

## **Minutes for September 6, 2022 Safety Committee meeting**

In attendance:

Chairman - David Phares

Committee members Charlie Malta and Theresa Bisbee

Councilwoman Bisbee

Mayor Regovich

Police Chief Turner

Councilman Mike Vanni

Fire Chief Tennyson

Stephanie Langraf (arrived late)

Sean Brennan - Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector

### **Golf Carts**

Chairman Phares stated that a resident on 293rd Street has a golf cart and wants to drive it around. He stated that the Law Director advised that the State of Ohio allows golf carts but local municipalities have to pass an ordinance to allow them to be used. Police Chief Turner stated that the Ohio DMV has a form that can be filled out by the owner of a golf cart if they want to make it street legal. The form is then forwarded to the Police Chief for approval. The owner of the golf cart can then go get a normal plate for the vehicle. The Chief questioned whether we want to pass an ordinance like this - we don't have marinas like Eastlake or large private lots in the city to drive on.

Councilman Malta stated that this resident only wants to drive from neighbor to neighbor on the side streets. Chairman Phares said he had hoped to be able to get approval from the Police Department and be done with it. Apparently this is what Eastlake does but nobody knows if they have passed an ordinance allowing them.

Mayor Regovich asked what happens if the golf cart owner goes to Euclid with it or Eastlake? Would our ordinance apply then? Chief Turner said the form states that it is up to the owner to check local ordinances. The question of do we need an ordinance to allow them or to not prohibit them was raised. Chairman Phares said we need an ordinance to allow them. If you don't have an ordinance then they are not allowed.

Mayor Regovich stated that we have had to deal with four-wheelers going up and down streets in the past - do they need to be street legal to be allowed? Are we considering this ordinance for one person? What about the City's four-wheeler that is driven around from park to park when they are doing maintenance?

Mayor Regovich and others suggested that if the form to make it street legal is approved by the Police Department, then shouldn't that be it?

Law Director Stephanie Langraf arrived and was immediately caught up on the discussion. Chairman Phares stated that the question before the committee is do we want to go forward with trying to put an ordinance together to allow golf carts? Councilman Malta asked why can't we keep going forward? As long as the vehicle is kept on streets that are 25mph? Chief Turner asked if we are only considering golf carts or including ATV's and other vehicles. Chairman Phares stated that we are only dealing with golf carts. We already have an ordinance covering four wheelers and ATV's. Mr. Phares brought up the case of the resident driving an ATV on his property that was an issue a few years back. It was being considered to only allow these vehicles on lots of a certain size. The issue went away eventually.

Chairman Phares mentioned that the committee will move forward with this issue. The Law Director asked if that means we'll have another meeting about it or legislation will be drafted for an ordinance? Chairman Phares answered that he will email the Law Director with details for the ordinance. She felt that the committee should talk about the specific details. We discussed speed limit, can they cross Lake Shore Blvd.? Mayor Regovich inquired as to why this resident wants to use a golf cart? We aren't a resort town. Chairman Phares stated that the owner talked to a police officer and that is what started the whole issue.

Many details were discussed and the Law Director wanted to make sure we aren't passing legislation for one person. The discussion got bogged down in what types of details we wanted to include in the ordinance and some people didn't like the idea of passing this for one person. Legislation should represent the majority of residents. The committee decided to table the issue.

### **Deer Culling**

A resident had an issue with the City of Willowick not implementing a deer culling program and Chairman Phares stated that he does not feel that that is something we need to do in Willowick. The resident was worried about a fatal car accident occurring with a deer but if people drive the speed limit, most of which are 25mph in Willowick, then the likelihood of a fatal car accident occurring is minimal. Mayor Regovich stated that Eastlake had a deer culling program but they have lots that are over three acres. We would have to do this in our parks which are not that big. The problem is residents that feed the deer and then the deer reproduce. We would have to allow the culling process to happen on private properties. Chairman Phares stated that residents can mitigate the problem by planting deer-resistant foliage. The committee voted unanimously to not move forward with a deer culling program.

### **No left turn out of Shoregate Plaza**

Chairman Phares stated that this issue was brought up at the June Safety committee meeting. The idea was brought up on social media about putting in a cement turn island at the middle entrance of Shoregate Plaza to force cars to turn right only. Placing this on the apron would be private property so Shoregate Plaza would have to put this in. Mayor Regovich stated that part

of the Lakefront development plan has these as part of its proposal. Chief Turner stated that it has been set up that way for 30 years and we don't prohibit cars from turning left out of Larimar or E294th etc. so why is it prohibited at Shoregate Plaza? He doesn't recall any accidents due to cars turning left.

### **Fire Department staffing issues**

Chairman Phares asked Mayor Regovich to start the comments and he deferred to the Fire Chief. Highest coverage for 2022 is 99% and low is 84%. August is 95 % shift coverage and we are at about the same levels as the previous year. We keep hiring more and more personnel but when their life events occur - like getting married, having kids etc., they leave to go full-time elsewhere. The Chief requested to have a special Council/Safety meeting to discuss the issue in detail. Councilman Vanni asked if it was the extra hires or the weekend premium that has made things better recently. Chief Tennyson said the premium helped but so did the extra new hires. He stated that it is easy to get into a comfort zone when the staffing is good but the problem does not go away. Mayor Regovich stated that he will be getting a RFQ out for the study from CSU to get an idea of how this issue should be handled. Chairman Phares asked what the timetable was for the report and Mayor Regovich stated that this might take a while.

### **E. 305th Street/Route 2 intersection**

Chairman Phares asked if there has been any consideration of changing the striping on the road to better reflect the lane changes and Mayor Regovich stated that it will be part of the striping project this year that has just gone out to bid. There are no plans to change the footprint of the road though. One of the problems is that the first car in line sometimes goes straight and holds up everyone else. The Mayor also stated that there are other major construction projects occurring simultaneously that are causing problems also. He also mentioned that there are very few accidents in that intersection. This is one of the things that gets ODOT's attention. The County does the off-ramps, ODOT does the design and the lights are controlled by Wickliffe. It isn't easy to just make a change and expect it all to be fixed. Maybe no left turn on Barjode and Oakdale possibly.

A follow-up discussion took place about possibly having an executive session during an upcoming Council meeting to talk about Fire Department staffing. The Law Director suggested we have a work session for Council to discuss the issue.

### **Rats**

Chairman Phares asked Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Sean Brennan if the rat problem is getting worse and he stated it is getting a little worse. He is in the process of putting a map together and working with the Service Department to determine where baiting needs to take place. There are specific areas they are looking at: Blissfield - two catch basins and Densmore - a drain in the rear yards. He has noticed that when he does an inspection he sees bird feeders overfilled, property not being maintained properly etc. He has been going door-to-door and handing out the flyer from the Health Department about how to keep rats away. Residents can call the Lake County Health Department or the Building Department when they have a siting. The Health Department has reported seeing the same thing on their inspections -

overfilled bird feeders, animal droppings not being picked up etc. Mayor Regovich stated that we investigate every complaint that comes in. Many times the person complaining has problems keeping their yard clean such as piles of stick behind the garage and other problems.

*David Rhea*