

## SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 15, 2005

The Safety Committee meeting was held on February 15, 2005, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Committee Members: Chair Denise Bobulsky, Robert Stefanik, Tom Koch; Council Members: Vince Gentile, Don Willey, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch; Police Chief Paul Bican, Fire Chief Mike Fabish, Service Director Skip Mayer.

Moved by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Stefanik to approve the minutes of January 18, 2005. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### 1. **New fire station**

Fire Chief said that the project is coming along well. There are odds and ends that need to be completed. Besides the landscaping there is some exterior work that still needs to be done. There is a front and rear entrance canopy that does not have parts in yet. There are garage parts that are not in yet. The parts are promised for February 28, 2005. Most of the interior work is completed. Adjustments are noted as the department members begin to spend more time there. He would like to arrange a date to have Council be able to walk through. Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. was set for Council. The Fire Chief wondered if there should be a public opening before they occupy or which order it should occur. The date will be determined. Chief Fabish said the finances are following close to what was anticipated with some changes that were needed.

#### 2. **Avalon fire works display and Open Burning Fire Code Chapter 1620**

Chief Fabish spoke with the Law Director who feels that we can prohibit private fireworks displays without causing any problems. The definitions to include chimeneas or the UL approved deck type fireplaces need boundaries established of how close they can be to the house. Chief Fabish would recommend that the Law Director begin preparing the legislation. Mrs. Bobulsky will contact the Law Director to prepare the legislation.

#### 3. **Licensed and bonded commercial/residential snow plowing**

Mr. Koch said he spoke with the Building Commissioner who would like to see people registered and licensed and bonded in order to have better control. If we do not require that they are bonded due to the prohibitive cost, Mr. Koch wondered about at least registering those plowing to be certain that those plowing have received the list of what is permitted and what is prohibited.

Mrs. Uffman Kirsch asked if this would be for those who do it for money only or would this apply to all. It would stop those doing it as favors to friends and relatives. She feels if it is done gratis that it should not be restricted. If it is done as a commercial, for profit, fee based business she would be more open-minded to this. Mr. Koch said that the landscapers he spoke with would not have a problem with this type of registration as they come to the city to register license and bond their landscaping business.

Discussion continued regarding enforcement, having the homeowner responsible, multiple vehicle registration, what would the bond cover, registration only, requiring both registration and licensing and bonding, requiring a yellow caution light on plow vehicles, heightened public awareness to the regulations, the cost of a bond, proof of liability insurance, exclusions.

Mr. Koch will have legislation drafted and bring it back to the committee for further discussion.

#### 4. **Highway Advisory Radio (HAR)**

Chief Fabish said that he has added this to his budget request for this year but before we commit to this he wanted to see how it will perform because of our terrain. To do a study for this performance evaluation would cost about \$1,000 and he found that ODOT wants to do an evaluation of the same radio system for

the Turnpike in our area. The company will be bringing a portable radio tower transmitter in March in our city and we will participate in the testing procedure. He is still looking at a reverse 911 system. Information is being gathered.

**NEW BUSINESS:****1. COPS in Schools Grant**

This is the last year for this grant. Chief Bican said the program has been fabulous. Good information and crimes have been solved by having someone at the schools. He hopes to have the resources to keep someone at the schools after the grant ends. This program will not be funded after this year. Mr. Willey asked if the School Board is willing to pay for the security. Chief Bican said that the schools pay for security. There is another officer for whom they are currently paying. This was removed from the agenda.

**2. Snow Removal, Section 660.15**

This was discussed in Streets Committee. Mr. O'Donnell thought this should go in the same section as licensing and bonding. This will be incorporated with the legislation Mr. Koch is asking to have prepared and discussed at the next meeting.

**3. Proposed Ordinance 05-8 Vicious Dogs**

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said she is interested in offering an alternative. In new Item (f) if a dangerous dog is in violation it can be destroyed. She feels that it is a little strong for violations of (b) (1) and (2). She thinks the goal is to make sure that if there is a problem or a danger that the animal is removed from the ability to be able to create that danger in the future. She would like to have an option to have the animal placed in a sanctuary that has experience with dangerous dogs. She is familiar with a no-kill sanctuary in Utah called Best Friends. Chief Bican said he talked with this agency and said that they will not take any vicious dangerous dogs. There was further discussion regarding responsible pet ownership and court requirements. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said in Item (g) it states the animal must be removed from our city. She feels in listing the options something more specific should be said than just simply removing the animal from our community. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch would like to either hold onto this for another month or if it is necessary to pass this now she would like to come back with changes. The Police Chief thought it would be fine to wait until the next meeting. Mr. Willey wondered who would be liable to pay for it if the court ordered that the dog be sent to a shelter. It was stated that the owner would be responsible. He felt that this would be very expensive and the option to destroy the dog should be available. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said that she would like to draw attention to breed specific legislation and that she feels this should be frowned upon as any dog can bite. She distributed information regarding this. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch will bring information to the next meeting.

Mr. Stefanik moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Koch. 3 yeas/0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.