

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 22, 2017

A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Alder Beer called the meeting to order. Members present at roll call were Alders Beer, Miller and Bauman. Other Alders, Public Works Director Gerber, Police Chief Kelley, Mayor Armstrong, city staff and Bridget Cooke from The Monroe Times were present. Also present were Andy Hill from Main Street Monroe and resident Tina Miller.

B. CORRECTION OF MINUTES

None

C. ANY APPEARANCES FROM THE PUBLIC

None

D. BUSINESS PRESENTED BY POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. DISCUSS REQUEST FOR STOP SIGN ON 13TH STREET AT 28TH AVE

Police Chief Kelley explained that he had received a stop sign request from resident Tina Miller and he asked her to explain the situation. Tina explained that she is a resident of 13th Street and she is requesting a stop sign or speed bump on the road. She said the street is heavily traveled by pedestrians and children walking to school. She said traffic on the road goes well over the posted speed limit, and there are cars and motorcycles that race each other on the street since it is a straight shot without many cross streets. She is wondering what can be done. Alder Bauman said she lives on the same street and has experienced the same issues.

Public Works Director Gerber explained that a stop sign won't work. It is not a speed control device. What is needed is something that is traffic calming such as speed bumps, or speed humps spaced down the street, not just in one spot. The use of speed signs and radar may also work.

Discussion took place about the options.

Police Chief Kelley said Tina's request is not the first, they have had complaints over the years about this. He said this street used to be HYW 11 before the bypass was built, and it was designed to be a straight shot. He agreed with Public Works Director Gerber that a stop sign won't work. He said it states in the statutes that stop signs are not to be used as speed control devices. His suggestion to the committee is to start by ramping up traffic enforcement in that area. They can put out the radar trailer and have officers sitting out there. They would also post something on their Facebook page and send out a press release. They will be high visibility in the area. The committee members agreed this was a good idea. Tina also agreed with this idea. Alder Bauman requested that Police Chief Kelley report back to them on the situation.

2. CONSIDER SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COMMON COUNCIL

Police Chief Kelley explained this is for the Main Street Monroe St. Patrick's Day Parade. It will take place on the 17th of March and will begin at 5:17pm. They are requesting the permit from 4:30pm-6:15pm. He said this follows their standard parade route and there is nothing out of the ordinary. He wants the council to know that there will be overtime as Police Officers will have to be at all four corners of the square stopping traffic. He recommends approving this event. Alder Bauman made a motion to approve the special event. Alder Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried on voice vote.

3. CONSIDER SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COMMON COUNCIL

Police Chief Kelley explained this is for the YMCA Run Before You Crawl Celtic 5K and Kids Fun Run. It takes place on March 11th from 7:00am – 12pm. He said this is the same day as the Pub Crawl. It will start and end in front of the YMCA with the runners running through the neighborhood. They will need to close the 1200 block of 2nd Street. He said there will also be overtime for this event. He recommends approving it. Alder Miller made a motion to approve the special event. Alder Bauman seconded the motion. The motion carried on voice vote.

4. TIMED PARKING IN DOWNTOWN SQUARE AREA

Police Chief Kelley said this is the request that started with Alder Miller asking for specific stalls being 30 minute only parking. He said he looked at the ordinance and it would be an easy thing to do as it is written in the ordinance as a shell, Council just needs to set time limits by resolution. He suggested not putting the signs in front of business but in a similar spot on each side of the square. He would also like to see this as a part of an overall parking plan. Alder Miller said his idea was to have these spots near restaurants and the pharmacy to help those running into pick up take out or pick up a prescription.

Discussion took place about location and time limit.

Police Chief Kelley said the parking study showed that with parking turn over on the square the parking ramp may not be needed as soon. He also said this could be a good start for the overall parking plan.

More discussion took place about equipment, time limits and cost. Police Chief Kelley said they can look at it again and can bring it back to the committee. Alder Bauman suggested waiting to see if the priority based budget software will happen first. That may help figure out how to pay for it. Police Chief Kelley said no matter what, we need the software and equipment. Public Works Director Gerber said since the parking ramp demo cost less than planned, could that extra money be used towards this cost. City Administrator Rath said he would look into it and see if that would be an option.

Andy from Main Street spoke and said when other communities come to visit they comment on the lack of signs directing where to park. There needs to be long term and free parking signs directing to the lots and at the lots.

Discussion took place about the signs.

Chief Kelley will work with Public Works Director Gerber on time limit signs and creating a resolution for the four timed parking stalls and will bring it back to the committee.

E. BUSINESS BY MEMBERS

None

F. ADJOURNMENT

Alder Miller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Alder Bauman. The motion carried on voice vote.

Nicole M. Cummings, Deputy Clerk