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

Present: Councilman Bell, Councilman Kraus, Councilman Russo

Also Present: Assistant City Engineer Welch, Mayor Drucker, Police Chief Viland, Fire Chief Shaw, Ron Hradesky, Senior Center Director Jill Frankel, and Acting Secretary Donna Bond

Chairman Russo presided.

Chairman Russo stated a memo received from Ron Hradesky for the purchase of a mid-size SUV will be heard under correspondence as agenda item 4a. Mr. Russo moved agenda item 8, SOM Center Road Horse Crossing, to agenda item 13 to be heard after agenda item 12.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Bell, second by Councilman Kraus to approve the minutes of May 9, 2012 as submitted.

Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo

Nay: None

Motion Carried

REPORTS

1. Jail report – April, 2012

Chief Viland stated the total number 186 bookings is the highest number of bookings in a long time. He said the daily average population remains over 17.10 which remains consistent with the past couple months. Mr. Viland said he is continuing to work with two eastside suburbs in trying to determine if there could be additional jail contracts in the near future.

CORRESPONDENCE

2. Memo from Jill Frankel, Senior Services, for the renewal of the Senior Transportation Services Van Consortium Agreement

Ms. Frankel stated there were changes in the last ordinance which were not included in the agreement and she would like the committee to adopt the following agreements: In section one, the adding of “and adults with social security eligible disabilities”, and add in section 4 “eligibility to receive social security disability”.

Motion by Councilman Bell, second by Councilman Kraus to prepare legislation for Council to approve the Amended Van Consortium Services Agreement as consistent with the memo dated April 26, 2012 from Jill Frankel

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

3.  Pettibone and Hillside Crosswalk

Mr. Kevin Westbrooks stated he reviewed the intersection and there were still some shrubs to be removed and a tree on the east side that the homeowners association is to remove.

Councilman Bell commented there was a Homeowners Meeting Monday night and a resident did bring a photo which reflected the eastside tree had not been removed; however, the homeowners association did receive a letter from the Pettibone Road resident as the tree resides partially on their property and stating they have received permission to remove the tree. He said the city will be taking back the bushes to improve the sight line. Mr. Bell said additionally in January there was an accident in that area, and on Monday evening the resident and Chief Viland had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the president of the homeowners association.

Mr. Bell said the agenda item may be removed as the resident was instructed to contact the homeowners association to remove the tree, and the city will be taking care of the bushes.

4.  Fast Cars on Arbordale Lane

Chairman Russo stated he received an e-mail from resident Rick Pavia regarding fast cars on Arbordale Lane.

Chief Viland reported he assigned special attention to the road supervisors to assign cars through the end of the school year. He said there were no citations issued to report although cars were in the area.

4(a).  Memo from Ron Hradesky for the purchase of Mid-Size SUV

Mr. Ron Hradesky, Fleet Manager, explained bids went out for a mid size SUV to be used at City Hall, and Valley Ford Truck came in with the low bid of $25,858.72, and he recommends purchasing the Mid-Size SUV from Valley Ford Truck.

He stated he had discussions with Mayor Drucker to reduce the size the fleet and by purchasing the Mid-Size SUV they will be removing three (3) other vehicles from City Hall to possibility be used by the Recreation Department. If they are not suitable for their use, the vehicles will be placed on GovDeals.com for auction.

Motion by Councilman Bell, second by Councilman Kraus to prepare legislation for Council to approve the bid from Valley Ford Truck in amount of $25,858.72 as the
lowest responsible bidder.
Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None

POLICE AND FIRE ISSUES

5. Request for authorization to dispose of unneeded, obsolete equipment

Chief Viland stated he requests legislation for the authorization sale on the internet of obsolete unneeded property, and legislation for authorization to destroy anything that does not sell. He said this is an ongoing process to clean out the jail basement storage area as some items in there are from when the department moved in, and the department is in need of storage space. The equipment is either non functional or obsolete for example: VHS Tape players. He said there are second generations old portable radios which are not even in use and are not FCC Complaint. He said there are also a group of recovered bicycles that are unclaimed.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to prepare legislation requiring the usage of the internet auction services to dispose of certain items per the memo of Chief Viland dated May 30, 2012.
Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None

Motion by Councilman Kraus, second by Councilman Bell to prepare legislation authorizing the disposal of any unused items unable to be sold at auction and the following items 1,2,3 that are listed per Chief Viland’s memo date May 30, 2012.
Roll Call: Aye: Bell, Kraus, Russo
Nay: None

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT


Chief Viland said the speed trailer was placed on Springside Lane and Pettibone Road over the last couple weeks and will be used for public education as it is a very effective learning tool. A selective enforcement was conducted on SOM Center Road near area of the Metropark horse crossing. Based on specific times during peak hours, the speed computer indicated potential violations, and as a result there were two citations issued for speed.

He said Saturday evening of the Memorial Day Holiday the third OVI Checkpoint was conducted on SOM Center Road in front of Marcs. He explained over 950 vehicles were checked and there were a couple of arrests for driving under suspension, drugs, and outstanding warrants. He said there were no OVI’s and as a result of the checkpoints, we are reducing drinking and driving on our streets.

ENGINEERING
7. **Status updates report for the month ending May 31, 2012**

John Busch updated the committee regarding that all of the short term recommendations have been installed from the Aurora Road Traffic Study. He said he will monitor their implementation for awhile and will report back to the committee at a later date.

He said the Briar Hill Lake Dam Reconstruction project has scheduled the Obermeyer gate start up for Thursday, June 7\textsuperscript{th}, 2012. He stated this will be an important day in the overall project.

Mr. Busch said the Fire Suppression Alarm project is completed, and he is in the final process of closing out paperwork with the contractor.

Mr. Busch explained a resident was present at the Monday Council meeting and addressed some items of concern. He said prior to the Monday Council meeting, the items of concern had been conveyed to both Mr. Busch and the Project Manager from the Cuyahoga County Engineers Office months ago.

He said the misconception was that the resident felt the items would have been addressed in a shorter period of time. The county perceived those items to be punch list items such as property insulation, grading and restoration items. Mr. Busch stated they were initially addressed as part of the punch list and will be performed by the contractor.

Mr. Busch said he thought he understood that the resident was aware of when those items would be addressed after previous conversations. He said the resident may have wanted it to be on record. Mr. Busch said at no time were the residents’ concerns overlooked.

Mr. Kraus stated Mr. Busch has been in contact with the resident for a long time and the City was very aware of Mr. Phillips concerns.

(Agenda item #8 to be heard after agenda item #12)

9. **Left Turn Restriction at Baldwin/Verizon**

Chairman Russo stated there was a resident who inquired about a no left turn allowed on Baldwin Blvd, but are permitted turn into the Verizon parking lot which is closer to the intersection.

Mr. Westbrooks stated he did research into the left turn restrictions along SOM Center south of Aurora Road. He stated there is also a no left turn at Linden Drive, with a signal, for the northbound traffic and a no left turn restriction southbound to the Fifth Third Bank. He said these restrictions were adopted by ordinance back in December 15, 1986. Mr. Westbrooks said he did not have any knowledge of why the restrictions were implemented other than a crash that had occurred at Baldwin and Linden at the time of the ordinance. He added at the time of the ordinance, Verizon was not located at that site.

Chief Viland stated there was one crash recorded because of a vehicle that was
exiting from Verizon and turning southbound, at the same time, a vehicle was exiting BP Gas Station turning southbound, as a result, the crash was from two vehicles exiting that collided at the same time and did not have anything to do with the traffic on SOM Center Road. He said there are no crash records with relations to the exiting from that location on SOM Center Road for that time period.

10. Community Organization Signs

Mayor Drucker said the Master Plan Committee readdressed the idea of the Community Organization Signs, and the committee provided recommendations for signs to be located along the north and south borders of the Central Retail District on SOM Center Road and the east and west borders of the area along Aurora Road. She said each site is located on city owned property with the exception of the northern site on SOM Center Road which is in the 422 right of way.

Mrs. Drucker is requesting to move forward with posting the Community Organization Signs as there are many requests from different organizations. She said they would like to remove the existing signs throughout the city that are on individual poles and make the new signs uniformed and to be constructed of brick and rod iron. She explained the dimensions would be set so the community signs could be interchangeable as necessary. She would like to accommodate up to ten different organizations.

Chairman Russo clarified the Option D from the map is the site being recommended as the location is closer to the city and on city owned property.

Mayor Drucker explained due to the number of students who either have academically won awards or won individual state championships through sporting events, it is recommended to just add the name or logo of the organization or club instead of individual names. She said the organizations selected will be those that are established in Solon and are contributing to the community. She said for example, the school emblem will be placed to represent the individual awards. Item Tabled.

Motion by Councilman Kraus, seconded by Councilman Bell to move forward with recommendations from the Master Plan Citizens Committee proposing the community signs be located at the principal entrances to the Central Retail District to include memo from Mayor along with the map that details the various sites for the signage using Option D not Option C.

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

Motion Carried

11. Electronic Message Boards on the SOM Center Road Bridge

Mayor Drucker said there are many banners that are hung up on the SOM Center Road Bridge throughout the year for various events and advertising. Unfortunately, majority of the banners being placed on the bridge do not follow the standard size and display periods, thus, the banners have become a distraction for those walking or traveling along SOM Center Road.
She stated a short term solution will be in November of this year when the City will institute a new policy relating to the placement of banners on SOM Center Road Bridge, however, the long term solution being recommended by the Master Plan Citizens Committee is for electronic message boards to be placed on the north side and the south side instead of individual banners.

Chairman Russo said over the past few years the banners have smaller verbiage which is a safety issue while driving and agrees with Mayor Drucker there needs to be uniformity for the banners. He also agrees it can be a safety concern to hang certain banners for our service department in the winter months.

He said the electronic message board could also be utilized to promote city events. He said from a safety perspective, the message board could post an amber alert or an important message from the fire department. He said due to the amount of traffic throughout the city it would be an ideal location.

Councilman Kraus stated there is confusion trying to read some of the banners, and sometimes the banners are just barely hanging up. He said from a safety perspective, an electronic message board is a good solution.

Councilman Bell asked if the electronic message boards could be utilized in future improvements that will be made to the bridge. Mayor Drucker stated that will be part of the planning, and at one time there was discussion to remove the bridge. However, if the railroad would be utilized at a later time, the city would be responsible to replace the bridge. Mr. Bell commented in the minutes he last saw, it looked like they would not be removing the bridge. He said it was suggested to place welcome signs made of brick with rod iron on the bridge, and would like to include the electronic message boards in future improvements. He concurs with the other safety members, and he also supports the recommendation of the electric message boards to be placed on the SOM Center Road Bridge.

Mayor Drucker would like to bring back to the committee proposals and costs for the purchase for electronic message boards on the railroad trestle with it being incorporated with the upgrading of the trestle itself, and the trestle design. Item Tabled.

12. Request for authorization to include certain existing traffic signals which do not meet the warrant specification, in the Traffic Signal Upgrade Project, at the City's expense.

Chairman Russo stated there was some confusion from the last meeting and is uncertain if the developer is coming back to address this issue.

Mr. John Busch stated from a city perspective he is waiting on a formal response from them. Mr. Russo asked Mr. Busch to send a memo to the developer requesting a decision prior to the July Safety and Public Properties Meeting; otherwise, the traffic signal will be removed.

Councilman Bell said from the last meeting, the developer had asked for additional time for proposals, and he would also like Mr. Busch to send a memo to the developer.
Mr. Russo asked if there is a deadline to finalize the grant, and Mr. Westbrooks said he will know next month because he has the signal warrant study that ODOT is waiting on from the developer with their decision. Mr. Busch said if we are not in contact with ODOT they may push back one fiscal year on our project. Mr. Westbrooks suggests contacting them and see if they are willing to put something in writing if they will help or if they will not help with the project.

Chairman Russo asked if there was an estimate of the cost, and Mr. Westbrooks replied yes, and there was even a small reduction in the cost by eliminating some of the work for them. Mr. Russo stated he would like a memo to be sent with the breakdown of the costs, and a deadline to contact us. He said he does not want to jeopardize the grant being offered to the city, and have to be forced to wait another year.

Mr. Bell said he supports preparing a memo, and does not want to wait for another year. It was decided the memo will be prepared by Mr. John Busch. This item is tabled.

(Agenda Item #8 heard out of order as Agenda Item number #13)

13. SOM Center Horse Crossing

Mr. Westbrooks stated he is waiting to hear back from the Cleveland Metroparks. Mr. Busch said based on meeting with them, they are verbally still interested in contributing the original amount as discussed. Mr. Busch has concerns such as who would be responsible for certain items such as paying the electric bill, and who would be responsible for the actual maintenance on the arm. He will be sending a letter to address these issues this week. Councilman Kraus asked if Mr. Thomas Loby will be included to structure a legal agreement, and Mr. Busch replied, yes, Mr. Loby will be involved in preparing the final draft.

Chairman Russo asked Chief Viland to comment on the selective enforcement he had in the area. He stated there were no discernible speed problems in that area and over a two week period, during peak hours, they did issue two citations. He stated over the last ten to fifteen years there has not been any documented traffic issues at that intersection. He explained back in March he did an informal hand count traffic survey with an officer being placed there over a two week period for more than 55 hours at various times and days during the week. He said based on the study, there were an estimated 38 vehicles per hour crossing that intersection in either direction across SOM Center Road which is a vehicle every two minutes. There were approximately one horse crossing every two or three hours, and there were maybe one pedestrian every ten minutes. He said due to a SCRC Marathon Training going on at the same time; the number of pedestrians may be high. The officers did time horse crossings with a time watch, and for the 21 horses that did cross he stated no horse waited more than 15 seconds to cross.

Chairman Russo asked Chief Viland if there is a safety issue at this intersection based on his findings. Chief Viland replied, his statistics do not reflect a safety issue; however, the dual crossing within 35 feet of each other and that crossing could combine as a single crossing across SOM Center Road thus being a safety
concern. He stated the expense of a signal is not required for the city at this time.

After further discussion, Councilman Kraus and Councilman Bell both support being proactive so the area is safe due to the volume of cars, pedestrians, bikers, runners, and horses that cross at this intersection before an accident happens. Both are appreciative of the cooperation and support on behalf of the Cleveland Metroparks, and would like to move forward with the project.

Councilman Russo stated pedestrians do have the right of way, and horses do not have the right of way. He said there have not been accidents at this intersection and pedestrians do cross properly. He said at this time he does not feel the city or the Cleveland Metroparks should be spending unnecessary money on a project that is not a safety issue. Item Tabled.

A Solon Resident from 5463 Tayport Drive addressed the committee. She stated last night she waited more than 3 minutes before her and her horse could cross, and this has happened on more than one occasion. She said the safety issue at this intersection has been going on since 1995, and feels the cost by the taxpayers, Cleveland Metroparks, and the City is warranted before an accident occurs. She said either a signal or a caution sign would help to enhance the safety for pedestrians and for individuals riding on a horse.

Chairman Russo scheduled a special Safety and Public Properties Meeting for Monday, June 18, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. prior to Council Caucus in the Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Bond, Acting Secretary