

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2022

This Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:01 p.m. by Tony Lombardo, Chairman. Mrs. Field gave an invocation and Mayor Broska led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Robert Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2022 AND JULY 11, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

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

Old Business

Discuss Safety in Our Schools - Update

Mrs. Field said the Mayor had talked to Mr. Daulbaugh, the School Superintendent, about this item. She said several City officials had met some time ago with the School Board, and discussed the issue. Mayor Broska said the group had reached a consensus and a tentative agreement and it would result in the schools being a little safer; there were still some details to work out over the next few weeks and then he would give another report. Mrs. Field just hoped the School and the City would continue to work together to reach the best possible scenario for all.

New Business

T-7287 Purchase 5 Sets of Turn Out Gear

Chief Reinholz requested to purchase five sets of turn out gear (bunker pants and bunker coats) for the firefighters. He said the department usually purchased 4-6 sets per year to avoid replacing all 40+ sets in one year, and also applied for grants. He had collected quotes and wanted to go with Veridian Velocity gear from Fire Force at \$2,590/set. He said this was one of the lower quotes, and the gear was very lightweight and still met all the specs. The money was budgeted for this purchase in 2022.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

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

T-7290 Amend Code Section 1505 Regarding Open Burning

Chief Reinholz said this came to light after a condo complex fire back in May 2022. Capt. Grimm and Paul Janis, Assistant Law Director, had been working on this issue for several weeks. They reviewed the City's ordinances and the State's requirements regarding the distance of fire sources (grill, fire pit, etc.) from a building and what could be burned.

At a fire safety meeting at the condo complex after the May 2022 fire regarding ways to prevent something similar from happening again it was learned that the Code required a grill to be 25' away from the building, but their patios were only 10' away from the building so they would have to go out to the common area and the condo didn't allow grilling in the common areas. The City had established 25' distance many years ago, but this legislation was requesting to change it to 10' away from the building, and it had to be an approved grill, and not placed under a balcony. A fire pit of open flame would have to be 25' away from the building.

Capt. Grimm and Mr. Janis updated some of the vague language and clarified definitions in the Code and drafted it as three readings, so Council and the public had time to consider it thoroughly or even amend it before it was adopted.

Mr. Michniak asked about Section 1505.02. Chief Reinholz said it was changed to clarify definitions. He said people could have a small recreational fire or a fire for cooking, but a permit was required for a big bonfire. This updated legislation tried to eliminate ambiguity about what could or could not be burned.

Chief Reinholz said the Department received a lot of open burn complaints and the Fire Department always went out to investigate and often had to inform people they could not burn rubbish or garbage and gave the violator a copy of the Code Section as a warning and reported it to the Police Department to record in the CAD system. Subsequent complaints at the same address would become a misdemeanor.

Mrs. Field clarified that property owners would not need a permit for a campfire (less than three feet wide and two feet high) for recreation or for cooking. Permits were only required for big fires,

like a bonfire or a fire project for something like clearing land. They would need to get a permit from the Streetsboro Fire Department and the EPA in Akron. Even if a fire was at the legal distance, of the proper size, burning legal wood, and not unattended, the Fire Department could still shut them down if the smoke was being a nuisance to the neighbors.

Mr. Michniak mentioned that some people had outdoor fireplaces or outdoor pizza ovens built into their decks and patios that may not be 25' from the main building. Chief Reinholz said they weren't changing that in the Code; outdoor fireplaces were to be no closer than 10' from the building. Mayor Broska commented that those features were built to contain a fire and most of the open burning complaints and issues were the kind of fire pits people had out in the open. He did not expect the "open burning" police to be patrolling the City, but the Fire Department would still respond to any open burning calls.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR FIRST READING.

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

Discuss Purchasing 2023 Police Cruisers

Chief Wain said she had just learned last week that Ford had already opened and closed their window for placing orders for police cruisers for next year. She said the Department had been having some ongoing mechanical issues with some of the recent models of the Ford Explorers, so they decided to test drive the Dodge Durango vehicle that was also "pursuit rated" for law enforcement vehicles. The Durango got high reviews from the officers that drove it, and the Ohio State Patrol was moving into Durango vehicles. They have learned that Dodge would be opening the order window sometime within the next 5-10 days to purchase the 2023 cruisers. The City had not yet received the vehicles that had been ordered for this year and may not get them. There were other police departments that had their orders cancelled. Chief Wain had heard that the price for the 2023 Ford Explorers would increase by about \$9,000 per car even if they tried to order them for next year. Also, there was no set window for State bid for 2023, and there may not be one. Given all that information, she met with the Mayor and Matt Miller about what to do. If she would wait until the 2023 budget was set it would be too late to order vehicles, but if the City could place an order with Dodge during the window that would open this week it was very likely the City would get the vehicles for next year. The Department was already 2 behind on their replacement schedule (a Ford Explorer and a Ford Responder pickup). Matt Miller had told her this purchase was something the City could absorb for this year and then in 2023 the Police Department would not have anything appropriated for cruisers. It wasn't really additional money, it was just spending it this year instead of next year. If the City waited until 2023, they City wouldn't get the vehicles and the Department would be four behind in the replacement schedule instead of two.

Mr. Ring asked if this purchase would come out of the General Fund this year and then not be appropriated out of the General Fund next year. Matt Miller said there was actually enough money in the 401- Capital fund this year to absorb this early ordering (about \$114,000).

The vehicle replacement schedule indicated 2 vehicles per year. The two ordered for 2022 (a Ford Explorer and a Ford Responder pickup) were most likely not going to come, so she could cancel them. She could order two vehicles for 2023 (2 Dodge Durangos) and if the 2022 Ford order was cancelled, she could use that money and order an additional 1 Dodge Durango and 1 Dodge RAM pickup. The request today was just for the 2 Dodge Durangos for 2023. Mrs. Field liked the idea of the Police Department getting some type of pickup truck vehicle so it could offer some different services.

Mayor Broska recommended cancelling the Ford Explorer and Ford Responder pickup authorized for this year because they probably wouldn't come in anyway; and order 3 Durangos and a Dodge RAM during the order window that would come open soon for next year. Chief Wain said, according to the fleet dealer and the Haasz dealership, if the City got the order in to them before their window opened, that was as close to a guarantee of getting the vehicles as the City could get. The Council Members supported getting the four vehicles the Mayor just mentioned and cancelling the Ford order, since there was no penalty for cancelling the order (the dealers had more orders than cars).

Mr. Lampa asked about the budget for cruisers. Matt Miller explained that for 2022 about \$108,000 was currently budgeted. If the City was to get four vehicles, he would need to move about \$8,000 more into the Police Cruisers line, and cancel the Purchase Order for the Ford vehicles to free up that encumbered money. The cost of the Dodge RAM was not known at this time, so if it was more than \$57,000, more money would need to be moved into the Police Cruisers account line.

Chief Wain noted that the 2 Durangos upfitted with lights and graphics totaled \$112,590.20; adding one more Durango would change the total cost to \$168,885.30. She would have to get the figures for the cost of the RAM pickup truck. The Department would not trade in any existing vehicles, but keep them for the City fleet.

Mr. Ring suggested amending the legislation that was presented tonight to authorize purchase of all four Dodge vehicles with a "not to exceed" amount since the cost of the RAM pickup was not known tonight, but the authorization was needed now because the ordering window would open (and probably close) before the next Council Meeting.

MOTION: TO AMEND T-7291 PRESENTED TONIGHT TO PURCHASE POLICE CRUISERS TO CHANGE FROM 2 DODGE DURANGOS TO NOT TO EXCEED 4 DODGE DURANGOS OR TRUCKS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$240,000.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AS AMENDED.

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

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 Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Lampa, this meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Anthony Lombardo, Chairman