

Minutes of Committee
Monday, July 27, 2009
7:05p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Liquor License Request Finn McCool's
- 2) Discussion: Traffic and Parking Issues-College View
- 3) Parking Control:
 - a. Hillside Avenue-Eldridge Park to Van Buren Street
 - b. Melrose Avenue-North Avenue to Willow Road
 - c. Howard Avenue-north of Melrose Avenue
- 4) Com Ed Vallette Street Substation Grass and Weed Removal Ordinance Update
- 5) Draft Report: Metro Paramedic Contract
- 6) Other Business

Members Present: Wagner, Nybo, Pezza

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Doherty, Novak, Wallace, Gandy, L. Panico, Keating, D. Panico

Elected: Bram (for Item #3)

Guest: Mark Hoffman, Judy Diller, Lynn Krizic, Michael McNamara, Jan McNamara, Ted Vatch, Bruce Blair, Kelly Tzoumis, Jennifer Zimmerman, Laura Walsh, D. Smith, M. Regan, Nancy Blakely, Sandy Riva, Dona Geiss, Joe Hughes

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

1. Mark Hoffmann representative of “Finn McCools” was present to respond to the Committees questions regarding liquor license request. Chief Neubauer advised the Committee that a background check had been conducted some time ago and all that would be required is to update it. Subsequent to a brief discussion the Committee signed the report.

2. Due to a number of residents being present regarding this item, Chairman Wagner asked them to speak first regarding their concerns. Several of the residents spoke detailing the following traffic and safety concerns in the area of York High School. Traffic congestion and speeding autos in the A.M. and P.M. on school days, using the rear (north) of the York High School for drop off and pick up of students resulting in hazardous traffic conditions and congestion. Also mentioned was students walking in the street at West Ave and Elm Park, students walking across and on the rail road tracks, students parking in the retail parking lots at Rt. 83 and St. Charles and the Courts Plus lot, and prohibited parking during school hours that would prevent residents from parking in front of their homes. The residents also offered possible solutions to consider: do not allow students to ingress or egress from the rear (north) side of school, to use only the front (south) circle drive for all drop off and pick up of students, straighten out the intersection of Elm Park and Berkley, construction of new sidewalks, and to prohibit students from parking in the retail and Courts Plus parking lots. Pezza advised she had several e-mails from residents who could not attend the meeting regarding similar concerns with York High School traffic. Neubauer provided an overview of continued efforts of enforcement and a current traffic analysis by the City’s traffic consultant, and expressed concern with relocating the drop off and pick up traffic from the rear (north) to the front (south) of the school. He advised the traffic consultant would review this too. D. Smith, principal of York High School advised the school would undertake a campaign at the start of school to encourage students to walk or take the bus to reduce traffic during those peak times. Also, school Staff would be assigned to the rear of the building to facilitate traffic flow during peak times. One resident stated he has lived in the area for many years and that traffic is much better now then it was prior to the new construction of the high school. Another resident expressed concern that she did not want to place more burden on police resources. Subsequent to further discussion, Chairman Wagner advised that all resident concerns and suggestions would be considered. Once the current traffic engineering study being conducted by the City’s consultant, City’s Engineering Department, and Police Department is complete a report will be made to the Committee.

3. Upon review of reports a, b & c, a discussion ensued regarding the petition and resident survey process. City Engineer Keating explained this process specifically to these reports. Subsequent to further discussion the Committee signed reports a, b, & c.

4. Ald. Nybo opened the discussion that he had proposed an ordinance that would hold property owners responsible to maintain their property and upon failing to do so the City would do the maintenance and bill the property owner for the work. This was in response to Commonwealth Edison not properly maintaining their sub station property on Vallette Street. Several residents who live in the area of the sub station were present and Chairman Wagner allowed them to speak regarding their complaints which focused on the grass not being cut, snow removal from the sidewalk, and the excessive lighting around the sub station. There have been numerous complaints and requests for Commonwealth Edison to properly maintain the property with little to no positive response. Subsequent to further discussion, the Committee directed staff to prepare a report adopting an ordinance as previously proposed by Ald. Nybo for the next meeting.
5. The Committee reviewed the draft report and subsequent to a brief discussion Ald. Pezza requested a copy of the contract for a detail review prior to signing the report. Ald. Wagner and Nybo signed the report.
6. Other Business:
 - (a) Chief Neubauer provided a status report to the Committee on “Adjudication Hearing” process.
 - (b) Ald. Pezza opened the discussion regarding proposed State Legislation regarding “Video Gaming” being legalized. She believes this issue should be addressed by the Committee due to the forthcoming legislation. Subsequent to further discussion, Ald. Pezza will initiate the process to have this matter forwarded to the Committee as a future agenda item.

The Committee was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
Submitted by Dominic Panico, Deputy Chief

DGP/jm