

SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 5, 2024

The August 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; Eric Landversicht, Upper Sandusky Schools Superintendent; Emma Landversicht; Faith Combs; Jessica Fox; Amanda Swinehart; Josh Swinehart; Denise Combs; Heather Dunn; Kyra Smith; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$46,811.45 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$46,811.45. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

At this time Mayor McColly administered the Oath of Office to Faith Combs as a member of the Police Auxiliary, as approved by the Safety Committee at the July 1, 2024 Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Eric Landversicht, Upper Sandusky Schools Superintendent, addressed the Safety Committee regarding the School Resource Officers (SROs) and their work at the schools during the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Landversicht indicated that Officer Jesse Lucas and Captain Seth Gillig were both great at being involved with the students. Mr. Landversicht noted that Officer Lucas, as the primary SRO, was phenomenal at working with the staff, addressing security, and serving as a mentor; and Officer Lucas has been a great addition and provided a positive experience at the schools and communication with other agencies, including children services, has improved. Chief Lucas stated that the number of calls into the office have been reduced since there has been an SRO in the schools. Mrs. Lemire noted that there are four schools in the district that the SRO divides his time between, and she inquired as to how the City and Schools move forward with an additional SRO. Mr. Landversicht stated that there will be a meeting with the State next week and the budget will be discussed, but the final decision will be based on what the school district can afford. Mr. Landversicht added that he would like to find a grant to sponsor a police cruiser and have the cruiser wrapped for the SRO.

Ms. Kyra Smith addressed the Safety Committee indicating that she lives on North Drive and she and most of her neighbors would like to block North Drive at Butterfly Drive, allowing access to North Drive for residents, family and friends only, on Saturday, August 31, 2024 for a block party. Ms. Smith indicated that children would have to go inside at 10:00 p.m. and the party would continue for adults only and last until 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. Ms. Smith noted that designated drivers are required for those who have been drinking. Chief Lucas stated that the City's noise ordinance does apply and drinking alcohol in the street is not permitted. Chief Lucas recommended the grass area to the west be utilized for the block party which would eliminate the street closure and drinking could be allowed in the grass area. Ms. Smith indicated that the landlord has no objections to the block party and Chief Lucas' suggestion to utilize the grass area is a possibility. Safety Committee members indicated that closing a road for a private party sets an unfavorable precedent for other requests.

Safety Committee members reviewed a request from a resident for the placement of a "Children at Play" sign on Berry Street, west of Reservoir Road. Mayor McColly indicated that the resident does not have children but has witnessed children playing in the area. Chief Lucas noted that the placement of a "Children at Play" sign does not make an area safe for children to play. Safety Committee members agreed to look at the area and discuss the request again at the next Safety Committee meeting.

Chief MaGinn reported that the Fire Department's annual Chicken Barbeque held on July 4, 2024 was successful and he appreciates the support from the community.

Chief MaGinn also reported that the Fire Department's old tanker is currently being sold through an online auction with bids to be accepted through the end of August.

Chief MaGinn further reported that the Fire Department responded to thirty (30) runs in July 2024 which included false alarms, EMS assists, structural fires, and traffic crashes.

Chief Lucas followed up on discussion held at the July 1, 2024 Safety Committee meeting regarding electric bikes and scooters traveling on East Wyandot Avenue. Chief Lucas indicated that there are regulations in the Ohio Revised Code that the City follows as it pertains to electric bikes and scooters, and more strict regulations can be adopted by City Council if necessary.

Chief Lucas reported that the Police Department will be applying for a grant to replace the five (5) laptops in the police cruisers. The approximate cost to replace these laptops is \$15,000.00.

Chief Lucas further reported that the Police Department will be participating in the Family Fun Fest to be held in Harrison Smith Park on Friday, August 9, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Chief Lucas noted that this is also the day that the statewide Drive Sober campaign kicks off.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to enter into an executive session to discuss the hiring of a police officer candidate. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session the Safety Committee reconvened into regular session.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to make a conditional job offer to Steve Brake as a Police Officer. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman