

SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 3, 2026

The August 3, 2026 Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Aaron Korte, Chairperson. Safety Committee members present were Aaron Korte, Julia Lemire, and Scott Moore.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Jared Lucas, Police Chief; Mike MaGinn, Fire Chief; Stephanie Hessey, Human Resources Officer; Dan Duke; Jill Karcher; Jennifer Banta; Jordan Breece; Seth Gillig; Chelsi Newman; Rachel Kidd-Carter; Jessica Fox; Faith Fox; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$17,281.08 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$17,281.08. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the July 14, 2025 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Police Officer Faith Fox addressed the Safety Committee and presented packets to each of the members to provide supporting information regarding the Police Department's recruitment and retention challenges, and included were handouts intended to illustrate how the department compares with similarly sized and nearby law enforcement agencies and to identify areas where improvements could strengthen the department's competitiveness.

Police Dispatcher Jill Karcher addressed the Safety Committee indicating that the .75% income tax increase that was approved by voters in November 2025 was passed promoting safety services and she believes that the proposed new swimming pool is more of a priority than safety services. Mrs. Karcher welcomed Safety Committee members to come and observe the police department personnel by riding along with officers on patrol, sitting in the police dispatch office, and she asked that micromanaging be stopped.

Police Dispatcher Chelsi Newman addressed the Safety Committee stating that she supports the facts presented by Police Officer Fox and noted that she sees the Police Department from a unique perspective as a police dispatcher. Ms. Newman stated that the Police Department has not been fully staffed since May 2023, and she expressed concerns over this staff shortage causing there to be no Upper Sandusky school resource officer for the 2026/2027 school year.

Mrs. Jessica Fox, wife of Police Officer Faith Fox, addressed the Safety Committee indicating that she is a police dispatcher in Marion, Ohio and she is familiar with law enforcement. Mrs. Fox stated that she is excited for Officer Fox to work here but she is concerned with the current staff shortage at the Police Department especially when officers respond to calls.

Chief Lucas reported that he contacted law enforcement representatives from Chillicothe, Ohio where events similar to Joe Bayliff's Route 30 Harley Davidson's upcoming "Route 30 Rodeo" were held and he was informed that no issues were experienced. Chief Lucas noted that the event is scheduled to take place at the Wyandot County Fairgrounds beginning Thursday, August 20, 2026 and ending on Sunday, August 23, 2026 and the Sheriff's Department will be dealing with any issues, but the Police Department will provide back up if needed. Chief MaGinn added that representatives from the Fire Department will be meeting with the local dealership in the near future in regards to the event.

Chief MaGinn inquired about the status of the pay increase for the paid-on-call firefighters to \$15.00 per hour (not at an overtime rate) for three (3) hours of call-out, as discussed at the July 6, 2026 Safety Committee meeting. Chief Lucas presented information regarding a possible pay increase for Auxiliary Police Officers noting that in 2025 there were 84.5 hours that auxiliary officers worked and so far in 2026 there have been 202 hours worked by auxiliary officers for a total of 286.5 hours worked to date in 2026 and beginning in 2025. Chief Lucas also noted that the current entry level probationary Police Officer is paid \$26.33 per hour. Safety Committee members indicated that Mrs. Nickie Coppler, City Auditor, should be consulted regarding a pay increase amount for Auxiliary Police Officers. Safety Committee members agreed that the City should move forward with the pay increase for paid-on-call firefighters.

Chief Lucas reported that the background check has been completed on part-time Police Dispatcher applicant Paige Perry and she has been cleared for hiring.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, to hire Paige Perry as a part-time Police Dispatcher. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas requested permission to proceed with the auction of two (2) police cruisers, since one of the new police vehicles is now in service and the second police cruiser was recently dropped off at Parr for outfitting.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to recommend to City Council to proceed with an ordinance to authorize the auction of two (2) police cruisers no longer needed for service. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Chief Lucas will provide the necessary information from the vehicles to proceed with an ordinance approving the auction of these vehicles.

Mayor McColly informed the Safety Committee that as part of the Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce's First Thursday event and with the current traffic detour within the City as a result of the Interceptor Sewer Project construction on North Warpole Street, that Wyandot Avenue will remain open for the First Thursday event to take place on Thursday, August 6, 2026 but the decision has been made to close the 100 blocks of North Sandusky Avenue and South Sandusky Avenue. It was noted that food trucks can still set up on East and West Wyandot Avenue with their service windows facing the sidewalks. Safety Committee members questioned the decision to close the 100 block of North Sandusky Avenue with traffic being rerouted onto North Sandusky Avenue/State Route 53/67 and considerable discussion took place.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Korte, to close the 100 block of South Sandusky Avenue only for the First Thursday events to be held in August and September 2026. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas shared the Police Department's Activity Report for June 2026 showing:

- A total of three hundred twenty-nine (329) calls for service and a breakdown of those calls.
- Police Officer Justin Dick, who was reappointed by the Safety Committee, started work on Sunday, August 2, 2026.
- Background checks are being done on Police Officer candidates.
- A SOMA demonstration was recently conducted, and Chief Lucas is currently waiting on a Flex demonstration and a comparison sheet showing the pricing.
- The Police Department participated in the Family Fun Fest held in Harrison Smith Park on Friday, August 7, 2026.
- Parking enforcement for vehicles parking in the downtown area that exceed the maximum allowable length is being enforced.
- Some issues are being experienced with motor vehicles not stopping at the new stop signs located on North Eighth Street at the intersection of West Walker Street. These issues are occurring mostly on Sundays.

Chief Lucas stated that Mr. Jude Dowler has expressed an interest in serving on the Police Auxiliary.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve Jude Dowler to be hired as an Auxiliary Police Officer. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief MaGinn reported on the following:

- During the month of July the Fire Department responded to thirty-nine (39) calls with three (3) men responding to 72% of these runs and two (2) men or less responding to 41% of these runs.
- A joint training exercise was held recently with Pitt Township Fire Department at the Olen Corporation.
- Four (4) walk-thrus were conducted in July, including the Louis Dreyfus Company, and at least two (2) full-time employees participated in the walk-thrus.
- The Fire Department participated in the Family Fun Fest held in Harrison Smith Park on Friday, August 7, 2026.
- Several building inspections were conducted in July.
- The State Fire Marshall has been pushing for the Fire Department to conduct inspections of schools. Chief MaGinn stated that new software will be needed to do these inspections.

Mayor McColly noted that he received a notice about the submission of paperwork for a Safer Grant application. It was noted that the deadline for the Safer Grant is August 2, 2026 or August 3, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding discipline. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Safety Committee reconvened into regular session.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Aaron Korte, Chairperson