

SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 6, 2024

The May 6, 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; Tandy Onstott; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the April 1, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

At this time Mrs. Tandy Onstott, Brick Alley Market, addressed the Safety Committee requesting permission for the east/west alley located between her business at 120 North Sandusky Avenue and Richardson's Flowers, 116 North Sandusky Avenue, to the adjacent north/south alley to be closed for 1st Thursday events on June 6 and October 3, 2024 for a kids' market and on August 1 and September 5, 2024 for an adults' market from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Onstott also requested permission to close this portion of the alley on Saturday, September 28, 2024 during the annual Autumn Cruise in the downtown area from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a market to be held from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Wessler, to approve the request from Mrs. Onstott for the closure of the east/west alley located between 120 North Sandusky Avenue and 116 North Sandusky Avenue, to the adjacent north/south alley to be closed for 1st Thursday events on June 6, August 1, September 5, and October 3, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas noted that the first "Rally in the Alley" event was held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, as approved at the April 1, 2024 Safety Committee meeting and the police department experienced no issues. Mr. Walker indicated that he had to move a barricade at the west end of the east/west alley, near John Stewart United Methodist Church, due to an event that was taking place at the church. Mr. Walker suggested that barricade be placed further back to the east in this alley near the edge of the church building for the next "Rally in the Alley" as another event is planned at the church.

Revisions to the Employees' Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual were presented and discussed. Mr. Walker inquired about the policy for City service department employees obtaining a CDL, and Mayor McColly indicated that the addition of this policy has not been included in these revisions. Mrs. Lemire inquired about provisions dealing with breastfeeding and pumping in relation to an employee's breaks. Mrs. Lemire also inquired about the language of "known pregnancy" in the revisions, asking if a pregnancy has to be divulged by an employee. Mrs. Lemire indicated that she spoke with Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director, regarding these issues and he will be checking further into this matter.

Mr. Walker inquired with Chief Lucas about the financing information from Ford Motor Credit needed for an Ordinance to address the purchase of a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor SUV, as recommended to City Council for approval by the Safety Committee at the April 1, 2024 Safety Committee meeting. Chief Lucas indicated that he is waiting on this information from Ford Motor Credit.

An inquiry was made about moving the Stop bars at the intersection of North Eighth Street and West Church Street, as approved at the April 1, 2024 Safety Committee meeting. Chief Lucas indicated that he met recently with Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, and the new locations for these Stop bars have been marked and will be repainted by the Street Department when their schedule allows.

Chief Lucas reported that a motorist pulled out in front of Officer Dean Derr recently at the intersection of West Church Street and North Seventh Street and cruiser #3 was damaged in the accident. The motorist's insurance is working on the repairs to the cruiser.

Chief Lucas also reported that a new radio was delivered for the police cruiser that was damaged when it was struck by a vehicle on Houpt Drive over a year ago. The installation of the radio is the final repair on this cruiser following this incident.

Chief Lucas further reported that the Police Department is having issues with strength of its digital radios. A second repeater has been ordered and it could be delivered in the fall of 2024. Chief Lucas plans to mount the repeater on the antenna at the Safety Building with assistance from the Fire Department and the aerial truck.

Chief Lucas stated that the eclipse was fantastic, the parks remained clean, and only one vehicle from a visitor got stuck in the grass area along the roadway in Stepping Stones Park and it was removed by a tow truck. Chief Lucas noted that Police Department employees as well as other City employees were granted eight (8) hours of pay for the eclipse, pursuant to Ordinance No. 222-13. Chief Lucas indicated that Police Dispatchers, Police Lieutenants, and Police Officers work twelve (12) hour shifts, and he requested the "Eclipse" time for these employees be increased from eight (8) hours to twelve (12) hours.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Walker, to recommend to City Council to amend Ordinance No. 222-13 to increase the "Eclipse" time for Police Dispatchers, Police Lieutenants, and Police Officers from eight (8) hours to twelve (12) hours. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Lemire inquired about additional measures to keep parades safer including parking snow plows and garbage trucks at the intersections to block traffic. It was noted that the next parade will be the Memorial Day Parade and it will take place on Monday, May 27, 2024 beginning at the library.

Mayor McColly reported that a telephone company representative will be here tomorrow to discuss upgrades to the City's landline phones.

Mayor McColly also reported that he was contacted by an individual who wants to put on a 5K in the fall in the downtown area. Chief Lucas indicated that there would be City staffing issues with trying to block all of the intersections that could be traveled as part of the event. It was noted that volunteer staff is welcomed to assist.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman