from City Council could join the School Board Executive Session and discuss more specifics. City Council could not decide anything tonight and should not discuss specifics on the floor.

Mr. Ring noted that Council never intended to talk about specific security measures on the floor in public. He liked the idea of working with the Schools, and maybe splitting the cost, and of getting two officers back in the summer, and having an additional officer in the Campus area. Mayor Broska commented that the Campus area was only one minute away from the police station and if something should happen (an active shooter) at one of the schools it would most likely be during the day when the Chief, Lieutenants, and detectives, in addition to officers would likely be on station and could get there quickly.

Mrs. Field summarized that she would be willing to reach out to Mr. Daulbaugh and arrange to have a few Council Members meet with the School Board Members as the next step.

Mr. Lombardo agreed that it would be good to have an additional SRO so one could be at the high school and another at the other schools. He also agreed that everyone wanted to work together to make everyone feel more content; there was no 100%.

Captain Grimm made Council aware that the Police Department and Fire Department had been having on-going training sessions together with the School District. The City safety forces, the School District and the County would be having another active-shooter training session later in the summer before school started. There were plans in place and people were prepared; the plans would be activated if anything happened. Mrs. Field added that Streetsboro had some of the best police and fire staff and they worked hard and had lots and lots of training and she felt confident with them.

Mr. Michniak asked the Police Chief what the general policy was for a school shooting, was it to attack a shooter (find, fix and destroy) or to wait for Metro (which was criticized in a previous event in Uvalde, TX)? Chief Wain said the current mindset and training was to engage and neutralize the threat, however that may be. She knew there was a lot of speculation about Uvalde and she would reserve judgement on what they did in Uvalde until the full report came out because there was a difference between an active shooter and a barricade situation. Every situation was different and there were many nuances on how to handle things, but the officers had the equipment, protective gear and training. Mr. Michniak wondered, even though the police station was near the school buildings, were there officers at the station or were they out on patrol. Chief Wain said obviously an officer at the schools would be faster. Sometimes there could be 4 or 5 officers (Chief, Lieutenants, Detectives) at the police station during the day, but sometimes there might not be anyone at the police station depending on meetings or other responsibilities.

Citizens' Comments

None.

Announcements

A Service Committee Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

There being no further business to be addressed by this committee, and upon motion by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Anthony Lombardo, Chairman