

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 20, 2008

The Safety Committee meeting was held on May 20, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Kasaris, Gary Petrusky, John Nickell; Council: Vince Gentile, Don Willey, Larry Antoskiewicz; Administration: Mayor Stefanik, Law Director Tom Kelly, Police Chief Paul Bican; Other Attendees: Pat Jones, Joanne DuMound.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **approve the April 15, 2008, minutes.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. Absent: Nickell **Motion carried.**

Mr. Nickell arrived at this point.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Blinking light at State Rd and Valley Parkway

No action.

2. Truancy and school safety issues Chapter 648

Mr. Kasaris recommended one change with 648.131 regarding the mental state from “negligent” to “reckless.” Chief Bican said that the school superintendent reviewed it and that it contained what he thought was recommended under state law. This is mirroring state code. Chief Bican reviewed the history of the request for the legislation in that it was to give us something on a local level so that it was not needed to go to Juvenile Court for some issues of truancy. There was a question earlier regarding home schooled children, and if this would target them. Chief Bican explained that it was never the intent and it appears that is now understood by the parents of home schooled children.

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded Mr. Nickell to **recommend this for approval to Council.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Police staffing

Mr. Kasaris asked the Mayor about the proposed position of Safety Director.

Mayor Stefanik said the position was discussed at the State of the City Address. Our city will be losing several of our high ranking officers in both Police and Fire Departments. The Mayor said that in the past action was taken on an emergency basis and this administration along with the help of Council is making long-range plans and goals for the city. Available funding was summarized and the Mayor said that the job description will be given to Council.

Mr. Kelly said that state law requires nonchartered cities to have a Department of Public Safety with a Public Safety Director. That individual has responsibility for police, fire, corrections and building departments. In terms of the number of employees under municipal control police, fire and corrections make up a significant percentage. A Public Safety Director would seem most appropriate for this purpose. The position of Mayor is the appointing authority for Civil Service purposes. The Public Safety Director is charged with reviewing all the disciplinary matters. For due process purposes it makes sense to have a layer of management in between the Mayor and the individual being disciplined.

The Mayor said a group of people will be gathered to assist with the selection.

Discussion continued about what is happening in the safety departments, upcoming retirements, the need for replacement employees as well as increasing the number of employees, and the Safety Director duties and pay.

Moved by Mr. Nickell, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **recommend approval to Council Ordinance 08-89 establishing the position of the Department of Public Safety**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Nickell, seconded by seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **recommend approval to Council of Ordinance 08-90 establishing the salary range of the Director of Public Safety**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

2. ATV noise

Mr. Kasaris asked about issues raised with recent news articles if there would be an enforcement problem with those using ATVs for grass cutting, snow plowing or loading of ATVs onto trailers for transportation. Chief Bican said this would currently not be a problem. Mr. Kasaris asked if the legislation should be amended permitting this use. Mr. Kelly thought that it might be better as discretionary enforcement. Discussion continued about ATVs and it was suggested by Mr. Kelly using video cameras for enforcement and prosecution of complaints. It was determined to leave this legislation as it is. This is removed from the agenda.

3. Police Lieutenants benefits Ordinance

Chief Bican asked that the \$2,000 amount be raised to an amount above what the Sergeants are receiving. The Lieutenants were overlooked when the increases were previously made and adjustments are requested. The Mayor will discuss the figures with the Finance Director.

4. “Do Not Knock” door to door city solicitation

Mr. Nickell said he noticed that we currently have legislation with regard to solicitation and it seems sufficient. Chief Bican said that he feels the legislation is working. Discussion was had about advertising the legislation in newsletters. This is removed from the agenda.

5. Adoptable animals at our Animal Shelter

Mr. Kasaris thought it would be a good idea to better advertise the animals our city shelter has available for adoption. The Animal Control officer said many businesses have agreed to post the pictures of available animals. They are also posted on the city Web site via the Animal Control page.

6. Reverse 911 system

Chief Fabish said the reverse 911 system is operational. Right now beginning with Ward 1 and continuing through the wards, residents will be advised of fire hydrant flushing. A campaign to inform residents of this system is underway and residents with nonpublished numbers are asked to include their numbers in the database for notification.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Nickell to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**
Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.