**SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**
**MINUTES**
June 8, 2010
5:30 P.M.

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

**Others Present**: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Bill Harvey, Ben Kessler, Chief Rinehart, Richard Sharp and Rick Weber.

**Review of Minutes from May 11, 2010 and May 25, 2010** - Approved

**Special Guest Presentation**: Tim Madison and Dr. Jonathan Groner regarding bicycle helmet laws.

Mr. Madison said he has five children and has been a lifelong resident of Bexley. He thought the City of Bexley already had a bicycle law and was corrected by his ten year old son. Mr. Madison said the City of Columbus along with 22 other cities have a law requiring individuals under a certain age to wear a helmet. His proposal would be to make a law that age 15 or under be required to wear a helmet. The intent is not to make the City money but rather to protect our youth and promote safety. Mr. Madison said the City of Pickerington just passed a law this week for children under 16 years old. They have a $25.00 fine for non-compliance. This would be similar to the no texting while driving law. It certainly isn't one that is easily enforced, however it does promote safety. He understands that some are concerned it will cause an undue burden on the police department. He is also willing to help educate children by volunteering to speak at schools. Mr. Weber asked why the age of 15? Mr. Madison said most 16 year old teenagers drive everywhere versus riding their bikes.

Mr. Madison said he asked Dr. Groner, who works at Children's Hospital to come speak to Council this evening. Mr. Sharp asked if Safety Town included encouraging children to wear their helmets. Chief Rinehart said that is correct. Mr. Sharp said there are currently a number of positive programs for children in place. We currently offer coupons for free Johnson's Ice Cream or Dairy Queen cones to children who are using helmets. He said we also have the annual bike helmet coloring contest sponsored by Mr. Morison. Mr. Madison said it is good that we reward children for doing the right thing but having an additional law would help.

Dr. Groner said he has been a Bexley resident since 1991. He rides his bike to work several times a week. He has a friend, who even as an adult, experienced brain damage from an accident while riding a bicycle. He said studies show that having a law increases usage and reduces brain injuries. Brain injuries are a life altering event, especially for children. Studies

show 75% of the population support bike helmet laws for children under the age of 16. He said injuries for individuals age 16 and over are considered "adult trauma" and males are the most predominant for brain injuries.

**Report of Chief of Police-** No Report

**Report of Mayor/Safety Director-** No Report

**New Business:** None

**Other Business:** None

**Next meeting** –July 13th, 2010

**Adjourn**