

City Council Traffic Safety Committee Meeting September 19, 2016

Committee members present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Theberge, Morgan Allain, Otis and Remillard.

Others present included: City Manager James Wheeler, Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Police Chief Dan Buteau, and Public Works Director Michael Perreault

Minutes

Chair Rozek opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Councilor Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

Recommendations for Jericho Road Related to OHRV Traffic

Chief Morency reported that a radar cart was placed on Jericho Road and the PD increased patrol. Officers have been training on the use of a decibel meter. The decibel meter is only one tool for use by the PD when the need arises.

Mr. Perreault stated that for the RZR event this weekend, there will be a welcoming center on Glen Avenue and through traffic may be diverted to the Cleveland Bridge. Chief Morency indicated that there are lists of caretakers of the dry camping properties and the PD is prepared to respond if needed. There are several agencies including Grafton and Carroll Counties that are helping. The goal is to keep everyone safe and keep the momentum going.

Request for Handicap Sign at Oak Street

Chair Rozek indicated that this item was sent to the Public Works Department for more information. There are four handicap parking spaces in front of the building as well as timed bus parking. An additional place would have to be a minimum of 15 feet away from fire hydrant. The individual asking is a tenant and has a handicap placard.

Councilor Remillard made note that there is a driveway where pick up can occur. She was concerned that adding another place for one individual would set a precedent and it would appear that this will cause problems.

Councilor Theberge made a motion to deny the request for an additional handicap place on Oak Street; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried. All voted in favor.

Councilor Theberge reported that the yellow line on Oak Street is very faded and he asked if it could be repainted. All were in favor.

Burgess Biomass Request for No Parking on Community Street

Mr. Perreault reported that he met with Carl Belanger at the biomass plant. Parking is an issue on Community Street where services and suppliers come in on the south side of Community Street. Chief Morency added that turning space is needed for trucks and limiting parking would eliminate

approximately 100 feet or five places. Mr. Perreault has the measurements to go forward with an ordinance.

Councilor Remillard moved to do an ordinance to limit parking on the south side of Community Street; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried.

Councilor Theberge mentioned that there is a guy wire over the stairway to access the field. We either need to move the stairs or move the guy wire.

OHRV Ordinance Review

Chief Morency stated that the PD is working on ordinance changes for the next riding season. There have been complaints about young drivers. He distributed a packet of information that gives the views of several organizations including the Police Chief's association. This information will be used to come up with rules that will address the problems that exist. Setting the age at 24 or 25 year old is being considered as are mandatory registrations and user fees.

There is also a need for clarity on whether we allow people to ride to work or college. We don't want to create an alternative to a car. Conformity in the rules would make things easier as well. Councilor Otis commented that opening the streets to OHRV's is creating a lot of commerce and we don't want to see it overregulated. We don't want to reverse what we've created. There is a small percentage abusing the privilege and safety has to be the primary concern.

Chair Rozek suggested that the group meet on this issue in November. The juvenile issue has to be corrected.

Other

Street Lights

Chair Rozek asked if a cost projection was put together for lights between 12th Street and White Mountain Lumber. Mr. Perreault stated that the LED lights would cost about \$10,000 to \$11,000 for ten lights and a monthly fee for electricity. Chair Rozek was concerned that street lights may encourage walkers in an area where there is no sidewalk. He questioned the priority for street lights when there is an unlit sidewalk at Hutchins Street. Councilor Theberge stated that there is enough room in the breakdown lane for walkers.

Chair Rozek asked to carry this item to the next meeting. He also suggested driving and reviewing the East Milan Road as well as Hutchins Street. The next meeting will be October 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to adjourn the meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay

Administrative Assistant