

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, July 9, 2020 at 6:00PM

Present: Chair Trustee Katy Cornell, Trustee Kim Irwin, President Neil Palmer, Committee Members, Mr. John Schindler (arrived at 6:30PM), Mr. John Oliveri and Ms. Barbara Decker.

Members Excused: Mr. DJ Richlen..

Also Present: Village Manager David De Angelis and Police Chief Jim Gage.

1. Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order, at 6:02 pm, by Trustee Cornell. Trustee Cornell and members of the Committee welcomed, Mr. John Oliveri, as the newest member of the Public Safety Committee.

2. Review and approve minutes from May 14, 2020.

Trustee Cornell entertained a motion for approval. President Palmer made a motion for approval of the minutes, upon correction of typo of Trustee Irwin's name, under item #5. Trustee Irwin seconded. Mr. Oliveri abstained. Motion passed.

3. Review and make possible recommendation on urban chickens.

Mr. DeAngelis provided background on the development of the draft ordinance regarding the regulation of urban chickens. The Committee discussed Section 4 of the draft ordinance related to the wording of wire type. The consensus of the Committee was that they did not want "braided wire" or "chicken coop" wire as a part of the construction of any chicken coop. They agreed that wire should be of a solid coated wire and not braided. Additionally, President Palmer questioned, Section 2 (D) 2, regarding the slaughtering of chickens. Currently, the draft does not allow for the slaughtering of any chickens. President Palmer felt the ordinance should allow for the slaughtering of non-productive chickens and only for the private consumption of the coop owner, disallowing any commercial slaughtering of chickens.

Mr. Chris Powell of 1185 Terrace Drive, asked if portable chicken runs are addressed and allowed in ordinance. President Palmer indicated portable runs are problematic as the location of the run would need to be approved with in the original coop plans submitted to the Building Board and that it would then have to be amended every time it moved for the ability to review the setbacks and notice neighbors.

President Palmer made a motion to approve the draft ordinance and refer the ordinance to the Plan Commission for further review and revision, regarding Sections 2(D)2 and 4 of the draft ordinance. The motion was seconded, by Mr. Oliveri, and the motion passed unanimously.

MR. JOHN SCHINDLER ARRIVED AT 6:30pm.

4. Review and take possible action on Ridgeway and Juneau crosswalk request.

Mr. Thomas Shepard, of 1040 Katherine Drive, appeared in person to request a crosswalk at Ridgeway and Juneau, to facilitate crossing Juneau Blvd. to access the pedestrian pathway along the Northside of Juneau Blvd. Mr. Shepard feels it is unsafe to cross Juneau Blvd for both adults and children. He further states that the safest access in and out of the neighborhood is to access the pathway along Watertown Planks Road. Mr. Shepard believes that a crosswalk at Ridgeway would provide a safer access to the north of the neighborhood, rather than residents having to choose to risk crossing Juneau without a crosswalk or go out of the way to access the pathway to the south, along Watertown Plank Road.

Chief Gage indicated that in the past twenty three years, there was one accident related to slippery roads after a rain. There were no pedestrian accidents at that location. Chief Gage additionally asked the Committee if there was any criteria for dealing with these types of requests, since it seems of late, that if a request is made, the Committee is likely to consider or grant the request based on perception of a safety issue and no real indication of an actual safety issue. Chief Gage additionally indicated that he was against a crosswalk at this location, since it could provide a pedestrian a false sense of security and the crosswalk is unprotected by any other traffic control. Mr. Schindler indicated that per the State Traffic Manual, unprotected crosswalks should be approved only after a traffic and safety study. Mr. Oliveri also felt that the crosswalk was unnecessary and may cause a false sense of security for pedestrians. President Palmer was generally in favor of a crosswalk to better promote the Village's goal of creating a walkable community and felt it was worth pursuing further. Mr. DeAngelis suggested the committee review the Legion and Elmhurst study first and look to see if there were possible criteria that could be established based on their review. Trustee Chair Cornell tabled this item until such time the Elmhurst study comes back and the committee has a chance for review.

5. Update on study considering possible Legion and Elmhurst crosswalk.

Mr. DeAngelis indicated that the study is currently underway. They completed the drone work of the intersection and are currently taking a video survey of the intersection. Trustee Cornell asked if the study would provide a definitive answer on whether a crosswalk is needed at that location. Mr. DeAngelis indicated that the report is expected to provide an opinion on the need for a crosswalk or any other traffic control measures.

6. Update on stop sign deployment at Church Street and Juneau Blvd.

Mr. DeAngelis indicated that that the delay in posting the signs is due to scheduling delays by Digger's Hotline. Digger's Hotline is currently backlogged with no estimate on when the work may be completed.

7. Update on no parking sign posting on Legion Drive.

Mr. DeAngelis indicated that the signs will be posted after Digger's Hotline surveys the area, but again stated they are backlogged. Chief Gage again asked what criteria the Public Safety Committee uses in approving the posting of signs. He indicated that he was surprised to see these signs so easily approved and expanded by the Village Board to the east side of Legion without any residential input. Chief Gage was concerned that once the signs are permanently posted, he anticipates that many residents may complain since on street parking will forever be restricted in the area. He questioned the requirement to notify neighbors regarding special events, but we don't for permanent signs. He indicated that he thought the posting is excessive and suggested posting the west side of Legion to Marquette Ave. to see if that resolves the parking problem at Elmhurst. Mr. Oliveri was in agreement. President Palmer indicated that the expansion to the eastside of Legion occurred as a result of discussion at the Village Board meeting. The general consensus of the Committee was to recommend scaling back the posting of the no parking signs to the west side of Legion, south to Marquette, and not to the park entrance, but that the Village Board would need to make the final change, since the Village Board expanded the posting of signs to the east side of Legion Drive. As a result, the Committee is requesting the Board reconsider their decision and limit the posting of the signs to the west side of Legion to Marquette. If a parking problem develops in other areas, as a result of this posting, the Committee may reevaluate additional posting at that time.

8. Review paint refresh, signage update, and traffic signal changes for Watertown Plank Road and Pilgrim Parkway.

Mr. DeAngelis indicated that it would cost about \$16,000.00 to grind the asphalt and place lane tape at the intersection. Mr. DeAngelis indicated that intersection paint is much less expensive and the intersection is scheduled to be repainted. Mr. DeAngelis also indicated that he is waiting to hear from DOT on the expense to add a traffic signal to the overhead boom signal, to better represent the three lane roadway, by having a signal for each lane. Chief Gage indicated that he could not find any additional signage other than a sign that indicated "Traffic Pattern Change Ahead". However, he indicated that by observing the roadway, the traffic pattern change is readily identifiable, and the sign would be redundant.

The Committee took no further action on this topic.

9. Review parking and pedestrian safety in the 13400 blk. Of Watertown Plank and the railroad tracks.

Trustee Cornell related that she felt that the area is potentially dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians, since the sidewalk is offset and close to the buildings. Additionally, the sidewalks have steps that make the sidewalk not usable to bicycles.

Chief Gage reported that in the last twenty-three years there have been eight accidents in the 13400 blk., none involving pedestrians, bicyclists or people backing from the parking stalls. Most of the accidents involved vehicles exiting the park and shop area and rear end accidents for east bound traffic at the railroad tracks.

There was considerable discussion and review of options previously developed by the rejected Reinders/Wangard project. Discussion centered on village right-of-way vs. private property. President Palmer indicated that the Village should reach out to Reinders to better design this area for pedestrians, when reviewing any future improvements for the area. The matter was tabled to afford the opportunity for Reinders staff to comment at a future meeting.

The Committee took no further action on this topic.

10. Other Business.

There was no other business for the Committee.

11. Adjournment

Trustee Cornell made a motion for adjournment. Trustee Irwin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

James P Gage

Chief of Police