

SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 1, 2024

The April 1, 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; Jan Stoneburner; Drew Rall; Rick Roberts; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the March 4, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Jan Stoneburner addressed the Safety Committee regarding plans for the Star Theater to hold “Rally in the Alley” events each Thursday evening in May, as part of a membership drive. Various activities being planned in conjunction with the events include live music and food. Mrs. Stoneburner requested closure of the north/south alley between West Wyandot Avenue and West Johnson Street beginning at 5:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. on each of those evenings. The closure of the east/west alley between South Sandusky Avenue and South Seventh Street was also discussed. It was noted that the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance (No. 189-13) allows Food Trucks to set up from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Monday thru Thursday in two designated spots in front of the courthouse and prohibits set up prior to 5:00 p.m. on those days. Mrs. Stoneburner requested a waiver from this section of the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance on Thursday, May 30, 2024, for the one spot located to the south in front of the courthouse and across the street from the Premier Bank parking lot, as Chick-fil-A is willing to bring a food truck to town and set up from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to approve the closure of the north/south alley between West Wyandot Avenue and West Johnson Street and the east/west alley between South Sandusky Avenue and South Seventh Street on Thursday evenings in May from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and to waive the time stipulation for food trucks and allow Chick-fil-A to set up from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2024 in the spot designated for food trucks located in front of the courthouse to the south. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr. Drew Rall addressed the Safety Committee on behalf of the St. Pete’s Festival requesting the closure of West Finley Street, west of North Eighth Street, for this year’s festival to be held on Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and to allow the parade to step off at 1:00 p.m. from the high school athletic complex and travel southbound on North Eighth Street and end at St. Paul’s Church on that day.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve the closure of West Finley Street and allow the parade for the St. Pete’s Festival to take place on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr. Rick Roberts addressed the Safety Committee indicating that he read in the newspaper, following the March 4, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, that a traffic study was requested along with the placement of flashing stop signs at the intersection of West Church Street and North Eighth Street due to a recent accident. Mr. Roberts provided a diagram of the intersection and noted that motorists traveling westbound on Church Street have a difficult time seeing traffic traveling southbound on Eighth Street due to the current location of the stop bar on Eighth Street. Mr. Roberts suggested the stop bar on Eighth Street be moved 5’ to 8’ to the south to provide better visibility of southbound vehicles. Discussion was also held regarding the possibility of moving the stop bar marking on Church Street for traffic traveling westbound.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to request the stop bars for the southbound traffic on Eighth Street and the westbound traffic on Church Street be moved forward to provide better visibility for motorists. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas reported on a quote of \$60,299.62 received for a new police cruiser and equipment for a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor SUV. The purchase would be through the State Bidding Process and the new cruiser would replace an existing cruiser.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to recommend to City Council to approve the quote of \$60,299.62 for a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor SUV plus equipment. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas reported that he is going to dial back his plans for the police department work force on Saturday, April 6, 2024 before the upcoming Solar Eclipse event to take place on Monday, April 8, 2024, but maintain his plans for Sunday, April 7, 2024 and Monday, April 8, 2024.

It was noted that the Wyandot Classics and Cruisers have set the date of Saturday, September 28, 2024 for their 24th annual Autumn Cruise in the downtown area.

Mayor McColly noted that the renovations in the Municipal Building will be in place by the May 6, 2024 Safety Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman