

SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 8, 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; Chelsi Newman; Faith Fox; Dennis Vaughn; John Walker; Amanda Watson; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$2,266,743.18 was presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$2,266,743.18. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the August 3, 2026 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the August 10, 2026 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Police Dispatcher Chelsi Newman addressed the Safety Committee indicating that she was disappointed that the concerns she shared at the August 3, 2026 Safety Committee meeting were met with defensiveness. Dispatcher Newman stated that the City needs five (5) full-time officers, including a detective and a school resource officer, and the current situation with a retired auxiliary officer serving as the school resource officer is not sustainable. Dispatcher Newman also noted that overtime has become an issue and she suggested recruitment incentives be considered.

Police Officer Faith Fox addressed the Safety Committee in following up from the August 3, 2026 Safety Committee meeting. Officer Fox stated that the Police Department needs help to become competitive and she provided a list of matters of importance as determined by the current staff at the Police Department: 1. Increase Wages; 2. Hiring and Retention Bonuses; 3. Lateral Vacation Matching; 4. Holiday and Vacation Rollover/Cash-Out; 5. Sick Leave Cash-Out/Conversion; 6. Cellphone Reimbursement; 7. Residency Incentive; 8. Officer In Charge (OIC)/Field Training Officer (FTO)/Shift Differential (increased incentives); 9. Gym Membership - Family Plan; 10. Take-Home Vehicle - City Residents. Officer Fox indicated that the entire staff at the Police Department is feeling the strain of all of the overtime they have been asked to work.

Mr. Korte indicated that a labor management meeting has been scheduled with the Police Department's union representatives, and the City is in the process of researching a cadet program for new Police Officers. Mr. Korte also noted that later in this meeting the Safety Committee will be acting on the hiring of a new Police Officer, and the Safety Committee will be requesting a new civil service examination for Police Officer candidates.

Mr. Moore thanked Officer Fox for the list of priorities from the Police Department staff noting that he was the Safety Committee member who requested this information and also noting that now the City has a starting point.

Mr. Dennis Vaughn addressed the Safety Committee and voiced his support of the Fire Department. Mr. Vaughn also inquired about the status of hiring personnel at the Fire Department.

Chief Lucas indicated that Mr. Eric Long has completed his psychological and physical examinations and been cleared for hiring as a Police Officer.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Moore, to hire Mr. Eric Long as a Police Officer. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

It was noted that the current list of Police Officer candidates has been exhausted.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to request the Civil Service Commission to proceed with a civil service examination for Police Officer candidates. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Korte reported that the first round of interviews have been scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 10, 2026 with the top three (3) full-time Fire Chief candidates who completed the assessment performed by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association in early August. Mr. Korte noted that once a full-time Fire Chief is hired that individual will have input on the hiring of three additional full-time Firefighters.

Mrs. Lemire expressed her appreciation of the “Walk” and “Don’t Walk” signs being installed at the intersection of West Wyandot Avenue and Hazel Street.

Chief MaGinn reported on the following:

- During the month of August the Fire Department responded to thirty-one (31) calls including:
 - o Ten (10) alarms.
 - o Ten (10) fires.
 - o Three (3) vehicle accidents.
 - o Two (2) carbon monoxide/smoke.
 - o Two (2) EMS assists.
 - o The average manpower response for these calls was two (2) firefighters.
- During the month of July the Fire Department responded to forty-three (43) calls.
- Chief MaGinn is working on specs for a new pick-up truck for the Fire Department.
- Wyandot County got a new rescue boat and the Fire Department participated in water rescue training held at the reservoir last week.
- The Route 30 Rodeo was held at the Wyandot County Fairgrounds towards the end of August with no issues.
- The Fire Department is preparing for the Wyandot County Fair to be held September 14-19, 2026; and the Autumn Cruise and car show to be held in the downtown area on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

Chief MaGinn expressed his concern about the Fire Chief search process noting that a paid-on-call member of the Fire Department had applied but is not going to be interviewed. Chief MaGinn indicated that scores were based solely on test results not information specific to our community and he would have liked to have a member of the Fire Department included in the interview process. Mr. Korte indicated that the Fire Chief applicants were not identified by their names during the Ohio Fire Chiefs’ Assessment Process, and interviews are being held with the top three (3) scoring candidates.

Chief MaGinn requested another civil service examination be held for full-time Firefighter candidates as it has been three (3) month since the last exam and he knows of three (3) applicants who have accepted jobs elsewhere.

Chief MaGinn again 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 and August 3, 2026 Safety Committee meetings. Safety Committee members indicated that they have been waiting on guidelines from Chief MaGinn regarding the new pay structure for the paid-on-call firefighters. Chief MaGinn indicated that he will provide this information to Mrs. Stephanie Hessey, Human Resources Officer, tomorrow.

Chief Lucas reported on the following:

- Jude Dowler has been sworn in as an Auxiliary Police Officer and is in training.
- Paige Perry began her training as a part-time Police Dispatcher
- There was an influx of Police Auxiliary Officer applications last week.
- Chief Lucas shared a Memorandum of Understanding for a Mandation for scheduled time off using administrative rights, with this proposal having been prepared by the labor union.
- Another member of the Police Department will be off work for three (3) months due to a non-work related injury.
- Delivery of the Police Department’s new cruiser is expected this week.

- Along with the the Fire Department, the Police Department participated in the water rescue training at the reservoir with Wyandot County's new boat on Saturday, August 29, 2026. The Police Department's pick-up truck was utilized to transport the boat.
- The Police Department will be working at the Upper Sandusky High School's home football games this year and at the upcoming home basketball games. The school pays the City for the Police Department's work at these games.
- The Police Department experienced no issues related with the Route 30 Rodeo held at the Wyandot County Fairgrounds in August.
- The annual Battle of the Badges softball tournament will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 in McCutchenville, Ohio.
- The Police Department is preparing for the Autumn Cruise and car show to be held in the downtown area on Saturday, September 26, 2026.
- The Police Department responded to a total of three hundred sixty (360) calls for service in August 2026.

Chief Lucas presented a quote from iLincs Corp, LLC, Hilliard, Ohio, which could run mobile LEADS, run general inquiries and license plates, etc. Chief Lucas indicated that the Police Department's current system is too slow and officers would have the ability to leave notes on vehicles in the iLincs system. The total cost of the iLincs system for one (1) year is \$2,691.00. Chief Lucas indicated that the iLincs system could be installed at the Police Department by the end of October 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the purchase of the iLincs system. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas presented a CAD quote comparison between ID Networks, Core Force (SOMA), and Motorola Flex. Chief Lucas indicated that the Police Department currently uses an old system from ID Network, but it needs to be updated. The total cost of each system for five (5) years would be: ID Networks - \$134,512.00; Core Force (SOMA) - \$212,338.77; Motorola Flex - \$265,278.00. It was noted that the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office and Carey Police Department utilize the Motorola Flex system and the Hardin County Sheriff's Office utilizes the Core Force (SOMA) system. Issues have been experienced with data migration with the Core Force (SOMA) and Motorola Flex systems. The ID Networks and Core Force (SOMA) systems can be broken down into annual payments at 0% interest.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the upgraded ID Network System for use at the Police Department. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas also presented a Radio quote comparison for portable and mobile radios, and a dispatch radio from Bender Communications and VASU Communications. It was noted that Bender Communications sells Motorola radios for portable and mobile radios and AVTEC for dispatch radios; and VASU sells Kenwood radios for portable and mobile radios and Telex for dispatch radios. The information provided by VASU Communications was incomplete and Chief Lucas indicated that he will report back to the Safety Committee when the complete information is available.

Mayor McColly reported that the Fire Department has submitted a request to use the old Fairhaven building, 850 Marseilles Avenue, for training before its demolition. Chief Lucas indicated that the Police Department would also be interested in using this building for training.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Aaron Korte, Chairperson