

SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 6, 2025

The January 6, 2025 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; Chari Alesch; Caroline Schlorb; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$39,350.84 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$39,350.84. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the December 2, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Ms. Chari Alesch addressed the Safety Committee regarding school traffic traveling southbound in the north/south alley adjacent and to the east of her home located at 419 West Walker Street during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up of students at Union Elementary and the Middle School. Ms. Alesch indicated that motorists are using the alley as a shortcut to get to West Wyandot Avenue without having to travel the extra distance west to North Warpole Street and then turn left to get to West Wyandot Avenue. Ms. Alesch stated that she has been verbally confronted by motorists traveling southbound in the alley as she is traveling northbound to get to her home and she has been forced to back up to allow these motorists thru. Ms. Alesch indicated that motorists fly down the alley and prior to the potholes in the alleyway being repaired by the City they would drive into homeowners' yards to avoid the potholes. Ms. Alesch requested the alley be made one way during certain hours of the day coinciding with student drop-off and pick-up and noted that there are two other residents who live along the alley who are affected by the traffic as they also access their properties along this alley. Miss Caroline Schlorb, Ms. Alesch's daughter, also addressed the Safety Committee regarding this issue and noted that she and her dog have almost been hit by motorists while walking in this alley. Miss Schlorb indicated that she does not feel safe and she has also dealt with aggressive people getting out of their cars and confronting her and she expressed her concerns as to what could happen if her dog hurts someone as the dog is only friendly with family. Chief Lucas indicated that he likes the idea of the north half of the alley being one-way but putting a time frame on when the alley is one-way would be complicated. Mrs. Lemire suggested representatives from the school be contacted and asked to put the word out to parents to utilize the main streets only during drop-off and pick-up of students and to not use the alleys. Mayor McColly stated that there could be an issue with enforcement of the alley being one-way. Chief Lucas and the members of the Safety Committee agreed to further look at the situation.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to have the Police Department look at the situation with the alley and provide a recommendation as to a possible solution. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mayor McColly reported on an inquiry received as to what residents can do if they're solicited while outside their residences instead of being inside their home and having someone knock on their door. Chief Lucas stated that residents can ask solicitors to leave their property if any solicitation is unwanted and if the solicitor refuses to leave the property the resident can call the police on the solicitor for trespassing.

Chief Lucas presented an email from Samantha Hanna giving her resignation as a part-time police dispatcher effective November 23, 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to accept the resignation of Samantha Hanna as a part-time police dispatcher effective November 23, 2024. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas reported that Sarah Kalb was hired to replace Samantha Hanna as a part-time police dispatcher.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve the hiring of Sarah Kalb as a part-time police dispatcher. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas reported that the Police Department's annual Shop with a Cop event was held at Walmart on December 18, 2024 with twenty-three (23) children participating.

Chief Lucas provided Safety Committee members with the Upper Sandusky Police Department Statistics for 2024.

Chief MaGinn thanked the community for their support of the Fire Department's annual food drive that took place on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Chief MaGinn noted that the department received more monetary donations for the drive than usual.

Chief MaGinn reported that there were thirty-two (32) calls in December 2024 with there being nine (9) false alarms, eight (8) fires, five (5) odor investigations, five (5) vehicle crashes, and five (5) EMS assists.

Chief MaGinn provided Safety Committee members with a data summary of incidents the Fire Department responded to in 2024 and noted that there were a total of four hundred thirteen (413) runs in 2024.

Chief MaGinn also reported that the SAFER Grant for the addition of three (3) full-time firefighters is in the filing stage with the grant deadline being in February 2025.

Mayor McColly requested the Safety Committee enter into an executive session to discuss union negotiations.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Walker, to enter into an executive session to discuss union negotiations. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Safety Committee reconvened into regular session.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman