

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 1, 2018

The Safety Committee of Chardon City Council met on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room A located on the second floor of the Municipal Center.

Chris Grau, Chairman of the Safety Committee presiding.

Members of Safety Committee present: Chris Grau, Andrew Blackley.

Others present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Police Chief Scott Niehus, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Law Director James Gillette, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Clerk of Council Amy Day, David Lelko, Jeffrey Smock, Bob Cromwell, Joe Koziol.

Mr. Grau called the meeting to order.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES -

Mr. Grau moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2017 Safety Committee meeting as presented.

Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding South Hambden Street traffic, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak reviewed traffic volume and speed data collected at two locations on S. Hambden Street. He stated that results of the data indicated that for the most part, speed limits are being observed and traffic volume shows a slight increase from previous surveys.

Mr. Blackley stated that depending on the location of the traffic counters, results could be skewed.

Mr. Grau asked the Police Chief about citations issued on S. Hambden Street.

Police Chief Scott Niehus reviewed traffic accidents, citations and warnings issued on S. Hambden Street over the past three (3) years.

City Engineer Doug Courtney explained his investigation of the City's ability to reduce the speed limit on S. Hambden Street and the possibility of installing stop signs on S. Hambden Street at Grant Street. He explained that the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) indicates that on state routes or through highways within municipal corporations, the speed limit shall be 35 MPH. However, the City could request ODOT approve a speed reduction if certain criteria are met. He stated that after a speed zone evaluation study was completed, the calculated speed was determined to be 36 MPH. He concluded that the chance of getting ODOT to approve a speed limit reduction was slim to none because the roadway is operating at an appropriate speed based on the data that was collected.

Mr. Blackley explained that ODOT generally discourages changes from the speed limit that are not completely justified. He explained that he tested various numbers in the speed zone evaluation study as much as he could and was not able to change the recommended speed by much. The methodology that ODOT has set is difficult to tweak and concurred with the City Engineer that it is unlikely that ODOT would give any consideration to a reduction in the speed limit.

Mr. Gillette reviewed the City's ability to limit truck traffic.

He stated that after researching the subject, he concluded that except on state routes, the ORC permits the City to limit truck weight and size on trucks traveling thru the City.

Bob Cromwell, 120 Huntington Street, stated that truck traffic

is a City-wide issue.

Discussion occurred regarding signage options to warn trucks that there are no thru trucks over 5 tons.

Mr. Blackley stated that he would like to keep the trucks to the state routes and would like "no thru truck" signs installed on the local streets of Claridon, Wilson Mills Road, North Street and S. Hambden.

The Committee directed staff to perform an inventory of streets that have "no thru truck" signs posted.

Discussion occurred regarding police enforcement of no thru trucks.

Mr. Gillette stated that trucks close to 5 tons will need to be weighed and the City does not have a scale.

Mr. Sharpe stated that initially the City should look to stop semi-trucks that are known to be greater than 5 tons.

Discussion occurred regarding the re-installation of stop signs on S. Hambden Street.

Mr. Blackley stated that the City Engineer has researched the issue through the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices which states that stop sign installations should not be used for speed control and should be based on engineering studies. He added that as sidewalks and crosswalks are added to provide access to Mel Harder Park in the future, there may be a need at that time for stop signs or other crosswalk warning signs.

Mr. Courtney stated that pedestrians and traffic volumes will determine the need for stop signs and while he does not have pedestrian volumes, currently the vehicle traffic volumes at

the Grant Street/S. Hambden Street intersection are well below the criteria.

Regarding the consideration of a Police Department staffing proposal, Chief Niehus spoke to request the Committee consider creating a second sergeant position. He explained that he is not requesting an additional officer, and would be promoting an existing patrolman to the position.

Chief Niehus explained the reasons for his request for the second sergeant including: closing the gaps in current supervisory coverage which will be instrumental in risk management of police department operations and responsibilities, improving the balance of field supervision and administrative tasks for sergeants, and providing additional advancement opportunities for leadership within the department.

The Committee members expressed their support for the creation of a second sergeant position.

Mr. Sharpe stated that he would add the additional sergeant position in the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURN

Mr. Grau moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council

