

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 6, 2014

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

Members Present: Mark Reams, Tracy Richardson

Others Present: Terry Emery, Tim Aslaner, Chief Riley, Chief Golden

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the meeting on September 8, 2014 were approved.

Agenda:

Update on Blocking of Public Sidewalks in Private Driveways: Next Monday October 13, 2014 there will be a press release that will be sent out to all the media outlets. The press release includes a phone number to report blocking of public sidewalks, this information will be posted on the City's website and facebook page. HOAs have been contacted by email and asked if they will provide information on the blocking of sidewalks and the snow removal on sidewalks to the homeowners via newsletters and email as provided by the City. Currently Mill Valley, Green Pastures, Scotts Farms, The Links, are all involved in that process. Addressing Mr. Reams regarding example pictures, Mr. Emery said that when certain situations arise, we will post them.

Chief Golden said they have checked records for the last couple months and have not found any reports of vehicles blocking sidewalks on private driveways.

Mr. Emery passed out handouts of what will be sent out on that particular item. Mrs. Richardson said she will put it up on her facebook site. OMNI is one of the homeowners associations. There is a second homeowners associations, and then there is a section of Mill Valley that is not covered by any homeowners association. Mr. Emery said he will follow up with Mrs. Krutowskis about who she has contacted.

Chief Golden said the word is starting to get out because he had a gentleman call and was having work done on his house. The company left a truck parked in his driveway so he could not get his vehicle completely off of the sidewalk, and he was concerned about it.

Mrs. Richardson said that it is good people are thinking about it.

Snow Removal from Public Sidewalks: Mr. Emery said we met with the Schools Superintendent, Diane Mankins, and Director of Business Services, Mike White, on September 24, 2014 and discussed the importance of the schools having a plan in place for removing snow from sidewalks. Superintendent Mankins was very receptive and will join in our proactive efforts to clear sidewalks on school property. Notices keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice will be sent home with all K-6th Grade students and will

be emailed for 7-12 grade students in November. We thought about sending out information this month in our utility bills. However, if they received the information now they might forget. We are going to send it out in the November utility bills so that the information is fresh and snow could just be getting ready to fall. A press release and flyer will be sent out the first of November to all local media outlets, and information will also be posted on our City's website and facebook page. We will have postings on our facebook page prior to snowfall predictions with accumulations of two inches or more. We will have updated information as things occur. Mr. Emery passed out information on how we will be distributing and the information you will see.

Mr. Emery has had discussions with Mr. Andrako, Mr. Tracey, and Mr. Rockenbaugh about our crews being proactive on clearing our sidewalks because it is going to be very difficult for us to go out and start enforcing and talking to people and putting flyers or the door hangers on doors of people who haven't, if they can point out issues that we have not done yet.

Mrs. Richardson said in addition to the flyer being sent home, she was thinking that we could also ask the schools to put it on their website. She was reading the meeting minutes, and our policy is to wait 48 hours after snowfall to receive a complaint. She is thinking about that because if we wait 48 hours to receive a complaint, then we give the person who was the object of the complaint a certain amount of time. She wondered if we could back that to 24 hours, the concern is in a school area. After a snowfall, if you give 48 hours a lot of times you get more snow. So you will have more snow on top of the previous snowfall. It can become problematic, if we wait that long to friendly remind residents.

Mr. Emery said some people are very busy in their schedules, and they have to leave early in the morning. That 24 hour period can get on them before they have even had a chance to get home and get things organized at home and get their areas cleaned. Mr. Emery said the City will be pressed to have our sidewalks cleared in 24 hours. If we do not have ours clear then he is not comfortable with starting to pursue it, because people will immediately start pointing to our stuff.

Mr. Aslaner said in essence you are giving them two evenings to get their area cleaned. Mr. Aslaner said if it happens on a Friday night it is a lot easier to get it done, but if it happens on a Monday night it is a little bit more difficult.

Mrs. Richardson agreed with Mr. Aslaner, but she was thinking of safe routes to school Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Richardson asked what if we notify them after 24 hours and then give them another grace period of 24 hours at least before you enforce it.

Mr. Reams said after 24 hours, say Mrs. Richardson called in a complaint, someone is not going to show up right then, it is probably going to be the next day before someone shows up.

Mr. Emery commented that in in-house discussions with our people, they thought 48 hours was going to be a huge challenge to complete all the plowing on streets and sidewalks. They are willing do everything they can do get it done. Mr. Emery said if Mr. Fogt was here, he would say we better have our sidewalks done before we put a door hanger on someone else's door.

Mr. Reams said everyone agrees with that. We need to make sure we have the equipment we need to get all the plowing/shoveling done. Mr. Emery said with extreme snowfalls, we are focused on the streets. Sidewalks are going to be second priority. He would like to see how we do on the City's sidewalks before we start narrowing down the time. Mr. Aslaner said if we get a sizeable snowfall, kids will not be walking to school because there will not be any school.

Mr. Reams said people who walk to their jobs will not be able to get there. There was a lady killed in Bellefontaine last year because the sidewalks were not clear and she had to walk in the street. She was then struck and killed by a car.

Mrs. Richardson said she hears what Mr. Emery is saying and is not trying to amp up the demand. She is thinking that if we receive the complaint 24 hours after the snow fall, then you are realistically not going to enforce it for another full 24-48 hours at least.

Mr. Emery said if we start hanging door hangers, what if the City's sidewalks are not clear? Should we go ahead and hang them?

Mr. Reams said we should, but we need to take a look why at we didn't get all of ours done. What do we need to do to address that? Mr. Emery said it comes down to personnel, we pull people out of different divisions to plow. The bottom line is that he thinks with our approach right now that we are being more proactive and aggressive as far as putting this information out to residents. He would like to take this one step at a time. If we go through this year and we feel we can address our situation in the City sooner, then we would be comfortable with asking our residents to do the same.

Mr. Emery said there are not going to be neighbors calling in after 24 hours, it will be after 72 hours. When everyone has cleared their sidewalks, that's when we will have people calling in to complain. Mr. Reams said how about we say 24-48 hours after snowfall. Mrs. Richardson said that will give a grace period.

Mr. Emery said he will come to back to the next meeting. The opinion from staff is that it was going to be difficult to address our own situation and all of our sidewalks in 48 hours after certain snowfalls. However, they said that they would do everything they could to address that.

Mr. Emery asked Mr. Aslaner what the enforcement was? Mr. Aslaner said this year it is going to be educational. Mr. Reams said it is repeat offenders that we are going to have to look at.

Mrs. Richardson said her focus is on walking to schools. She is trying not to be so limited on her focus. Mr. Emery's focus is on the entire City, and in particularly uptown streets and things like that.

Mr. Emery said to Mrs. Richardson, that in your situation, and Mr. Aslaner said it when we get that kind of snowfall, it is going to make it difficult for us to clear our streets and sidewalks, and there probably will not be school for two or three days. Mrs. Richardson asked do you know what kind of snowfall is the worst for the kids? It is about 6 inches to probably about 18 inches or maybe more. Those are the kind of snowfalls that if people do not clear it, it is up to the kids knees or more less. Then the kids come to school and they are soaked for most of the day. They have the problems at school with their boots and shoes. We want homeowners to be responsible for cleaning their sidewalks, but to also be a part of the community and assist their neighbor.

Mr. Emery said one of the things I am going to do with our staff, even during a snowfall, is going to have them reach out to our office once they have completed with clearing all of the areas. So we know when we're complete, there are specific sidewalk areas that are the City's responsibility, and once we complete those, we have no problem hanging hangers.

Mr. Reams asked whether we need to talk to the fair board or the county about the fair property, they have a lot of sidewalks right by the school. Mr. Emery said that he will contact them.

Chief Golden said it would be interesting to see how many residents there are and how many of them do not clear their sidewalks.

Chief Riley said what really hurt us this year is when the temperatures got below zero, it got so cold that the high was -5 for a week and a half. The Fire Department was actually warning people not to go outside and all of the news outlets were doing the same thing. So it is a conflict. People shouldn't go outside when it is that cold and yet they need to clear their sidewalks.

In summary of this agenda item, Mr. Emery said we will take a look at the fairground sidewalks, talk with staff about the how realistic it is to hang door hangers 24-48 hours after snowfall, and we will utilize the schools website for a lot of this information that we are sending out.

Process of Reporting Street Light Outages: Mr. Emery gave out information to committee members. The first page is a monthly breakdown of what we receive from Miami Valley Lightening, who maintains our street lighting. They breakdown how many are reported on a monthly basis, how many repaired (minor or major repairs). The second page is an outage report of what was reported and repaired. The last document is the existing Agreement with Miami Lighting. This Agreement started in June 1, 2014 and goes until May 21, 2017. If the Committees see things they would like to adjust we can

discuss that with them. Miami lighting comes in quarterly to meet with us. Some people may see a handful of lights going on at different times and that is because the photo cells are just adjusting on different schedules. Mrs. Richardson asked what the differential in the schedules are. Mr. Emery said it is about a 30 minute period. Mrs. Richardson said that is very good information.

Mr. Reams said the lighting company is not meeting the expectations as contained in number 11 of the Agreement. Mr. Emery said that is something that we can discuss with them.

Mr. Emery said that we can do an informational press release to get this information out how to report street light outages.

Mr. Reams said the City of Delaware has an app, it is called mydelaware. Mr. Emery talked to Tom Homan, and he will contact him and ask about this app.

Adjournment: Mr. Reams adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.