

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

September 6, 2023

5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dana Davis, Chair• Brad Blanke• Steve Board• Eric Schmid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police Chief Robert Kaminski• Assistant Chief Benjamin Olsen• City Engineer Jaynellen Holloway• Stacy Winkelman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annette Bliefernicht• Roger Bliefernicht• John Kaliebe

2. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Kaliebe shared comments about permanently closing Water St. He found meeting notes on the RDA website where the Smith Group said definitively that Water St. would not be permanently closed. He wants to know why center lines are not painted on S. Water St. He wants to know when the lamplight on Main St. from Church St. going east to the bridge is going to be fixed. They have been out since April 2023. He is also concerned about the use of bikes, scooters and skateboards on the sidewalks on Main. He is also concerned about the increase of motorized scooters and skateboards in the road going at a high speed.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes for the August 2, 2023 meeting have been presented to the Common Council without correction, so those minutes are simply noted at this point on this agenda.

4. BUSINESS

A. Public hearing for proposed gas meter within O'Connell Street public right-of-way.

The meeting was opened for public comments. Being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

B. Review and take possible action: Proposed gas meter within O'Connell Street public right-of-way

Jaynellen explained that the owner needs to move the gas meter because by code it can no longer be in the basement and must be on the outside of the building. The owners has worked with WE Energies to determine the best place to put the gas meter. It has been determined that the north side of the building would be best. However, putting the meter there will be an encroachment, so the owner is requesting a variance. If a variance is granted, Engineering is required that bollards be placed around the meter to protect the meter and there must also be 5ft width of sidewalk. The owner is willing to put in the bollards and maintain a 5 ft. width of sidewalk.

MOTION: Blanke made the motion to approve the variance with the condition that the owner puts in the bollards and makes the sidewalk improvements – maintain the 5 ft. width requirement. Board seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At this point in the meeting a motion was made by Board, supported by Schmid and unanimously approved to move letter F. up on the agenda to accommodate the residents in the room who had come to speak on the matter.

F. Review and take possible action: traffic concerns on Carriage Hill Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Bliefernicht came to speak about the speeding on Carriage Hill Drive. They say that there is high traffic volume at times with major tournaments at Brandt Quirk Park. Cars speed through the area and they are concerned that there will be accidents or someone will be hurt. The traffic does slow down when there is a police presence. The committee discussed many options: speed display signs that flash when the driver is speeding, speed humps, a 3-way stop. Cost is prohibitive in purchasing the speed display signs. If a speed study is done, it can't be scheduled until Summer when interns are available.

MOTION: Board made a motion to table the issue and to ask the city staff to explore the cost of a speed control display sign and whether there were funds available to purchase the sign. Schmid seconded the motion. Blanke proposed an amendment to the motion to do a traffic control study.

- Jaynellen said there were no personnel available right now to do a speed study.
- Jaynellen cautioned that – should a speed study come back indicating that 85% of drivers are driving above the speed limit, it would mean that the speed limit in the area would have to be raised.

Blanke withdrew his motion. Blanke proposed another amendment to investigate putting in a 3-way stop at Carriage Hill and Country. Accepted as a friendly.

AMENDED MOTION: Table the issue and ask the city staff to explore the cost of a speed control display sign, whether available funding exists to purchase one. In addition, direct the city staff to investigate putting in a 3-way stop at Carriage Hill and Country. Motion passed unanimously. Information to be presented at the October meeting.

C. Review and take possible action: Add safety precautions at the crosswalk at the intersection of Labaree and Boughton Streets

Board has observed many near-misses at this location and is concerned that pedestrians will be hit by cars. In the past, there was a crosswalk sign placed in the middle of the crosswalk. Stacey Winkelman said that she would investigate that and put the sign back if possible. Discussion also surrounded the need for additional Auxiliary police officers to cross pedestrians during Riverside events like Riverfest. Also – the firework causes a distraction and perhaps traffic should be diverted while the fireworks are being deployed.

MOTION: Blanke made a motion to instruct staff to get a price on the flashing pedestrian signs and bring back a price and a suggested location at the next Public Safety meeting in October. Seconded by Schmid. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Review and take possible action: Adding No Parking on a portion of the 1100 block of Pleasant Street.

Residents would like no parking signs so that they can get in and out of their driveway more easily.

MOTION: Schmid made a motion to deny the request. Blanke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Review and take possible action: Add signage “All Pets Must Be On a Leash” on City portion of Interurban Trail.

Board has received concern from a resident about the number of dogs that are off-leash on the Interurban Trail. Blanke reminded the committee that – sign or no sign – having a dog off-leash is not permitted in city limits. Others confirmed that this is a problem.

MOTION: Board made a motion to put two signs up saying “All Pets Must Be On a Leash” with the ordinance cited located at both city entrances to the trail. Davis seconded the motion. Board and Davis voted in favor. Blanke and Schmid voted against the motion. The motion did not pass.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no additional business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Alderperson Schmid, seconded by Alderperson Board, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted - Dana Davis, Chairperson