

SAFETY COMMITTEE

December 2, 2024

The December 2, 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; Jodi Turnwald, Findlay Hearing Center; Jordan Breece, Police Lieutenant; Charles Seeley, Police Officer; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$3,644.54 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$3,644.54. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

The minutes of the November 26, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Jodi Turnwald, owner of Findlay Hearing Center, addressed the Safety Committee and indicated that she just opened an office in Upper Sandusky at 121 East Walker Street and she requested consideration of a handicap parking space or designated business parking space only near her business. Mrs. Turnwald noted that there are currently three handicap parking spaces in the 100 block of East Walker Street, with one being the first parking space on the south side of East Walker Street near the intersection of North Sandusky Avenue, and two handicap parking spaces located in front of the Amvets Post, 108 East Walker Street, on the north side of East Walker Street. Safety Committee members reviewed the layout of the street and discussed the possibility of either converting the parking space located to the east of the north/south alley in front of the current vacant building, formerly New Haven Supply located at 117 East Walker Street, and to the west of Mrs. Turnwald's location into a handicap parking space or adding a handicap parking space in the area between the alley and the existing parking space. Chief Lucas stated that he believes the space between the alley and the first parking space is there to allow room for delivery trucks to make the turns into and from the alley. Mayor McColly will consult with Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, on the possibility converting or adding a handicap parking space in this location.

At this time Upper Sandusky Police Department Union representatives Lieutenant Jordan Breece and Officer Charles Seeley addressed the Safety Committee regarding the carryover of unused holiday time for bargaining unit members within the Police Department. Officer Seeley indicated that it has been difficult for bargaining unit employees to take the time off for carryover holiday time due to the Police Department not being at full staff. The current union contract provides for any unused holiday time that remains at the end of the year it was credited to be forfeited unless a bargaining unit employee engaged a good faith effort to schedule time off prior to the end of the calendar year and if the Police Chief was unable to approve the request the bargaining unit employee shall be allowed to carryover the holiday time; the bargaining unit employee is required to use such carried over holiday time within thirty (30) calendar days from January 1 of the year carried into or it will be forfeited. Lieutenant Breece and Officer Seeley presented two (2) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) options in effort resolve this issue:

- 1.) Allow holiday time to be paid out annually at the end of January of the year the carryover holiday time was carried into. Note: The MOU presented also included the payout of vacation time annually.

OR

- 2.) Extend the carryover holiday time within a reasonable amount of time as set by Chief Lucas. Note: The MOU presented addresses the carryover of holiday time for 2023 and 2024 to be carried over indefinitely, or until such time as all bargaining unit members have been afforded a reasonable opportunity to use such hours.

Mayor McColly presented a Memorandum of Understanding for a third (3rd) option for the carryover holiday time as follows: Use of unused 2024 holiday time approved for carryover

into the following year (2025) will be extended an additional ninety (90) days from January 31, 2025 and if not used within this time frame, the carryover holiday time shall be forfeited. Safety Committee members discussed the options and a suggestion was made to allow bargaining unit employees to be paid out for a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours and/or extend any remaining carryover holiday time for an additional ninety (90) days from January 31, 2025, for a total of one hundred twenty (120) days for the carryover holiday time from the previous year (2024) to be used or be forfeited. Chief Lucas also explained that three bargaining unit employees were affected by unused holiday time from 2022 who were allowed to carryover their holiday time into January 2023; when he made an administrative decision to allow these bargaining unit employees to use additional time beyond the thirty (30) days as set by the union contract. Chief Lucas indicated that the carryover holiday time was forfeited and he would like to see this matter addressed and these employees be given back the time they forfeited.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Walker, to reimburse the three bargaining unit employees at straight time for the 2022 carryover holiday time that was carried over to January 2023 and forfeited for going beyond the thirty (30) days set by the union contract. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Walker, to create a new Memorandum of Understanding to allow Chief Lucas to payout twenty-four (24) hours of carryover holiday time and/or extend any remaining carryover holiday time for an additional ninety (90) days from January 31, 2025, for a total of one hundred twenty (120) days, for the carryover holiday time to be used or be forfeited. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Home for the Holidays Parade to take place on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Chief Lucas indicated that he will be discussing the parade route with Mrs. Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce Director, and suggesting that the parade end in the 100 block of South Sandusky Avenue instead of turning right onto Wyandot Avenue and ending near the intersection of West Wyandot Avenue and Seventh Street. It was noted that Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, is on board for Street and Sanitation employees to block the necessary intersections for the parade.

Chief MaGinn reported that the SAFER Grant for the addition of three (3) full-time firefighters is being prepared with updated information and the deadline for the grant is December 9, 2024.

Chief MaGinn indicated that the City needs to consider regulations for developments including the size of waterlines and number of fire hydrants. Chief MaGinn noted that he and Mr. Eric Honaker, Water Distribution Supervisor, have had discussions with the owner/developer of the new proposed private condominium development, located at 987 Greenbriar Road, as the water lines and fire hydrants are insufficient for this development.

Chief MaGinn also reported that there is a possibility of there being four hundred (400) calls for the Fire Department in 2024.

Chief MaGinn further reported that the Fire Department's annual food drive will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Members of the Fire Department will be at the local stores from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on that day to accept donations and there will be a drive-thru at the fire station that day for donations to be dropped off. Individuals will also be able to drop off donations during the week leading up to December 14 at the fire station.

Mayor McColly reported that union contract negotiations for police dispatchers will begin soon.

Mayor McColly also reported that health insurance meetings for existing City employees will take place tomorrow at the Water Treatment Plant at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

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