

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

March 8th, 2011
5:30 P.M.

Council Committee Members: Chair Mark Masser, Matt Lampke, Jed Morison

Roll Call: Chair Mark Masser and Jed Morison.

Others Present: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Ben Kessler, President McClelland, Chief Rinehart and Gary Qualmann.

Review of Minutes: February 8th, 2011 - **Approved**

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Rinehart announced that three young men were apprehended for graffiti crimes on Main Street and various alleys. They will be going through the Juvenile Diversion since they were all under 18 years of age at the time of committing the crimes. There were stop signs, dumpsters and the back of some businesses that were vandalized.

The second item is May 21st will be the fourth annual, "Ride Bexley Ride" event for CHOICES. This is a great family event and the first lady will be available at the Governor's Mansion and we are hoping to have either Dr. Gee or Brutus Buckeye and the OSU cheerleaders again this year. He encouraged all of the Council members to participate in the event.

Report of Mayor/Safety Director: Mayor Brennan said he was very happy to hear about the arrests. This has been an ongoing problem and he is relieved the individuals were apprehended.

The City received an inquiry about the possibility of placing new signs at the Montrose school. He said Mr. Harvey spoke with the principal and informed him we would help in any way we could but the school would have to purchase the actual signage. He has observed the school at various times for traffic. So far it has been quiet but he did witness parents drive thru the barricades on more than one occasion.

He said he meets with the Franklin County Board of Health every three months and is happy Dr. Meyers was able to attend tonight's meeting.

Presentation by Dr. Meyers: Dr. Meyers said most people are familiar with the color coded signs used by restaurants in the City of Columbus. He understands their concern for business owners who may have received a lower rating due to a non-food issue, etc. He does however feel it is important for consumers to know that a restaurant has been inspected and to allow

them the right to review the inspection report. He showed a small sign the Board of Health would like to have Bexley issue to the restaurants and require them to post the date of their last inspection. In addition, it would be mandatory for the business to have a copy of their latest inspection report available for a consumer to review if requested.

Mayor Brennan said this is a scaled down version of the red, green and yellow signs used in other areas. He said as a former business owner, he is opposed to the signs because an inspector could come in during lunch hour and the chef could have just finished making a sandwich and not have put the meat right back in the refrigerator and be cited. The Mayor did say the scaled version is a better alternative because it only states the date of the last inspection.

Mr. Morison agreed and said he thinks the scaled down version would be better for restaurant owners. He said we do need to keep in mind that we are trying to encourage businesses to come to Bexley. Dr. Meyers said someone businesses in Bexley are using them on a volunteer basis but he would like to make it required. COSI and Grater's both have the cards currently displayed. Mayor Brennan said restaurants are inspected twice a year. Dr. Meyers said if a violation is discovered during an inspection, the inspector does come back within two weeks to make sure it has been corrected.

President McClelland asked if there were any costs involved to the city. Dr. Meyers replied no costs are involved. He said the Franklin County Board of Health would like to use Bexley as the "guinea pig" so to speak for the suburban communities.

Mr. Masser requested that Mr. Chodosh review the proposed Resolution and will wait to hold discussion until the first reading.

Remarks from Audience: Mr. Boyd addressed Council about his concerns with the safety factors at Montrose. He said more traffic is inherently more risk. It makes him uncomfortable that Council and the administration are waiting before taking any actions. He asked if there are any intentions to have conversations with the School Board members. He understands they spoke with Dr. Johnson regarding this matter but did not see any details listed in the Minutes. He said he did appreciate being able to read the Agenda online prior to this evening's meeting.

Mayor Brennan said in February, he did report to Council on his meeting with Dr. Johnson and the possibility of moving some crosswalks or possibly making them brighter in the spring. He said the traffic has been flowing well with the new island and is going smoothly. He said he probably will have the police out more at lunch time around the school areas. It is the 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. time period he is concerned with. He will be discussing this with Chief Rinehart as well. He said most businesses have the delivery trucks come in the early morning times so they should not be a problem. The traffic report has not been completed because without the business being open, we are unable to conduct a proper traffic study. Dr. Johnson does not want to make any of the alleys one way because his concern is that it would make traffic too congested.

Mr. Masser said he would like to hold a Special Safety Meeting with the school board members and invite the public to discuss these concerns. We could hold this meeting on a night when there is no Council meeting. We are always open to new ideas.

Mr. Sharp said there was an issue (even prior to the island) where three or four cars would come through and turn the other way. The eastbound cars come in quickly without allowing the first car to move. Mayor Brennan agreed.

Ordinances –

Third Readings.

None.

Second Readings.

Ordinance 06-11 to amend Bexley City Code 840, Transient Dealers; to allow the purchase of used college textbooks by transient dealers, introduced by Mr. Masser, (Introduced on February 22, 2011)

It was suggested to delete the term “limited” from the Ordinance. Mr. Sharp said the language on the sidewalks was acceptable but the right-of-way would be on the grass. Mr. Masser said the gentleman who approached Council has a table with a tent or a van that can be parked and the side doors opened. Mr. Morison asked if this information could be individually listed on the permit. Mayor Brennan said the permit would specify the location and the charge would be \$50.00; we could limit them to three times a year.

Mr. Chodosh said this needs to be specific in order to keep from conflicting with the current Section 648.13 clearly indicates you can't obstruct the sidewalk. Mr. Sharp said the Farmer's Market actually violates that section as well.

First Readings.

None.

New Business: Mr. Morison asked everyone to please remind bikers to wear their helmets.

Other Business: None.

Adjourned 6:10 p.m.