

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reams at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Reams, Dan Fogt, Tracy Richardson-excused.

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Emery, Carl Blumenschien, Nathan Burns with Fire Department, Floyd Golden, Tim Aslaner

REPORTERS PRESENT: Ryan Horns with Journal Tribune

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no additions or corrections, minutes from the meeting on August 11, 2014 were approved as written.

AGENDA:

Update on Blocking of Public Sidewalks in Private Driveways: Mr. Emery passed out information about blocking of Public Sidewalks in Private Driveways. A press release was sent out to local media on August 15, 2014 with a photo showing an example of the kind of problems blocking sidewalks can cause. The same press release was posted to the City's website, and Facebook page. There were some favorable comments left on the City's facebook page. Our future plans are to put this information out again in mid-October; we are going to get with local homeowners associations for them to address it in their local newsletters. We are going to establish a procedure that will take you through the steps when complaints are received from citizens regarding public sidewalks that are blocked by vehicles. Step one, we will receive the complaint, and when we get the complaint we need the exact address and location. Step two, complaints will be verified within one (1) business day (24 hour period). City staff will perform a site visit of the reported location. Step three, once the complaint is verified a door hanger notice will be left at the front entrance of the property and the notice will contain the following information: it will state that the City has received a complaint about the sidewalk being blocked, it will be request the vehicle be removed from the sidewalk within 24 hours, it will talk about the importance of keeping the sidewalks free and clear of obstruction and it will have contact information for any questions or concerns.

Mr. Reams asked if you get there and there is not a vehicle blocking at that time then what? Mr. Emery said that we would probably not do anything but we may try to follow up/double check. Mr. Reams said now a days, people take pictures with their phones, if they took a picture with their phone and submitted it, would you use that? Mr. Emery said we will need to make sure that is the right location, and we will follow up with the people filing the complaint, (is the car there all the time)? Mr. Aslaner said we are not building up court cases.

Mr. Fogt said that there are a lot of places where sidewalks are blocked for 10-15 minutes, every day. It might happen with people dropping off children to car pools, etc. He just doesn't want it to turn into neighbor fighting neighbor issues.

Mr. Reams asked when is the program going to start. Mr. Emery said right now. Mr. Reams said we are going to send out a reminder in mid-October, why not send it now, since we are starting the program.

Snow Removal from Public Sidewalks: Mr. Emery said what you are going to find with our plan for sidewalks snow removal, is similar to how are going to handle vehicles blocking sidewalks. This fall we are going to start promoting the importance of snow removal from public sidewalks. We are going to have frequent postings on the City's facebook page about snow removal from sidewalks, prior to potential snow fall, when we get those weather reports, we will start reminding people. We will use the monitors at City Hall and the Police Department. In October and January, we are going to do an informational insert in the utility bills. We will be in touch with the newspaper to do some articles. Mr. Horns asked are cards a new thing? Mr. Emery said yes. Homeowners Associations will be asked to address this in their local newsletters, we will be meeting with the schools here soon to make sure they have a plan in place to remove snow from their sidewalks as well.

Mr. Reams said that Mrs. Richardson has suggested that the schools send something home with the kids to remind their parents, what do you think about that? Mr. Emery said let us meet with the schools.

Procedure for when complaints are received is going to be the following: step one, if we receive a complaint about snow that has not been removed from the sidewalk, we will get the property address and exact location. There must be two or more inches of snow, and it has to be at least 48 hours after the snowfall before a complaint is filed. Mr. Reams stated that is longer than most places give. Step two, complaints will be verified. City staff will perform a site visit of the reported location. Step three, once the complaint is verified a door hanger notice will be left at the front entrance of the property and the notice will contain the following information: it will state that the City has received a complaint about snow on the sidewalks, it will request the snow be removed from the sidewalk, it will talk about the importance of keeping the public sidewalks clear, tips and suggestions on removing the snow safely and it will have City contact information for any questions or concerns or possible assistance. We will have possible assistance ready (church groups, boy scouts, and local groups) and we will help the citizens who cannot remove it on their own. This will be one of those that you will not only see this go out, but you will see this information go out quite a bit, when there is an expectation of snow.

Mr. Reams said that part of him knows that it is not quite strong enough and the other part knows that it is better than what we have done. Let's see if it works before we take the next step. Mr. Emery said that is where are at, we want to insure that the City has the ability to get to all of our areas.

Mr. Fogt said he would like the uptown cleaned better. The store owners that clean their sidewalks and throw it into the street, then cars cannot park right because of all the snow. Mr. Emery said that right now the uptown businesses are looking at a way to fund snow removal; it might not be ready this winter. Mr. Horns said that TeamMarysville is reaching out to business owners about things like this; this is more ongoing and seems to be volunteers. Mr. Fogt said that

he feels sorry for the store owners that keep their sidewalks clean, and have stores on both sides that maybe only clean their sidewalks once a week. Then they sweep it out into the street and the City does not get it haul away in a timely fashion. It is not safe when you have a car parked two feet from the curb. If that happens on both sides you barely have room for two lanes of traffic.

Mr. Fogt asked Mr. Blumenschien, if he has a problem on his street? Mr. Blumenschien said yes, they do not even do their own driveway. He has done some snow removal for his neighbors because they were unable to do it. Mr. Emery said to keep in touch and let us know if there is any improvement, we will try to help those that need assistance.

Process of Reporting Street Light Outages: Mr. Reams said that there is a policy in place for reporting street light outages, call in or go to the City website, give the number on the pole and the street address, and it should be fixed in three days, but what he has noticed is that more and more street lights are dim or out or not working like they should be. It seems like the process is not working.

Mr. Emery said that we do have a process in place, and our lighting repair contractors reporting to us how many are repaired. People are choosing not to report street light outages. Deputy Chief Spain has utilized a plan that while the police department is on patrol in the evenings, they are going to have a pretty easy system to type in the location or the address and send that in to our service department, so those lights that are not being reported, get reported by the police department during the night shift. Deputy Chief Spain is working with Mr. Andrako, so we will hopefully have something in place to solve this issue.

Mr. Reams asked within the next month or two? Mr. Golden and Mr. Emery said that probably within the next two weeks. Please keep reporting the out street lights, the lights that are going on and off during the night, or if they are working all day long. Mr. Emery suggested putting this back on the agenda, the plan should be implemented, and also find out how the lights work, and how many lights are being reported on a monthly basis.

Mr. Reams said that the City of Delaware has an app, that you can report all of the issues that we have discussed. The City of Delaware paid nothing for that app, it was given to them by the developer.

Speed Limit on SR 31: Mr. Emery said that Mrs. Richardson just sent him a text message that states "feel free to postpone this topic until our next meeting". She wanted to update everyone. There was a citizen that lived in the Mill Valley area that expressed concern that the speed limit is too low. We had a meeting at City Hall with him, and why the decision was made, and he understands why we have the speed limit the way we do now. Accidents have gone down since the speed was lowered. Mr. Reams stated that cars coming off of 33 on to 31 that are not slowing down. You might inquire with Mrs. Richardson, if she would like to discuss this topic again.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.