

SAFETY, SERVICE, and UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – February 7, 2013

The Safety, Service and Utilities Committee of the City of Aurora, Ohio, met in Council Chambers of Aurora City Hall on Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 6:30 pm for the purpose of holding a regular meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: James Bucks
James Vaca, Chairman
Ann Womer Benjamin, Vice-Chairman
Harold Hatridge
Denny Kovach
Fred Knop

Also Present:
Seth Riewaldt, Chief, Police Department
John E. Trew, AICP, Director of Public Service
Karen Stacko, Secretary Pro Tem

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of November 15, 2012, as presented.

Moved: Hatridge; Seconded: Kovach

The motion carried with a voice vote with five members eligible to vote in favor.

Member Bucks abstained as he did not attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – SAFETY ISSUES

Proposed Changes in Parking Violations Procedure

Chief Riewaldt explained that there are City codified ordinances that prohibit parking vehicles in certain manners, in certain areas, and within certain hours on City streets. When someone violates this ordinance, a police officer issues a violation ticket to the offender that carries a fine paid to the Police Department. If an alleged violator contests the ticket, the Department tears up the original ticket and prepares a traffic ticket that is referred to the municipal Court in Kent, Ohio.

While researching Ohio Revised Code, Chief Riewaldt discovered that in 1983 the law for enforcing parking tickets changed based on a determination if the offense was criminal or civil. Criminal offenses must be directed to the municipal court, whereas civil offenses may be handled through the local government. Aurora City code does not designate the type of offense that parking offenses fall under.

Chief Riewaldt has been working with Law Director Shorr to prepare regulatory legislation to handle parking violations in house in accordance with State law. The Department would need to designate an officer to handle any contested tickets or related parking problems. The proposed legislation will be directed to the Committee of the Whole when ready for review.

Resource Officers

Chief Riewaldt advised that the Department may utilize more than one resource officer when providing training to students within the schools.

Construction at Police Department

The dispatch area renovation is scheduled to be completed within one month.

Security for Breezy Point Park Area

Member Bucks inquired on the status of the security camera for the park area. Chief Riewaldt reported on a few incidents and stated that eventually the Department will be able to access the camera from the internet.

NEW BUSINESS

Referral from Committee of the Whole - Petition to Extend Water and Sewer Service along East Pioneer Trail

William Beljon of 567 Pioneer Trail presented a petition for the City to install sewer and water services for five sublots on East Pioneer Trail.

The existing water and sewer services stop short of the respective lots on East Pioneer Trail.

MOTION: To accept for study the petition presented by William Beljon requesting that sublots 318, 319, 383, 384 and 385 on East Pioneer Trail be assessed by the City of Aurora for public improvements to extend the sanitary sewer and water lines to provide sewer and water hook-ups to said sublots.

Moved: Hatridge; Seconded: Womer-Benjamin

The motion carried with a voice vote with all six members in favor.

OLD BUSINESS/PENDING BUSINESS

Streetlight Concerns – Robinhood and Sherwood Drives

Chairman Vaca related that this issue was brought forth before the Committee due to a concern by some residents in the Sherwood/Robinhood Drives area. The residents said the streets are too dark and unsafe.

Director Trew stated that the cost per streetlight installation on an existing pole would be approximately \$1,500 - \$2,500. He advised that streetlighting per City code is generally installed by the developer during housing construction or paid by homeowner under certain circumstances.

Member Knop is in favor of streetlight installation where needed in the interest of safety for the community and City safety services. Member Bucks suggested a program to install yard lights for interested homeowners at the resident's expense (as this is a private matter), and/or with possibly some financial assistance from the City. Members Womer-Benjamin and Hatridge commented that not all homeowners favor streetlighting.

The Committee will poll affected residents to see if there is substantial interest in streetlight installation. Chief Riewaldt advised that the density of the house locations and percentage of those who actually want the streetlights will indicate if the proposed project has merit. Chairman Vaca pointed out that high density areas welcome streetlights, i.e., Geauga Lake area, as it makes the streets visible and safer for the neighborhood.

MOTION: To retain the issue of streetlight installation on the Committee agenda in order to determine interest in this subject matter.

Moved: Kovach; Seconded: Womer-Benjamin
The motion carried with a voice all members in favor.

Proposed Change to Traffic Light Pattern at SR 82/Aurora Commons (Moneta, Greenbriar, Lena Drive) and Proposed Traffic Studies for East Boulevard and Moneta Avenue

Director Trew advised that an engineering consultant, URS, would review the areas of concern and would provide recommendations.

MOTION: To authorize URS to perform a traffic management plan in the amount of \$5,000 after review of the following areas of concern:

Changes to Traffic Light Pattern: SR 82/Aurora Commons, Moneta/SR 43, Fire Light at Fire Station 2 on SR 43, Greenbriar Drive/SR 43, Lena Drive/SR 43, Squires Road at SR 43; and,

Changes to Traffic Pattern: East Boulevard/SR 43, Moneta Avenue/SR 43

Moved: Womer-Benjamin; Seconded: Bucks
The motion carried with a voice vote all six members in favor.

Some additional comments related to traffic light patterns were:

Chief Riewaldt stated that the highest number of accidents occur in the center of town. He related that vehicle accidents have decreased over the past 15 years.

Chairman Vaca expressed that motorists often crash through the red light at Moneta Avenue in order to make the fire light in front of Fire Station 2 before it turns red.

Review of Change of Grade Ordinance Proposal (Fill Dirt)

This proposed ordinance is under review from Law Director Shorr and shall remain on agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS

Committee Member Comments

Member Hatridge noticed that the deer population has decreased since last year.

Member Bucks reported that the guide wire on the siren pole on Eggleston Road is broken.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 07:40 pm.

Moved: Kovach; Seconded: Bucks

The motion carried with a voice vote with all members present in favor.

Transcribed by:

Approved by:

Karen A. Stacko, Secretary
Pro Tem

James Vaca, Chairman

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