

CIRCLEVILLE SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES 7/16/2024

Circleville Safety Committee convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Chair Jeff Hallinin, Committee Members Tom Klitzka and Clerk Melissa Burns. Absent Committee Member: Katie Logan Hedges. Other Council Members Present: Tom Duvall, Sheri Theis, Zach Brooks and John Moats. Invited Guest Present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Fire Chief Brian Thompson, Acting Chief of Police Kenny Fisher and the Law Director Kendra Kinney.

Hallinin called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Klitzka motioned to approve the minutes from June 25, 2024. Seconded by Hallinin. Motion carried.

New Business

a) Safety Forces Updates:

Police Department updates from Acting Chief of Police Kenny Fisher: Acting Chief of Police Kenny Fisher said everyone at the CPD is doing well, and morale is improving in the department. They currently have 5 vacancies in the division; two administrative positions; two Police Officers and one Dispatch position. CPD has had a total of 8,723 calls for service. 184 of the calls were for vehicular accidents. They have made 143 arrests and issued 261 citations. CPD just had a new hire who was a lateral candidate from Marysville. Brooks spoke to say he has heard nothing but good stuff about the police department and its current leadership.

Hallinin on behalf of Council thanked the Police Department and all its staff.

Fire Department updates from Chief Brian Thompson: Chief Brian Thompson said through June 30, 2024, the Fire Department has had over 2,331 runs. The CFD had 1,784 EMS calls and 547 non-EMS calls. The department has given 444 Mutual aid runs and received 33 run assists. The daily average is approximately 13 calls. There is a Captain's Vacancy. The Department is looking forward to doing a promotional exam for their two qualified lieutenants. They will have one Firefighter vacancy that can be filled after the captain's position is filled. Hallinin asked about the Safer Grant. Chief Thompson stated he is positive they will qualify for the Safer Grant again. The new ladder truck is still in the process of being built and expected in 2025. Chief Thompson stated there is good morale overall in the department.

Law Director Kendra Kinney gave praise to both the Acting Chief of Police and Chief Brian Thompson. Kinney stated not only do they build relationships within their departments, but they are addressing the relationship dynamics in the County.

b) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE TO SOLICIT BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER AFTER ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE TRAPPING AND DISPOSAL OF NUISANCE ANIMALS WITHIN THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DISCUSSION: Hallinin spoke to state this Ordinance already exists in some ways. Hallinin stated citizens can contact our District Wildlife Officers for referral services. Hallinin would like to see some changes to the Ordinance as it stands. Hallinin also raised concerns about every animal that is caught would be killed.

Tom Klitzka stated he doesn't want to duplicate this service or cost if it already exists. Klitzka stated feral cats are a problem and he doesn't want to harm those animals. Hallinin stated the Law Director said there are grants available to spray or neuter feral cats if they are trapped. Duvall stated residents came and spoke to Council to state nuisance animals were living in the City sewers and killing their pets. The idea was for the City to set aside \$10,000 and award to the lowest bidder a contract to trap and dispose of the nuisance animals.

Janice Filler said raccoons are a problem. She thinks the taxes she pays should help with the problem. She doesn't believe ODNR is the solution.

William Haddox spoke to say there is no definition of what a feral cat is in Ohio. He also stated nuisance trappers who trap feral cats are legally required to release them right away in the same spot they were trapped. He said he charges \$650 per nuisance animal.

Kinney stated that feral cats would need to be a part of the current policy and procedures even if a separate Ordinance were created. Kinney stated the Ordinances are generic in nature and the animals still must be trapped and disposed of according to the Ohio Revised Code. Kinney stated she has reviewed and provided those policies with the Safety Chair. Kinney also raised concerns about the dollar amount of the ordinance if it cost \$650 for just one animal. Duvall stated he believed a trapper would be less than a third of that cost.

Klitzka and Hallinin agreed there is more work to be done with the Ordinance before it is ready.

Old Business: None.

Klitzka motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Seconded by Hallinin.

Hallinin brought the meeting back into session to table the Nuisance Ordinance at 7:06 p.m.

MOTION-VOTE-ROLL CALL: Klitzka motioned to table the Ordinance. Hallinin seconded. Roll call (2 Yeas- 0 Nays). Motion carried.

Klitzka motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Seconded by Hallinin.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.