

SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 3, 2024

The September 3, 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; Sam Strong; Aeris Caudill; Melissa Cunningham; Denise Clark Marc Mays; Ned, Facility Canine; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$6,013.14 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wessler, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$6,013.14. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the August 5, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the August 9, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Miss Sam Strong and Miss Aeris Caudill addressed the Safety Committee requesting permission for the Upper Sandusky High School Homecoming Parade to be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle School parking lot on West Finley Street and heading east on West Finley Street, turning left (north) onto North Sandusky Avenue, and turning left (west) onto Houpt Drive and ending at the high school football field.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to approve the request from Miss Strong and Miss Caudill for the Upper Sandusky High School Homecoming Parade to be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

At this time Mr. Marc Mays, representing the Downtown Committee, addressed the Safety Committee regarding a recommendation made by the Downtown Committee at their August 12, 2024 meeting to the Safety Committee, Service Committee, and City Council to close the east/west alley in the 100 block of North Sandusky Avenue located along the west side, from North Sandusky Avenue west to the adjoining north/south alley. Mr. Mays explained that a closure of the alley is being recommended so the City can maintain control of the alley, instead of a vacation which the adjacent property owners would each own half of the alley. The idea has been discussed with the adjacent property owners and they are on board with the closure of this alley, as well as tenants living above Richardson's Flowers, 116 North Sandusky Avenue, along with the owners of Thrive Local, the newest business to be coming to the downtown and located further to the north. This area would be utilized to provide a communal seating area with tables and chairs and Edison lights could be hung in the alley either by anchors on the buildings or from posts. Mr. Mike Hill, who owns the adjacent building to the north at 120 North Sandusky Avenue has agreed to work with the Downtown Committee to provide electricity for the Edison lights. Mr. Wentling, who owns Richardson's Flowers, is agreeable with a mural being painted on the side of his building along the alley and the idea of having high school art students paint the mural as a project is being considered. Mr. Wessler indicated that with the closure of this alley that vehicles traveling east in the alley from North Seventh Street could have difficulty turning left at the intersection of the alleys due to a sign post and fire hydrant located at the northwest corner of the alley intersection, and additional delivery trucks will have to utilize the north/south alley. The possibility of additional parking spaces on North Sandusky Avenue at the current alley entrance was also discussed as a possibility. Safety Committee members voiced no major objections to the recommended alley closure.

Chief Lucas indicated that Mr. Joshua Gibson, who was given a conditional job offer as a full-time Police Officer at the August 9, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, has completed his psychological exam and is not required to take a physical exam as he is currently employed as a police officer and under the Ohio Police and Fire Disability Pension Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to hire Joshua Gibson as a full-time Police Officer. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Safety Committee members again discussed the request from a resident for the placement of a “Children at Play” sign on Berry Street, west of Reservoir Road, as presented at the August 5, 2024 Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Walker and Mrs. Lemire both indicated that they observed this area and determined it was a quiet street as the traffic was light and only a few children were seen in the area. Safety Committee members agreed that the traffic volume on this street does not warrant a “Children at Play” sign.

Chief Lucas reported that Mohawk Fire and Rescue District won this years Battle of the Badges softball tournament held on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at Legion Field in Sycamore, Ohio. Chief Lucas indicated that it was a great event and was very successful in raising money for Wyandot Memorial Hospital. There will be a check presentation to Wyandot Memorial Hospital on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and the amount of funds raised will be announced at that time.

Chief Lucas also reported that Officer Justin Dick’s one year anniversary with the City will take place on September 17, 2024 and Chief Lucas recommended Officer Dick be retained following the completion of his probation.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to retain Officer Justin Dick as a full-time Police Officer following the completion of this probation on September 17, 2024. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas further reported that there are no updates on the status of the City’s new police cruiser

Chief MaGinn reported that the Fire Department responded to forty (40) runs in August 2024 which included ten (10) false alarms, ten (10) fires, and seven (7) traffic crashes.

Chief MaGinn noted that the Fire Department was given permission recently to conduct training at a house in the country, and the house has since been torn down.

Chief MaGinn indicated that the Battle of the Badges softball tournament was a great event and also provided team building experiences making the relationship between the members of the police and fire departments stronger as they got to spend time together outside of work.

Chief MaGinn also reported that the Fire Department’s old tanker was sold at the end of August for over \$30,000.00 through an online auction.

Chief MaGinn also reported that October is Fire Safety month.

Chief MaGinn cautioned residents to be aware of the current drought conditions.

Mayor McColly indicated that his sons took softballs to the Battle of the Badges softball tournament and collected autographs of the players and his sons idolize the all of the members of the police and fire departments.

Mayor McColly stated that he continues to receive concerns from a resident regarding the intersection of North Eighth Street and West Church Street. It was noted that the stop bar on Church Street on the east side of this intersection was moved closer to the intersection providing motorists better visibility.

A sidewalk along State Route 53 N, in front of the Wyandot County Fairgrounds, was discussed. It was noted that a pedestrian was hit this morning crossing the road to the north of the high school. It was also noted that the fairgrounds is private property and located outside the City and the City has no ownership of the right-of-way in front of the fairgrounds.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman