

SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 5, 2024

The February 5, 2024 Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kenneth Wessler, Chairman. Safety Committee members present were Julia Lemire, John Walker, and Kenneth Wessler.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Jared Lucas, Police Chief; Mike MaGinn, Fire Chief; Chad Stoneburner, Elks Lodge; Rodney Donohoo, Apostolic Gospel Church; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The following bills were presented:

	<u>POLICE</u>	<u>MUNI. CT.</u>
AEP Ohio	7385.82	
Brown Supply Company	228.37	
William Barron PsyD	400.00	
Karen Kline		254.00
Nathanael Downer	469.41	
Dean Derr	425.00	
KDW Dry Cleaning	243.00	
Kerrs Automotive Repairs	285.22	
Luis Gil		80.00
Luis Gil		80.00
Parr Public Safety Equipment	2220.78	
Rebecca Ward		62.00
Thomson Reuters		339.81
Treasurer, State of Ohio	670.00	
US Bank Equipment Finance	407.83	
Victim Assistance Program		4008.00
Wise Motors	590.47	
Total	13325.90	4823.81

TOTAL BILLS: \$18,149.71

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$18,149.71. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the January 2, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the January 11, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the January 12, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the January 31, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

At this time Mr. Chad Stoneburner, representing the Elks Lodge, addressed the Safety Committee requesting permission to hold a 5K run again this year on Saturday, June 22, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Stoneburner noted that it would be run the same as the 5K held in 2023, beginning and ending at the Elks Lodge with the route to begin on Karcher Drive, then right onto Walker Street, left onto Third Street, right onto Parkview Drive, left onto Front Street, right onto Elliott Street, around the path at Stepping Stones Park, and then return on the same route. Volunteers would again be located at the intersections to direct traffic. Safety Committee members voiced no objections to this request.

Discussion was also held with Mr. Stoneburner as to if the date for the Elks annual Halloween walk-thru has been scheduled, as the City sets trick-or-treat based upon the date of the walk-thru. Mr. Stoneburner indicated that the walk-thru will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Walker, to set trick-or-treat to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

At this time Pastor Rodney Donohoo, Apostolic Gospel Church, addressed the Safety Committee requesting consideration of a waiver from the “No Parking This Side of Street”, to instead allow parking on Sundays only along the east side and in front of his church located at 221 North Fifth Street, from the south side of the intersection with East Finley Street to the north side of the alley located adjacent and south of the church. Pastor Donohoo indicated that he was also going to request parking be permitted on Sundays only along the south side of East Finley Street, between North Fifth Street and the alley to the east, however after looking at this area closer he understands this street would be too narrow for parking. Pastor Donohoo stated that attendance at his church has grown and they are now averaging one hundred (100) people per service. Safety Committee members discussed the request for Sunday only parking along the east side of North Fifth Street and it was noted that currently parking is permitted at all times along the west side of North Fifth Street. Chief Lucas indicated that he is waiting to hear from Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, regarding Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) standards for road widths and parking. Mr. Walker indicated that he observed the area and he expressed safety concerns as the roadway would be too narrow to allow parking on both sides and maintain two lanes of traffic. Safety Committee members would like to research this request further and review the findings obtained by Chief Lucas.

Discussion was held regarding the Solar Eclipse event to take place on Monday, April 8, 2024. Mrs. Lemire indicated that she recently attended a webinar pertaining to the event and topics of discussion included: signs to be used for informational purposes including the new digital sign at the entrance of Harrison Smith Park and the digital sign located at the fairgrounds; the use of portable stop lights; ODOT informational signage (similar to the one placed near the courthouse during the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL)); and handouts for visitors which include medial information. Chief Lucas noted that Sheriff Frey is working on portable stop lights and portable informational signs which could be used for the event. Mrs. Lemire stressed that residents need to be patient and understanding of visitors to the community. Chief MaGinn reported that Fire Department personnel have inspected over eight hundred (800) campsites for the event including six hundred (600) campsites at the fairgrounds. Chief MaGinn also noted that the three (3) full-time firefighters will be mandated to work that day and he plans to have fire department personnel throughout the City on that day. Chief Lucas noted an area of concern during the eclipse is North Sandusky Avenue, in front of Wyandot Memorial Hospital. Chief Lucas suggested businesses who don't want people using their parking lots during the eclipse post signs to that effect. Mayor McColly reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be having their first 1st Thursday event in the downtown on Thursday, April 4, 2024 and have requested that these food truck vendors be permitted to remain in place through the eclipse.

Chief Lucas and Safety Committee members reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the International Union of Police Associations, Local #32 regarding an increase in the wages of the bargaining unit with an across-the-board market adjustment.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the IUPA Local #32 as presented. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas reported on information provided by Mr. Scott Moore regarding a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Reed Center located at the rear of the Open Door Resource office, 212 West Wyandot Avenue, to take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Chief Lucas noted that the north/south alley adjacent to the building will be closed during the ribbon cutting with barricades to be placed in the alley for the closure.

Chief MaGinn addressed the Safety Committee regarding the hourly pay rate for the volunteer firefighters noting that he thought it was decided that the volunteers would receive regular annual pay increases at the same rate as annual raises given to most City employees. Mayor McColly indicated that it is not uncommon to review and adjust the pay rate for positions within the City. Safety Committee members agreed to review this matter at the next Safety Committee meeting.

Chief Lucas reported that Mr. Kolin Holloway, who was given a conditional job offer as a police officer by the Safety Committee at their January 11, 2024 special meeting, has instead accepted a job with the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office. Chief Lucas also reported that Mr. Roger Hetzel, who was given a conditional job offer and subsequently hired as a police officer by the Safety Committee, started work today.

Chief Lucas indicated that the list of candidates who took the most recent civil service examination has been exhausted and he requested another examination be administered to form a list of police officer candidates.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Wessler, to request the Civil Service Commission administer a civil service examination for police officer candidates. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas shared the Police Department Statistics Report for 2023 with the members of the Safety Committee.

Chief Lucas noted that one of the two individuals hired as part-time police dispatchers, by the Safety Committee at their January 31, 2024 special meeting, has turned down the job offer. The position will again be advertised.

Chief MaGinn reported that the Fire Department responded to thirty-four (34) runs during the month of January 2024 including: EMS assists, false alarms, steam pipe break, carbon monoxide, structure and chimney fires.

Chief MaGinn stated that he attended two (2) Solar Eclipse meetings held in the county in January, and a subcommittee within the Fire Department has been formed for the same matter.

Chief MaGinn also reported on a recent resignation of a volunteer fireman as this volunteer accepted a new job.

Chief MaGinn shared the Fire Department's 2023 and 2022 Activity Reports with the members of the Safety Committee.

Chief MaGinn further reported that the Fire Department's new tanker truck is still in the process of being built and members of the Fire Department will be traveling to Louisiana at the end of February for the final inspection and the truck is expected to be delivered in March 2024.

Mayor McColly reported that the fireworks display to be held in conjunction with Wyanstock will take place on Friday, July 5, 2024 at the Upper Sandusky High School. Safety Committee members voiced no objections.

Mayor McColly also reported that the City will soon begin utilizing the services of Civic Plus to archive social media platforms throughout the City.

Mayor McColly further reported on a letter of praise of Detective Charles Seeley received from a person from the community, and a letter of appreciation of Fireman Cory Taylor from a resident who experienced a chimney issue.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.