

SAFETY & PUBLIC PROPERTIES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 13, 2010 6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Councilman Bell, Councilman Kraus, Councilman Russo
Absent: None

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

Chairman Russo presided.

Chairman Russo welcomed Councilman Bell, Secretary Buller and extended appreciation to former Secretary Janca for her assistance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Russo to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2009.

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

Motion carried

REPORTS

1. Jail report – November, 2009

The November 2009 Detention Facility Report was submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Mr. Westbrook stated he would examine the signal mast arm's ability to support signage at this location. He would not recommend spending the approximate \$15,000 per signal support for replacement of the mast arms.

Mayor Drucker was made aware of a potential signage replacement requirement within the next 12 months that might improve visibility. Mr. Westbrook stated the new requirement addressed reflectivity, but he was unaware of the timeline. He stated the Service Department was working on this matter.

This item was tabled.

2A. Resident request for signage on Cromwell Drive and signage/pavement markings on Pettibone Road

Mr. Westbrook indicated proper curve signage and double yellow center lines were in place.

Mr. Westbrook stated sufficient pavement existed for a two-lane exit at Cromwell Drive and Pettibone Road. He will discuss this at the Traffic Task Force meeting and report on this item at the next meeting.

Chairman Russo believes this is a valid request. He stated there is a two-lane exit at Cromwell Drive and SOM Center Road.

Councilman Kraus requested Councilman Pelunis be made aware of this request.

Councilman Bell felt that due to the construction at this location, the timing for the change might not be prudent. In addition, he feels a safety issue will be created because motorists will be required to look through the adjacent turning vehicle's window to complete the turn.

This item was tabled.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

Assistant Chief Tittl reviewed the following selective enforcement areas:

Cannon Road at Dorothy Lewis School for speed – December 14 through December 16 during school zone hours – three speeding citations were issued.

Sherbrook Park Drive for speed and stop sign violations – Due to poor weather conditions, selective enforcement was run sporadically between January 4 and 14 – five stop sign citations were issued. He noted this area would be targeted again in March or early April.

Synopsis of 2009 selective enforcement details conducted – In 2009, 24 selective enforcements were run with 128 various citations issued. The Solon Police Department issued approximately 3,500 citations in 2009.

Assistant Chief Tittl announced there was a substantial power outage today at 2:45 P.M. with power reinstated at 4:10 P.M. He requested that the residents and business community not overwhelm the Dispatch Center with power outage questions.

Chairman Russo stated questions should be directed to CEI and that the outage was created by a downed transmission line with nine substations affected. He stated between five and six thousand residents in Solon, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Orange, Moreland Hills, Warrensville Heights and Beachwood were affected.

Chairman Russo announced Item No. 5 would be heard next.

ENGINEERING

5. Installation of an ADA accessible walking trail in South Chagrin Reservation

Chairman Russo stated there are concerns regarding the installation of an ADA accessible walking trail and parking agreement between the City, the Cleveland Metroparks System and the Chagrin River Land Conservancy at the environmentally protected property commonly referred to as the Pavlish property.

Assistant Public Works Director Hromco said this parcel was part of the North Branch Preserve of the watercourse that flows into the Chagrin River and was to be used as a natural preserve area. He reviewed the design and noted the agreement contained the contingency for an ADA trail.

Mr. Vern Hartenburg, Executive Director of the Cleveland Metroparks System, explained they are willing and prepared to construct the trail and small parking lot, however, the access will require cars to cross an all purpose trail. He stated a trail with a loop arrangement would be preferred but in this case the 800 foot trail would dead-end with no particular destination. Mr. Hartenburg said the trail will have a significant impact on the ecosystem and they prefer to keep the system intact. He said the Cleveland Metroparks made a significant investment in resurfacing the parkway roads, a large portion of the all purpose trails and a new ADA trail to view Squaw Rock. He said the proposed trail could potentially become a security problem because it would be hidden from view and questioned the expenditure of public monies for the trail.

Councilman Bell requested the safety concerns be reviewed. Lieutenant John Kosek Sr. of the Cleveland Metroparks, believes the trail could contribute to problematic gatherings. Since there will be no easy way to patrol or access the dead-end trail, he is concerned about emergency vehicle access.

Councilman Kraus said it appears the trail will contradict the initial intention. Mr. Hartenburg felt the trail may possibly impact wildlife and natural water flow.

Councilman Kraus feels the funds can be better spent and believes the drainage work might damage the current storm water management system.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to delete the reference for the installation of an ADA accessible walking trail in the agreement and refer this item to the Law Director for specific language.

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

Motion carried

Assistant Public Works Director Hromco will meet with Law Director Matty regarding the agreement changes.

3. Status update report for the month ending December 31, 2009

Assistant Public Works Director Hromco reviewed the status update report.

Councilman Kraus suggested Wells & Associates be contacted for an opinion on the upgraded traffic signal system.

Mayor Drucker stated Congressman LaTourette's office will be assisting with the progression of the North Huntington Basin Project.

4. Wood trim railing system at Fire Station No. 2

Assistant Public Works Director Hromco requested legislation accepting the \$15,000.00 final close out change order for the decorative wood trim railing system now installed at Fire Station No. 2.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to prepare legislation accepting the final contract amount for wood trim railing system at Fire Station No. 2 in the amount of \$15,000.00 from Gualtieri Construction Company.

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

6. SOM Center Road signs near Solon Middle School

Mr. Westbrook viewed this area and although the signs were properly placed, certain signs were obstructed. He said the State manual allows the removal of lane usage signs and recommended this be done. He cited a similar situation north on the southbound side from the Inwood/Portz intersection and recommended moving that lane usage sign back.

Motion by Councilman Bell, second by Councilman Kraus to refer this item to the Service Department to make the necessary signage changes per the December 23, 2009 attached memo from Traffic Engineer Westbrook.

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

7. Miles/Harper Roads intersection improvement project

Assistant Public Works Director Hromco requested consideration on the acceptance of easements for the improvement project at Harper and Miles Roads located in Mount Hope Cemetery. The two temporary easements are for grading and pavement purposes and the permanent easement is for the purpose of widening the intersection.

Motion by Councilman Bell, second by Councilman Kraus to prepare legislation authorizing the Mayor to execute the necessary easements after said easements have been reviewed by Law Director Matty according to the January 7, 2010 memorandum from City Engineer Busch.

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

OTHER

8. Law Director memo regarding Geauga, Portage and Edith Streets limited parking

Chairman Russo stated Law Director Matty advised parking may be limited to time duration or parking may be completely prohibited, however, parking cannot be limited solely to residents because the named streets are public streets.

9. Veterans Park Project – General Park Improvements

Assistant Public Works Director Hromco requested legislation accepting Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$6,488.12. He reviewed six items: addition of an access panel in the roof area of the gazebo, trimming the concrete footers installed for the stone monuments, additional 235 square feet of pavers installed on the perimeter sidewalk, additional expansion material placed around the gazebo and the installation of steel boots along the gazebo roof column tops. He stated delays were incurred due to untimely delivery of materials and a redesign of certain lighting fixtures. He projected an April 30, 2010 completion date.

Chairman Russo questioned why were steel boots necessary if the gazebo roof was being replicated and the original gazebo stood for nearly a century without issue. Assistant Public Works Director Hromco stated the revised construction would surpass the original design. Chairman Russo inquired if this project was within the budget. Assistant Public Works Director Hromco stated the projected cost was \$750,000.00 and approximately \$664,000.00 has been spent for construction costs. He noted additional costs would be incurred for a sculptured eagle along with additional associated costs.

Councilman Bell inquired if the roof access would assist in preventative maintenance. Assistant Public Works Director Hromco stated yes and could possibly function as storage.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to prepare legislation accepting the change order for the Veterans Park Project – General Park Improvements in the amount of \$6,488.12 and memorializing the final contract amount at \$441,369.11 with the contractor Brookside Construction Services.

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

Ms. Mel McNamara, 35750 Bainbridge Road, requested diligent enforcement of the posted 20 mph speed limit along Bainbridge Road. She stated motorists continue to speed and expressed concern for the safety of the utility workers and residents.

Chairman Russo requested Bainbridge Road be added to selective enforcement. Assistant Chief Tittl agreed but requested direction and stated initially a selective enforcement was run on December 3 and 4, 2009 with

written warnings issued, however, the Department was asked to discontinue until construction became more prevalent.

Councilman Kraus suggested warnings be issued and police presence be exhibited. Chairman Russo was inclined to issue citations. Mayor Drucker stated concerned citizens informed her of speeding motorists along the dangerous road conditions while workers were laboring.

Councilman Bell felt proper notice should be given to motorists prior to enforcement. He stated once real construction begins, speeding would be near impossible without damage to vehicles.

Assistant Chief Tittl suggested installing a traffic notification trailer informing motorists of citation warnings for a time period followed by issuing citations. The Committee agreed to this suggestion.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to adjourn.

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

Motion carried

The Committee adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Buller
Secretary