

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2017

The Safety Committee meeting was held on April 18, 2017, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Gary Petrusky, Vice Chair Dan Langshaw, Cheryl Hannan; **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Finance Director Eric Dean, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Asst. Law Director Donna Vozar, Police Lt. Cutler, Safety Director Bruce Campbell; **Other:** Lou Krzepina.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **approve the March 21, 2017 Safety Committee minutes and to excuse Mr. Langshaw from voting on these minutes.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Deer Hunting

Mr. Petrusky stated that amendments to the deer hunting ordinance have been presented to the committee and asked Lt. Cutler to briefly review these amendments. Lt. Cutler said that the main highlight of the changes is to relax the 5 acre requirement and leave it to the Chief's discretion in case someone is just under that threshold. He said that they will always try to maintain the 5 acres. Mr. Petrusky said that some of the other communities have really scaled back the acreage requirement and is pleased to hear that we will be keeping it as close to 5 acres as possible. Mr. Nickell said that he likes the way the legislation is worded stating that it will be reviewed on a case by case basis. He said that he trusts the Police Department's judgement if there is a situation where there are a lot of known deer activity and the layout of the property doesn't strictly meet the criteria. Mrs. Vozar said that they tried to include as many factors in this legislation as we could to allow that the discretion be somewhat controlled. Mr. Langshaw said that he agrees with this legislation and trusts the judgement of the Police Department. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that the Police Department has taken a very proactive approach to this and have made sure that safety comes first. Lt. Cutler said that safety is their number one priority. Mr. Petrusky asked if we will continue to limit the number of hunters. Lt. Cutler said we are not putting a cap on it. Last year we had to put a cap on it because the season had already started. He said that if we get 100 applicants, we will take them. He said that all the hunters are not in the woods at the same time so it should work out so that they do not overlap. Mrs. Hannan asked when deer season is. Lt. Cutler said that the nuisance permitting is going on right now, and the bow hunting season starts mid to late September and goes through February. Mrs. Vozar said that the Mayor is also seeking controlled hunt status with the ODNR like we did last year which increases the number of deer that are permitted during the season from six to ten. Mr. Petrusky asked at what age are hunters permitted to hunt. Lt. Cutler said in our city it is 18 years of age or older, and they must pass the archery proficiency.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **recommend approval of the changes to the deer hunting ordinance to Council.** Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Petrusky asked how long it will be until we get our new fire truck. Chief Chegan said that we are scheduled to visit the manufacturer April 30th through May 5th to do the final inspections on both units. Depending on what the inspection and testing reveals, that is what will determine when we receive delivery of these vehicles from Wisconsin. Once they are received it will take 6-8 weeks to get them in-service, since some of the work will be done here locally in Richfield, and there are a lot of training aspects that need to be done.

Chief Chegan said that we are in the process of hydrant flushing and will be providing as much advance notice as possible to the residents of the areas we are working in. He said we started a few weeks early due

to the work that will be needed on the trucks once they arrive. He said they are just finishing up Ward 1 and will be starting in Ward 2 tomorrow. He said that he expects this work to continue through June. Mr. Petrusky asked when the hydrant painting will start. Mrs. Vozar said that the summer help will start once school is out, sometime in mid-May. Chief Chegan said to let him know of any hydrants that are of concern and he will evaluate them. He explained that the hydrants in the subdivisions hold up better after being painted than those on the main routes due to the amount of salt they are subjected to.

Mr. Kelly said that the Rumpke informational meeting was held last night, at which Mr. Petrusky and Mr. Kasaris were present. He stated that he was not in attendance. He said that it has been reported to him that there were at least more than a handful of people that were excitable about their receipt of the recycling cans, to the point where there were some loud exchanges between the parties which were unpleasant. For this reason, the administration is going to ask the Police Department to provide an officer at Saturday's Rumpke informational meeting. The representative from Rumpke was somewhat distressed by the demeanor of some of the participants and he wanted to advise Council of this. Mr. Kelly said that he would like the record to reflect that the city has an agreement with Rumpke. We are partners in this agreement. The economic foundation for this agreement is the active encouragement and participation of the entire community in the recycling program. The contract says that it is a contract for residential waste collection disposal and recycling services. Mr. Kelly said that the fact is without the active participation of all of the residents in the recycling program the contractor is going to fail and the city is not going to be saving the money that was anticipated under the agreement and we may find ourselves in a position where we are either going to have to charge residents for rubbish pick up or in the alternative we will find ourselves in a situation where the next time we ask for bids the contractors are not going to want to bid or we will get enormously increased bidding circumstances as a result of a lack of participation. He said that it is critical that everyone understands that recycling is the future. This is the right side of history. To refuse to recycle is bad for the environment. It is the right thing to do and we are here to encourage our residents to do the right thing. He said that whatever the conduct was of the participants at last evening's meeting, we expect their conduct on Saturday to be better.

Mayor Stefanik said that he is extremely disappointed that we are going to have to pull a police officer off of their regular beat so that we can have them attend a meeting due to the way some of our elected officials acted at that meeting to get the crowd going. He said that we have talked about this program for months already. The time for discussion is over and it is now time for implementation. Anyone who voted against it should have brought these grievances to the table at that time instead of at the 11th hour at a public meeting. He said that it seems like they always act a little stronger when there is a crowd of people. Mayor Stefanik said that he can guarantee that this is a very, very vocal minority; very few people are questioning this. He said that when he gets phone calls about the recycling, he will go out to a resident's home when they tell him they don't have room for the cart and work with them to make this work. He said that the fact that it is an inconvenience is not a good reason. The majority of our residents want to do this. He said that he has spoken with many of the homeowners association presidents including Royal Valley who are very excited about this program. He cautioned everyone on Council and the audience not to feel like the vocal minority that showed up at that meeting represents everyone in the city. He said that he is out in the community all of the time and he said people are excited about this program. They are getting a free recycling cart and we are not charging for pick up. He said in Parma, they have two large cans and they get charged on their property taxes for collection. He said in cities like Brook Park the city workers still pick up the rubbish but it is fully automated with a large 96 gallon can for trash and a 65 gallon recycling can. He said that he received a phone call from a resident asking what time the meeting was on Saturday because they were told by their Councilman to come up to the meeting and complain about it. He said that he finds this very, very disappointing. After he spoke with this resident, he is pretty sure that they won't be at the meeting. He said that unfortunately we have to have a police officer at the meeting but he hopes that it will be a very productive meeting and we stick to what is on the agenda. He said that the horse is out of the barn on recycling; anyone who had issues should have brought them up when we voted on it. We need to except the vote and move on. Mr. Nickell said that he recently visited someone who lives in Kentucky that has the same program and they did not have a problem. Communities across the country are all going to this program because of cost control and it encourages recycling. He said that he has probably received

complaints from 3-4 residents who said they don't want it and a few that were excited about the program. Mr. Langshaw said that he finds it unfortunate that we can't agree to disagree and need to pull an officer from the streets to attend a meeting. He said that these meetings would be packed if we were charging residents for rubbish pick up and this is something we are trying to avoid. It is also good for the environment and we need to give this a fair chance to be successful. We need more people to participate and landfill costs are going to continue to rise.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Langshaw **to adjourn the April 18, 2017 meeting.** Yeas: 3.
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.