

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2023

The Safety Committee meeting was held on June 20, 2023 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Heidi Webber; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Linda Barath, Joanne Krejci, John Nickell; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Economic Development Director Tom Jordan, Law Director Tom Kelly; **Other:** Thomas Maulorico, Joe Safranek, Joel Spatz, Lexie Jezior, Nick Rinaldi, Ann Marie Rinaldi.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of April 18, 2023 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police & Safety Report

See report.

Mr. Nickell inquired about the ATV (all-terrain vehicle) concern, as to what ward the complaints were in. Chief Tarase indicated they were most likely, in that of Mr. Nickell's ward; Ward 1.

Regarding hiring, Chief Tarase advised that the Police Department was down by one full time officer. Our civil service list has been exhausted. He is currently working with Civil Service to set up a new test. We are accepting lateral applications indefinitely, in which we have not had any applications.

Pertaining to the Flock Cameras, he explained that nine of the ten cameras have been installed this month. One camera at Ridge Road and the city line has not been as of yet, due to some utilities; they are working with that. Within two weeks of the cameras being installed, we have already solved two crimes and are working on a third one at this time. Mr. Nickell questioned how the cameras helped to assist. Chief Tarase explained that the first one was within a week, which entailed a two-month-old credit card theft. Once the cameras went up, we did a search of that vehicle type, in which they were still within the City. Mr. Vos asked about the second one. Chief Tarase indicated that it involved a warrant. The third one was a burglary that we are working on.

Resident Joseph Safranek, of 8093 Washington Avenue, wanted to speak on the noise ordinance. He has been called on several times, which has not been only about cutting the lawn. His kids were doing a school project once after 6:00 p.m. and were using some tools, in which the Police were called. It seems that you cannot use anything that makes noise on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.; that is what the law states. The Police have shown up, in which they seem confused. He went on to say that the Police communicated two weeks ago, that they had passed three people cutting the lawn after 6:00 p.m. in that development. Mr. Safranek wanted to speak on this and about cutting the grass in the evening time, which he shared is better for the environment. The worse time to cut your lawn is before 4:00 p.m. With the busy lifestyles, jobs, and kids' sports, he barely gets home with enough time to do anything in the yard. On Sundays, he likes to watch the Browns game, then at roughly 5:00 p.m. he goes outside. He has looked at other cities, such as Broadview Heights, and their cut off time is 8:00 p.m. on Sunday. He is asking for a little lenience on the noise on Sunday. He felt that we should let the Police do their jobs and leave the residents alone. He is hoping that we can look at this rule and perhaps update it.

Ms. Krejci discussed the complaints, whereas Mr. Safranek had been called on three times. Chief Tarase stated there were not any noise complaints and perhaps they were the month of May. He was aware there were some this month, which would be in next month's report. Ms. Krejci asked whether it becomes an inconvenience for our Police Department to have to respond to such calls. Mr. Dietrich felt that officers have better use of their time than going and checking on a noise ordinance that is super minor; we are short staffed

as it is. He raised question about the number of officers on duty per shift. Chief Tarase indicated there are between four and seven, depending on the day and time. Mr. Dietrich desired to change this time as well.

Mr. Wos recalled that in the time he has been on Council, he has had one compliant perhaps, which was about a commercial landscaping company cutting grass around 7:00 p.m. on a Sunday evening. He is aware there are complaints, and he even gets them for people that are 'not' cutting their grass. There are some properties that are an issue every year. He brought up that it is still daylight until 9:00 p.m. He agreed with the resident that it is not good for your lawn, to cut it during the hottest time of the day. He felt that it was not a big deal if people are cutting their grass between 6:00-7:00 p.m., especially those with larger land. Mr. Wos wanted to know if everyone was okay with reviewing this and perhaps changing the time to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Dietrich was good with 8:00 p.m. and Mr. Nickell preferred 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Nickell shared that his only concern was we do not change laws for one issue; for one individual. He stated that we can look at it and he would not want it for later than 7:00 p.m., however he understood the resident. Ms. Barath indicated that she recently received e-mails from senior residents who are complaining about 6:00 p.m. She felt that we have other residents that we must make decisions based around as well. Mr. Wos agreed that we need to discuss it further. He would personally rather have someone having a nicer looking yard and keep the property values up in the community. Mr. Nickell wanted to avoid neighbor disputes.

Mr. Dietrich agreed with Mr. Nickell that we do not make legislation for one person. However, he did not feel that is going on. He believed we are being made aware of a situation because of one situation, and he did not know the cut off time. He felt that we should make a compromise, for example 7:30 p.m. He stated that we need to be clear if it is just about grass cutting. He pointed out if you extend the time for noise, it should be specific to grass cutting; not the noise ordinance. He also felt that for grass cutting, it should be at least 7:30 p.m. Ms. Krejci was in agreeance to take a look at it and discuss it. Mr. Wos mentioned that Ms. Schroeder could perhaps check what some of the surroundings cities are practicing.

2. Safety Town

Chief Chegan reported that we have been putting the project in phases. He was waiting on foundation costs, which would be the first phase. We will probably be putting this in writing soon. Due to a personal issue, he was kept from working with some of our fundraising efforts for the month of June, which we wanted to start; however, we were unable to make that.

The first phase would be the foundation, which is basically the concrete structure to put everything down, and initial landscaping around that. Phase 2 would be the buildings. We already received news that the schools would not help us with the buildings; the Career Center. Phase 3 would entail painting, lighting, and other miscellaneous things. Phase 4 would be the fencing, and the last phase would be putting it all together. We are working with one of the members on his department to put templates together for the structures of the buildings. We know we could have other ventures to get volunteers to put that together, therefore we are going to put as many templates together as possible to make that very easy for the future. We will have more information on the fundraising next time. We would look to get Phase 1 done quicker, however that is the biggest expense.

Ms. Barath asked if we are still in the fundraising phase. Chief Chegan concurred. Mr. Marnecheck inquired about the possibility of whether this could be an Eagle Scout project, with regard to the templates. Mayor Antoskiewicz was not so sure. He stated that he would have to speak with the Chief. Chief Chegan indicated that currently, we are putting the templates together to see what it would be as far as that type of work; if it would be in the scope. He felt that could be on the table. Mr. Wos mentioned that the high school has a shop. Chief Chegan noted that at this point, the school was not able to help. He shared that he does have other options on the table that he will be working with.

3. Fire Report

Chief Chegan explained that the run volume has picked up from the beginning of the year. Earlier in the year, we were slower than last year, however we have recently exceeded where we were last year. We have had quite a bit of significant runs. We demonstrated our mutual aid capabilities in recent weeks, where we had a large commercial fire in a neighboring city on a Sunday. Lateral 1 attended as well, in which they were there four hours. At that same time, we also had a structure fire here, which our remaining guys put a lot of work in, because there was no mutual aid for them. The day prior, the Chief had a conversation with someone regarding Olmsted Falls, as to when was the last time they were in our City. In thirty-three years, they have never responded to our City; that came to an end the next day. That was one of the closest mutual aid companies for our Fire Department, so we have been very busy with over eleven structure fires in the last six weeks; most of them were not ours. Our mutual aid responds to those cities, which is valuable because they are going to reciprocate and come to us when it is needed also. We were still able to give mutual aid for the fire that we had. Strongsville had a couple and there have been two fatal fires in our region as well. We have had significant events that we have been able to handle, not just internally within our City, but specifically a lot of the major calls.

Chief Chegan reported that we are hiring someone within the next four weeks, which replaces a member that retired in April; there will be a swearing in. Last month, the three guys that we hired prior have already started. They have been on shift for about 6-7 weeks and are doing fine. Ms. Krejci asked whether this puts us at 'full,' or if there are still more open positions. Chief Chegan clarified that we are at compliment, as far as what we voted on; the Master Plan. Over the summer, we still have some work to do with our CAD System and Dispatch. That takes some work on our part with our Dispatch Center and what we have to do. He commented that is a lot of work on Chief Tarase's end. There is still much work to do in those phases over the summer, in which both teams would be working on.

Pertaining to hydrant maintenance, Chief Chegan advised that we are in Ward 6. This is the quickest we have worked with the extra man power, which helped dramatically. It has been very beneficial to get this done sooner, based on what was provided. Pertaining to hydrant painting, we are still in que. We are still waiting on the date of when they will be in the area; they do work for four other cities. Mr. Marnecheck wanted to know the number of fire hydrants that the Chief desired to paint this year. Chief Chegan clarified that would be 258, in which he sent an e-mail. For 2024, there will be 98 hydrants left for the main roads, and then we are complete. He noted that last year's hydrants still look really good.

Chief Chegan brought up the Safety Fair and the many folks that attended. It was another grand event and he gave kudos to his Administrative Assistant, Kathy Salvo, who is the lead on that. He felt that a lot of the work begins in January. Those that attended saw that amount of people we had there and all the kids. He went on to say that we started this around 1995, in which he moved it to the Assistant and she has taken it to great heights. He expressed his appreciation.

Chief Chegan discussed gas and oil wells, which he has had two complaints received. He has been working on them for the last couple of weeks. Over the years, we have had some major concerns. These include some that have been wanting to drill in our City, and wanting to have City land used. Basically, the City has no jurisdiction on gas and oil wells. This is citizen complaint based on the driller or the company that is involved with that. With that being said, we have embraced that and made sure that we are still going to assist those residents, and look at every issue to ensure there is no safety concern. Both are not safety concerns, however there have been complaints about noise coming from the gas and oil wells. He has been to each area numerous times trying to listen. He obtained a time frame, which was this morning at 9:30 a.m. He was at that location and did not hear some of those issues. However, he is still in contact with the company to make sure they are aware that we had complaints, and we would like for them to come out and look at these wells; which they will. Pre-Covid, we were also in touch with ODNR frequently, and we would ask them to do inspections on the wells. Chief Chegan pointed out that we should not be doing the inspections; that is ODNR's well house. He believed the full report may have been in 2021. Due to Covid, they had not been able to get out and get all of those completed. Therefore, we are asking them to look at what they have done in the past for us, and inspect the wells in our City. We are hoping to have a report in the near future.

Mr. Wos asked about the vicinity in which there were two noise complaints. Chief Chegan indicated it was off Wallings Road. He reiterated that we will address each one of them. Once they are not a safety concern, we will do what we can to get the companies out to make a repair, etc.

4. K9 Support Dog

Chief Tarase brought up Council having passed the ordinance at the last meeting, and the schools have approved an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) as well. He is waiting on a signed copy of the MOU. Officer Jezior expressed her appreciation for everyone's support and thanked everyone. She anticipates starting up with the dog in the schools on August 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Speed Tables

Mr. Marnecheck had sent information to Ms. Krejci regarding speed tables, whereas there was an article on Channel 5. He had some residents bring it up to him as well, pertaining to something that Cleveland did where they installed speed tables as a way to do speed control. He thought it may be something for North Royalton to look at and he wanted to get the Chief's thoughts.

Chief Tarase advised that he did a little research on speed bumps, speed humps, and speed tables. Essentially, a speed table are speed humps that have been modified with a flat top to it, and are made of asphalt or rubber. He felt that it would be a radical solution to a minimal problem. We have some speeding complaints in certain areas on a regular basis, however he did not feel that this is a solution that we need to look at. One disadvantage is, it reduces emergency response times by having to slow vehicles down. You also have an issue with snow plowing in the winter time. They would require signage. First of all, notifying people that there are speed tables, and then you would need signage for the plow drivers to raise their plows to prevent them from getting damaged. Some of the recommendations is for lighting and visibility of the speed tables, which is concerning in some of our developments; some do not have street lighting. Also, they can produce increased noise with vehicles going over them. They would require a traffic study to see where the best placements would be, which brings up cost. A speed hump costs roughly \$2,000, and speed tables can range anywhere from \$5,000 - \$15,000, depending on the material and type of drainage. Personally, Chief Tarase's opinion was that he did not see a need for these.

Resident Thomas Maulorico, of 10231 Foxwood Drive, mentioned that Ms. Barath brought this to his attention. He could not agree more with the Chief of Police. He shared that when someone dies in an accident on a side street or when something bad happens, there is an emotional reaction to do something right away. There is a loss of control, however you can control your response of trying to make it better. But sometimes it is not the right thing, to do something right away. He agreed with the Chief. He believed that police presence is just as effective as a speed bump if there is a problem. He did not feel it would be a good idea for North Royalton to have these.

Resident Nick Rinaldi, of 9360 Royal Valley Drive, also agreed and was not in support of these. He concurred with the Chief of Police.

Mr. Nickell mentioned that it is a common problem. People can sometimes drive through short cuts pretty fast. He shared an idea to perhaps put trailers out in the problem areas if money is going to be spent, however he did not wish to spend money.

Mr. Marnecheck concluded that he considered this item discussed.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Wos, seconded by Ms. Webber **to adjourn the April 18, 2023 Safety Committee meeting.**
Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

North Royalton Police Department

Incident	# of for May 2023
MVA FATAL	0
MVA DEER	2
MVA HIT SKIP	7
MVA INJURY	0
MVA NON INJURY	31
MVA PRIVATE PROPERTY	8
PHYSICAL ARRESTS	31
SPEEDING CITATIONS	29
THEFTS (Includes Attempts)	16
SUNDAY NOISE COMPLAINTS (Mower/Leaf Blower)	2021 = 0 2022 = 1 (after 6pm) 2023 = 0 through May 31st