

SAFETY & PUBLIC PROPERTIES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

The Safety & Public Properties Committee met at City Hall on the above date and time.

Present: Councilman Bell (arrived at 6:13 P.M.), Councilman Kraus,
Councilman Russo

Absent: None

Also Present: Police Chief Godzich, Recreation Director Holub, Assistant Public Works Director Hromco, Fire Chief Shaw, Assistant Police Chief Tittl, Traffic Engineer Westbrook and Secretary Buller

Chairman Russo presided.

Chairman Russo extended Mayor Drucker's apology for not attending due to a rescheduled meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Russo to approve the minutes of January 13, 2010.

Roll Call: Aye: Kraus, Russo

Nay: None

Motion carried

REPORTS

1. Jail report – December, 2009

The December 2009 Detention Facility Report was submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE

2. Resident request for signage at Route 91 and Portz Parkway/Inwood Drive intersection

Mr. Westbrook reported the only mast arm capable to support back-to-back signs at this intersection was located on the northeast corner. He stated this was not a typical location; however, it would serve the purpose.

Chairman Russo inquired as to the approximate cost. Mr. Westbrook estimated under \$1,000.00. Chairman Russo inquired if the omission of these signs created a safety issue. Mr. Westbrook replied no, it was more of a convenience factor.

Chairman Russo explained that given the recent budget conversations and because this was not a pressing safety issue, he was inclined to hold this item. Councilman Kraus agreed.

Mr. Westbrook added signal/signage monies have been applied for with ODOT and NOACA and this signage could be included. He stated under this application, the City would be accountable for 20 percent of costs and ODOT and/or NOACA would account for 80 percent.

3. Resident request for signage on Cromwell Drive and signage/pavement markings on Pettibone Road

(Councilman Bell arrived at 6:13 P.M.) Mr. Westbrook stated this was discussed with the Traffic Task Force. He described the area. Mr. Westbrook expressed visibility concerns if two lanes were incorporated. At this time, he recommended leaving this section one lane and suggested revisiting this area after the Pettibone Road construction was completed.

Chairman Russo requested an explanation of the differences between this section and the Cromwell Drive/SOM Center Road two lane exit. Mr. Westbrook stated the traffic signal on SOM Center Road created visibility for the motorists.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to move Correspondence Item No. 3, Resident request for signage on Cromwell Drive signage/pavement markings on Pettibone Road to the Inactive Agenda.

Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None

Motion carried

4. Resident request for City Dog Park

Mr. Holub stated it was his understanding a study was required for the wetlands located on this property. He agreed with several points in the request and said the cost would need to be considered.

Mr. Hromco advised there was significant wetlands on that site and believed the flat, dry portion close to the intersection of Pettibone and Aurora Roads could accommodate a small park. He stated cost and safety issues would need to be considered.

Chairman Russo inquired how much longer Kenmore Construction would occupy that corner and was told until the end of this year.

Mr. Hromco stated a wetlands delineation study had been performed; however, it has not been forwarded to the Army Core of Engineers and recommended a specific plan be presented when forwarding it.

Mr. Holub will forward to the Committee his research of this property along with the study for an opinion.

Mr. Heinz Knall, 5875 Liberty Road, expressed conflict with the timing of this request due to the present budget issues. He stated when Kenmore Construction vacates the property; it would be a matter of installing a fence and provide parking. He credited Ms. Goodheart with the initial idea of a dog park. Mr. Knall reported according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, 37% of all households own at least one dog and estimated 4,800 dogs reside in Solon. He described the social values of a dog park.

Councilman Kraus feels it worthwhile to investigate issues such as liability, noise, and these types of parks in other cities. He suggested an internet survey on the city website.

Councilman Bell agreed and appreciated the statistics. He questioned the proposed location's proximity to the intersection. He was aware of a dog park in an adjoining community that was located away from the general park population and felt that could avoid certain liability and noise issues.

Chairman Russo felt revisiting the previous studies would be useful. He stated there was sufficient time to gather information.

This item will be placed on the Inactive Agenda.

5. Resident request for repairs to SOM Center Road/Lisa Lane traffic signal

Mr. Westbrooks confirmed an intermittent signal malfunction on the Lisa Lane side heading north onto SOM Center Road.

Councilman Bell stated there were many people experiencing problems at this signal.

Mr. Westbrooks stated the equipment supplier recently performed some firmware upgrades. He thought the problem could be a video camera failure, which was the City's responsibility, and was awaiting equipment to test the camera. He will keep the Committee informed.

This item was tabled.

POLICE AND FIRE ISSUES

Chief Godzich stated solicitors permits have been issued to representatives from Direct Energy. He disclosed that prior to January 27th, numerous behavioral complaints were reported with regard to the representatives. Chief Godzich stated Direct Energy was informed if one more complaint was reported the permit will be revoked.

Chairman Russo announced if an issue of this nature occurs, residents should contact the Police Department. Chief Godzich added a written report would be necessary.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

Assistant Chief Tittl reviewed the following selective enforcement area:

Bainbridge Road for speed – January 14th through January 21st, 69 written warnings were issued for speeding and six citations were issued; three speeding citations, two driving under suspension citations and one expired license plate citation.

ENGINEERING

6. Status update report for the month ending January 29, 2010

Mr. Hromco reviewed the status update report.

It was Councilman Kraus' understanding the preconstruction meeting with the County would involve the Bainbridge Road area residents and their concerns. He requested this meeting be held at a convenient time for the residents. Mr. Hromco will post this meeting on the city's website if it is open to residents.

7. Environmental Easement for the North Huntington Detention Basin

Mr. Hromco updated the Committee on the project. He stated approval was received for the site clearing, however, due to Indiana Bat nests located at this area, the clearing needed to be completed prior to April 1st. He reported part of the permit was contingent to an environmental covenant for the 3.847 acres of land with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to monitor the environmental concerns in perpetuity for a one-time payment of \$5,000.00. Mr. Hromco recommended approval and acceptance of this conservation easement along with the one-time payment of \$5,000.00.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to prepare legislation accepting the conservation easement and contracting with Western Reserve Land Conservancy as a holder with a one-time payment of \$5,000.00.

Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None Motion carried

OTHER

8. Solon Community Center request for agreement with Healthways/Silver Sneakers

Mr. Holub detailed the program offered to Medicare-eligible senior citizens at no cost. He stated the Community Center will be reimbursed up to \$3.50 per program visit up to a maximum of \$35.00 per month. Mr. Holub remarked the program would be open to all Silver Sneakers members regardless of where they reside; however, this could generate significant revenue for the Community Center. He requested legislation be prepared for approval by City Council.

Councilman Kraus noted there were approximately 1,500 eligible members within a five mile radius who could take advantage of this opportunity. Mr. Holub agreed and stated this would work in conjunction with the Senior Center.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to prepare legislation accepting the Community Center's agreement with Healthways/Silver Sneakers program which is part of the Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement and group retirees plans as provided in the memorandum from Rich Parker and Don Holub dated January 21, 2010.

Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None Motion carried

9. Referral from Public Works – Guardrail at 7570 Liberty Road

Mr. Hromco presented photos of the area. He stated repair bids have been prepared and approved with the cost referred to the responsible motorist's insurance company for the damages.

Councilman Bell stated there was more than one accident at that location and questioned if this curve should be analyzed.

Chairman Russo was interested in the seasonal accident statistics at this location. Mr. Hromco suggested working with the Police Department and Traffic Task Force for this history. He stated he will report on this at the March meeting.

Councilman Kraus asked Mr. Westbrooks to assess the area for possible modifications. Mr. Westbrooks agreed.

This item was tabled.

Councilman Kraus requested Mr. Westbrooks observe the traffic backup at the northbound turn lane on Portz Parkway at SOM Center Road along with the westbound line of motorists continuing onto Inwood Road. Councilman Kraus stated the volume of early morning motorists on Inwood Road created a problem for motorists during the school year. Councilman Bell confirmed the problem. Chairman Russo supported Mr. Westbrook's examination as long as it was included in the annual retainer for services and believed even with proper signage, the congestion would not be alleviated. Mr. Westbrooks agreed to make an informal observation. Mr. Holub suggested a "do not block bar" on Inwood Road because when a vehicle blocks the first left-hand turn into the high school lot it creates a back-up onto Route 91 at that location.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to adjourn at 6:55 P.M.

Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Buller
Secretary