

## **Traffic Safety Committee**

### **May 1, 2017**

Present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Morgan Allain, and Theberge

Others present included City Manager Jim Wheeler, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, and Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

Chair Rozek called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

### **Minutes**

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to accept the minutes of the April 24, Traffic Safety meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

### **OHRV Ordinance**

Chair Rozek noted that there is a draft ordinance for the Committee to review. Mr. Wheeler indicated that changes were made to the connector trail to reflect the trail that is actually being used. In a phone conversation with Chris Gamache, he confirmed that the definition of “landowner” as used in the insurance certificate from the State covers municipalities and the City Attorney and Primex have acknowledged that the City is covered when allowing ATV use on City streets. Chief Morency added that the Council can modify or shut down a trail if necessary. If the streets were closed, we would still have the connector trail.

Chief Morency stated that the purpose is to access trails or go to businesses and there has been no change to that. The problems arise when there is back and forth riding on a street. The PD has the ability to stop the driver; the addition of having an underage driver with someone who is 25 should help to relieve the disturbing behavior.

Councilor Theberge questioned whether the Fish and Game rules should be added to the ordinance. Mr. Wheeler reported that within the urban compact, the city governs the roads and we don't have to follow what the state has on their roads. Chief Morency said that the ordinance has come a long way. The Traffic Safety Committee will get the complaints that he gets and more changes can be considered.

Councilor Theberge commented that other towns close the trails ½ hour after sunset. In discussion, the Committee decided to remain with the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Councilor Theberge move to recommend the ordinance as presented to the City Council for first reading; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion passed.

### **Flashing Yellow Light at Hillside/Route 110**

Chair Rozek stated that the Police Commission has asked for a flashing yellow light at Hillside and Route 110. Chief Morency added that there is increased traffic and the road is faster than before the Route 110 project. There is a crossing guard at the intersection at a cost of \$5,000 per year. Mr. Perreault indicated that a flashing yellow light would cost about \$10,000.

Chief Morency informed the group that there are different signs that will attract more attention. We would need two signs at a cost of about \$7,000 for two solar signs and \$8,000 for two solar signs with power back up. These signs are at the right height that they cannot be missed and they would go where the pedestrian signs are now. Pedestrians could activate or they could be activated with a motion sensor. Chief Morency asked for more time to get additional prices. He stated that he could put money aside from this budget as well as the next so that the impact is less.

Chair Rozek announced that the next meeting will be June 26.

Councilor Morgan Allain moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to table the issue until the next meeting on June 26. So moved, the motion carried.

There being no further business; Councilor Morgan Allain moved to adjourn; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant