SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

April 13th, 2010
5:30 P.M.

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

Call to Order: Matt Lampke and Jed Morison (Mr. Masser was absent)

Others Present: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Bill Harvey, President McClelland, Chief Rinehart, Richard Sharp, Gary Qualmann, Rick Weber.

Review of Minutes from March 9th, 2010- Approved

Report of Chief of Police - Chief Rinehart said they are in the process of hiring an animal control officer. The applications have been narrowed down to the top 10 for the next process. All ten final applicants are very qualified. Mr. Weber asked if there have been complaints from residents about the City not having its own animal control officer. Chief Rinehart said there have been some calls. The police can't respond as quickly because they have to prioritize their runs. Mr. Weber suggested that prior to the animal control officer being hired that the Chief consider Saturday and evening hours when events are most likely to occur. Mr. Morison agreed that the hours needed to be flexible to include weekends and possibly evenings.

The Police Department will be hiring two new police officers to replace Tony Martin and Bobby Cull. Sgt. Martin will be retiring on January, 2011. Two police officers will be promoted to the rank of Sgt. This will be accomplished based on performance and assessments.

Chief Rinehart said there is potential for two reserve police officers who will be volunteers. He also announced that he will be the keynote speaker at Capital University's event which is an "Abuse Prevention Program".

Report of Mayor/Safety Director- Global Friendship is sponsoring international children to visit Bexley. They will be housed in the school and are asking local families to help out. They may use the pool a few evenings while they are visiting.

Proposed Ordinances: **Ordinance No. 22-10** establishing a Drug Offense Nuisance and Abatement Procedure for felony drug offenses occurring on any premises, introduced by Mr. Lampke, (Introduced on April 13, 2010)

Mr. Lampke said the State of Ohio provides for felony offenses but not misdemeanor offenses regarding activities occurring at an owners, landlord or business property. This Ordinance would adopt the State statute and alert land owners or businesses of abatement. The recent occurrence in Bexley involved helicopters and had the street blocked off from traffic. In that particular location, nothing has occurred since the event.

President McClelland asked how this Ordinance would co-exist with the current landowners' rights. Mr. Lampke stated it would allow the City to take action if the landlord fails to evict the renters. The initial idea is to protect the residents. Mayor Brennan said he spoke with the landowner and he said he can't evict the renters until they are proven guilty. Mr. Masser said he would like some time to review this Ordinance before it is placed on the Agenda. Mr. Chodosh said one thing landlords can use according to State law is having "reasonable knowledge". The landlord's attorney is concerned about taking action because he doesn't want to be charged with defamation. Mr. Chodosh said we might create more problems than we resolve.

Mr. Kessler said the City is in need of a housing code. Standards vary a lot in Bexley neighborhoods. Criminal activity results in housing not being kept up properly.

Mr. Chodosh said he spoke with the school in Bexley and they have no issues with the changes relating to Safety Patrol with Tabled Ordinance 10-10. Mr. Morison suggested that the Ordinance be removed from the table.

Other Business: Mr. Morison said Mark Masser had met with David Comisford regarding the purchasing of text books. Both he and Mr. Masser had agreed to permit Mr. Comisford to purchase books from the same location that the Farmers' Market is held. Mr. Comisford was present at the meeting and said it was his understanding as well. Mr. McClelland requested Mr. Chodosh to draft a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed that states this is a one year agreement. Mr. Chodosh agreed. Mr. Weber voiced his concern over possible future business owners requesting to be allowed the same rights.

Next meeting –May 11th, 2010

Adjourned 6:10 p.m.