SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
June 9, 2009
5:30 P.M.

Council Committee Members: Chair Jed Morison, Ben Kessler, Mark Masser

1. **Call to Order** – All members present.

   Others Present: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Larry Heiser, Robyn Jones, President Lampke, Jeff McClelland, Chief Rinehart and Rick Weber.

2. **Review of Minutes** from May 12th, 2009 Safety Meeting- Approved

3. **Report of Chief of Police**- Officer Wayne will be retiring at the end of this month. We are having a dinner in his honor and anyone interested in coming should contact Anita. The written test for the open police officer position will be held on July 25th. The application and job opening are both posted on the web site. We advertised in the Dispatch and the Chief of Police web site. He stated he is always open to new ideas regarding where to advertise this position, so please let him know. The police force is well underway in planning and preparing for the 4th of July events. Chief Rinehart stated he has coordinated a meeting with the different schools to discuss safety and emergency procedures. This will be held on August 10th and provides him the opportunity to hear any concerns the school officials may have. He has met with some of the local synagogues to review safety procedures and plans.

   Mr. Morison asked the names of the Civil Service Committee. Mr. Heiser answered John Offenberg is the Chairman, Lee Nathans and Pat Devine. Mr. Morison stated those are some excellent individuals assisting with this process. Chief Rinehart stated they have experience since we have already gone through this process once.

4. **Progress of Police Station** – Chief Rinehart stated the progress is going well on the new building. They are currently putting up the brick and he is planning on holding his next meeting with the sergeants on the second floor of the building. At this time, we are still looking at December for a completion date. Mr. Harvey added they have reached the process where delays could occur so they will not commit to an earlier time.

   a. Any change orders – There are no substantial change orders.

5. **Report of Mayor/Safety Director-** Mayor Brennan reminded everyone that Bexley is holding several graduation parties and tomorrow will be the last day of school. There will be more children out and he has received several requests for block parties. One will be held tomorrow night on Stanwood that consist of three different graduates. He expects a large crowd to attend. We need to make sure everyone is safe and we are out patrolling and being proactive. Ms. Jones made the comment we always hear about problems with the teenagers drinking at parties and she attended several where alcohol was provided with teens in attendance and she did not see any of them consuming alcohol. She stated she thinks the majority of students are good kids.

Mayor Brennan stated they have received a lot of positive comments about the stripping for the parking spaces. He said the merchants are 90% pleased with the additional parking and it has been a big help to Bruegger's Bagels and Flavors. Eloise Buker is still working on the parking study and we should be receiving a final report from her before the end of the summer.

6. **Ordinance No. 32-09** to amend Bexley Codified Ordinance 262.02, to allow the Police Chief and Police Captain certain benefits to commensurate with the practices defined in the collective bargaining agreement for other City Police Officers, introduced by Mr. Morison, (Introduced on May 26, 2009)

Mr. Morison stated this is the second reading for this Ordinance. He would like to see it passed tonight since it relates to two of our personnel. The Ordinance allows for the same benefits as the bargaining unit. Mr. Weber asked if we routinely allow this process. Mr. Morison said this is usually allowed and very common in most surrounding areas. Mr. Chodosh stated it is a separate Ordinance since they are not part of the union. Mr. Morison stated it relates more to benefits than to salary. Chief Rinehart said that Captain Buty has been with Bexley for 30 or 32 years and it would include the fitness incentive for him and increases the tuition reimbursement from $3,000 per year to $4,000 per year. Mr. Kessler asked if Chief Rinehart takes an unbiased position in the union negotiations. Mr. Rinehart stated that he always remains quiet regarding issues like salary or incentives that would affect him. He does speak up on other issues for the City's defense. Mr. Chodosh agreed. Mr. Morison stated he would like to have this Ordinance suspended and adopted this evening. **Vote 3-0 to recommend passage.**

7. **Fire and Emergency Services-** Mr. Morison had added this topic to the Agenda to discuss Fire and Emergency Services and what effect it would be on Bexley as it relates to income tax. The City of Columbus has been talking about closing of possibly two fire stations and a lay off of fireman. If this occurs, it will certainly affect our services. In past studies, we have a current 4 or 5 minute response time. The City of Columbus has not yet announced which stations will be closed. The stations that service Bexley are 15H, 21 and 20. He said it is very important for our residents to be aware of this issue. Mr. Masser stated he had received some phone calls concerning the same issue. He had heard the City may consider staggering

some of the workload between stations as well. Mr. Morison stated it is very important for the Mayor to convey this information to everyone.

Mr. Morison said he had spoken with the new Fire Chief for Columbus and he seems to be a very credible person. He stated this is not a scare tactic to convince voters but a reality. Mayor Brennan said he doubts they will close the fire station at Main Street and Livingston Avenue because it is one of the most active stations. Mr. Masser said the point is it could affect all of the residents. Mayor Brennan stated there is a contract already in place with the City of Columbus. Mr. McClelland asked Mr. Morison about the 200 layoffs and asked what the total number of personnel is for the City Fire Department. Mr. Morison was not sure of the exact total. Ms. Jones stated the Task Force took a look at the fire contract for the City of Bexley. Mr. Morison said it could have a serious impact on the residents. Mr. Harvey stated it was his understanding that it may affect five additional stations which would result more in the repairing of water lines and water meter issues. Mr. Morison asked for suggestions to be emailed to him concerning this matter.

Public Comments:

Ms. Fiona Edmunds, 485 S. Parkview, addressed Council and stated she wanted to encourage all of the Council Members to continue to think about the proposed Ordinance for snow and ice removal. She said it concerns the safety and health of all residents. She reminded Mr. Harvey that she is waiting to hear about the committee he referred to previously consisting of pedestrians. It is a hazard not to clean a walkway. Why shouldn't the same regulations apply to residents as it does to commercial businesses? She thanked Council for their consideration and appreciates their continued interest in this matter.

8. **Other Business** – Mr. Chodosh spoke regarding the continuing issue of solicitors. He is continually being contacted by solicitors who want to skirt the issue of purchasing a permit and having proper ID. He would appreciate the press reminding the public if someone comes to their door without the proper ID to contact the police department. In addition, if they elect not to answer the door, they should not continue to knock. He has been contacted by some political activist groups that insist it is a violation of their constitutional rights to tell them they are not allowed to canvas after 8:00 p.m. Their usual hours run until 9:00 p.m. The U.S. Supreme Court states 9:00 p.m. is ok. If they solicit funds, residents should contact the police and make them aware of it. Mr. Chodosh also told them they are not allowed to canvas on Friday evenings.

Mr. Morison added congratulations to Chief Rinehart on a successful "Ride Bexley Ride" event.

9. Next meeting –July 14th, 2009

10. Adjourned 6:00 p.m.