

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 10, 2017
1:30 P.M.

The following persons were present for the meeting: Chairperson Donna Isenberg, Committee member Jim Bair, President David Quarry, Councilmember James Decker, Sr., Code Enforcement Officer Scott Shaffer, Chief Rufus Brenneman, Mayor DeeDee Brown, Assistant Borough Secretary Melody J. Parsons, and Borough Manager William W. Wheeler.

Visitors: Gary Cramer

Chairperson Isenberg called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were not any public comments at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: Code Enforcement Officer Shaffer asked if there were any questions on his monthly Code Enforcement Officer's Report. He reviewed his report with the committee. Chairperson Isenberg asked Mr. Shaffer about his annual report. Mr. Shaffer explained that "incidents" includes everything. Chairperson Isenberg also asked Mr. Shaffer about a total of unsafe structures reported for April. Mr. Shaffer reported that this total includes minor things that fall under the dangerous structure ordinance. Chairperson Isenberg asked Mr. Shaffer what the total of blighted properties that is in the Borough. He responded he has a total of 18.

Chairperson Isenberg would like to meet monthly to begin reviewing the ordinance for building violation citations. The Committee will meet the week of the 23rd. Mr. Shaffer reported that at the last snow fall he cited homeowners that did not clear their sidewalks. They were given 72 hrs. to clear them. Manager Wheeler reported that they treated each residence and charged them for 1 hr. of labor (\$31.50). Councilperson Bair explained that he is concerned about the homeowner coming back on us for damage to their sidewalk. Manager Wheeler explained that we have an ordinance that we are expected to enforce. The borough would end up being in the likelihood that we share liability if someone falls and is seriously hurt. Mr. Shaffer reported that the ordinance says we can go in and treat sidewalks and charge them. Councilperson Bair what is next step if they do no pay the bill. Manager Wheeler said we will file a citation against them.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Brenneman reviewed his report with the Committee. Chief Brenneman asked if there were any questions. Chief Brenneman reported 325.4

lbs. of prescription pills were destroyed/incinerated this month. There is a meeting with the dispatchers on the 16th to work on the part-time list, changes in 911 operations and to review policies. Chairperson Isenberg asked Chief Brenneman if he had a comparison of the total money collected by the police dept. for 2016 and the total collected for 2015. He does not have it. It is down a little.

Chairperson Isenberg asked if we have a policy on how long a disabled vehicle can be parked on the street. Chief Brenneman asked where the location of the vehicle is parked. He will send out a certified letter to the owner of the vehicle. Chief Brenneman explained the process to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK LIGHTS-4th and PENN STREETS, 8TH AND PENN STREETS waiting for information from TelPower: Manager Wheeler stated that he and Dave were up to investigate this light. He reported that when the walk light comes on the green turn arrow goes off. Dave stated that as long as there is a green light for thru traffic they will feel they have the right to turn. The only thing you can do is to get PennDot to agree that you have a problem and, put an all stop until the 15-second walk sign expires. It takes a lot of work to get PennDot to agree. The Committee agreed to let the intersection remain the way it is.

HANDICAPPED PARKING REQUEST – 12TH STREET UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH: Chairperson Isenberg reminded the Committee that we received a letter from the 12th Street United Methodist Church requesting 2 handicapped parking spaces on the 12th Street side of the church off Mifflin Street. Chairperson Isenberg notified Janet Miller, the Church Secretary, of the Public Safety Committee's suggestion that the Church buy the portable pylons that say "Handicapped Parking". They can use them for any event they have. After the Church's Board meeting, Ms. Miller got back to Chairperson Isenberg and stated that they agreed to buy the portable signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

STOP SIGN REQUEST-HIGH SCHOOL McCLAY AVENUE-PUBLIC

NOTICE IN THE DAILY NEWS, JANUARY 3, 2017: Chairperson Isenberg stated this ordinance will go on the agenda for approval at the January regular meeting.

8th STREET CORNER CAFÉ AND DELI, 8TH STREET PARKING LOT/ CARS TURNING INTO PARKING LOT OFF 8th STREET HILL: CONCERN FOR CUSTOMER CROSSING LOT INTO 8TH STREET CAFÉ: Request 1 or

2 handicapped parking spaces (Gary Cramer): Mr. Cramer requested a couple of handicapped parking spaces put in the 8th Street parking lot. He also stated that there is an issue at the entrance to the parking lot coming in off of 8th Street. Cars turn in going at a too high of speed. Mr. Shaffer suggested that a speed bump is put at the entrance to the parking lot coming in off of 8th Street. Manager Wheeler stated that a speed bump would slow people down. Mr. Cramer stated that a lot of people go out that entrance. Manager Wheeler stated that is an enforcement issue. Chief Brenneman asked if there is an ordinance enforcing the sign.

Manager Wheeler will have handicapped parking space signs installed in the 8th and 7th Street parking lots at the entrances closest to Penn St. Chairperson Isenberg will get the information to the Solicitor for the Ordinances. Manager Wheeler stated that when we do the painting for the 2 van handicapped parking spaces and a speed bump at the entrance of the 8th Street parking lot. We will put a larger sign up if there is one available, saying this is not an exit.

WATER PLANT GATE-DEPT. TRUCKS COMING OUT ONTO BEARCAT ALLEY. TRAFFIC TRAVELING TOO FAST COMING DOWN BEARCAT ALLEY-COULD BECOME AN ACCIDENT CONCERN: POSSIBLE

SUGGESTIONS: Mirror on top of the gate, speed sign, truck crossing sign. Chairperson Isenberg stated that it came to her attention last week that with the green fencing up you cannot see cars coming to make the turn onto Bearcat Alley. If it wasn't there you could see them coming but with all the equipment parked along the fence, it has become an obstacle. Something should be figured out so we do not have an accident there. She asked if there was a possibility to put a mirror up. Manager Wheeler said the mirror would be on the wrong side of the road. Manager Wheeler stated it is a Borough Street so we could possibly mount a pole to put a mirror on. Manager Wheeler will have Supt. Yarnell check into the price for a pole and a mirror.

ACORN & ARBOR BLUFF-NO POLICE PROTECTION: Chairperson Isenberg asked Chief Brenneman to check into the police protection at Acorn Circle & Arbor Bluff. Council had a visit at a previous meeting from Kay Rossman, a resident of Acorn Circle. She also brought up that there is a speeding problem in this area. Chief Brenneman will look into this as well.

OTHER ISSUES:

SAFETY EYE GLASSES Department Employees, Kevin Johnston: On hold.

Chairperson Isenberg stated there is no further update.

9TH & MOORE STREET (Hill & Curve) SIGNAGE: Chairperson Isenberg stated that this is hold.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS MANAGEMENT-JIM DECKER:

Chairperson Isenberg asked Chief Brenneman if he could work on a policy for pedestrian crossing sign management. Chief Brenneman will get this together.

Councilperson Bair asked Mr. Shaffer to look at the For Sale sign at Dubois Business College. It is falling.

ADJOURNMENT:

FINAL DRAFT

BY: Melody Parsons
Assistant Borough Secretary