

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 7, 2021

The Safety Committee of Chardon City Council met on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 8:00 AM via video-conference, Zoom (Meeting ID: 832 8880 5143).

Christopher Grau, Chairman of Safety Committee presiding.

Members of Safety Committee present: Christopher Grau, Heather Means.

Others present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Law Director Ben Chojnacki, Police Chief Scott Niehus, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Nicholas Rogers.

Mr. Grau called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grau moved and Ms. Means seconded to approve the minutes of the Safety Committee from September 3, 2020. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Regarding continued discussions on the Emergency Operations Plan,** discussion began about details in the EOP.

Those in attendance made suggested general edits to the document.

Law Director Ben Chojnacki, noted that the plan references the Mayor declaring an emergency; however, the City's Charter and State law provide for the authority to declare an emergency to rest with the City Manager. Because of this, he recommends the document reflect the City Manager's authority under the Charter and State code.

Discussion occurred regarding getting signed letters of agreement annually.

Ms. Means asked how this will be done.

Mr. Sharpe stated that staff can make sure the agreements are done.

Discussion occurred regarding the maintaining of a list of emergency contacts.

Mr. Sharpe stated that City departments can begin updating the list of emergency contacts.

Mr. Sharpe asked that the tabletop exercise be separate from a Safety Committee meeting.

Committee members concurred to have the tabletop exercise separate from a Safety Committee meeting.

**Regarding review of the City website subscribers**, Amy Day reviewed the types of notifications that residents can sign up for through the City's website.

The Committee suggested that staff make an effort to promote the "Notify Me" to residents' through the sign board, water bills and newsletters.

Discussion occurred regarding the City's social media Facebook and Twitter pages and sharing messages between the City and Police Department pages.

Ms. Means stated that there are some messages that should be on both Facebook pages such as the emergency siren test notification.

Mr. Sharpe explained the challenges in making sure that messages are on both pages, but stated that it is something that needs to be worked on.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - none.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nicholas Rogers, 139 Moffet Avenue, spoke about the negative effects of 5G wireless technology to humans and the environment and asked the Committee to consider the banning of 5G small cell deployment in Chardon.

Mr. Grau asked the Law Director for his opinion about the City's ability to address 5G technology.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the public health and safety concern posed by Mr. Rogers is a challenging issue. The investigation and evidentiary obligations on a local jurisdiction are significant. If the city wishes to pursue this, it would take resources and effort. Even then, matters of proof would need to be certified as reliable and this would not be cheap or quick. He stated that while a policy decision by Council could be explored, but in light of the other issues the City has going on, he is reluctant to say that it is something that the

City's resources would be best spent attacking at this time from a legal standpoint.

Ms. Means asked Mr. Rogers to send information to the clerk for distribution to all of Council for their review.

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Grau seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 AM.

Attest:

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AMY DAY  
Clerk of Council