

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

June 14, 2011
5:30 P.M.

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

Roll Call: Chair Mark Masser, Jed Morison.

Others Present: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Bill Harvey and Chief Rinehart

Review of Minutes: May 10, 2011- **Approved**

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Rinehart said they have been very busy with the recent armed, bank robbery. The detectives worked with the FBI and did make an arrest of two suspects. They are still looking for the third person.

He had an officer resign so they will be short one officer. The two year hiring list will expire on July 25, 2011 and he would prefer to replace this position without having to go through another hiring process. He is aware of the financial situation of the City, but currently has five shifts and will be down an officer. He can fill in using overtime but there will be at least one shift that would drop below four officers. He currently schedules six per shift with four minimum two (for fill in for vacations or time-off). He said the time-frame to hire someone from the list would be a one month minimum due to background checks, polygraph testing, etc.

Mr. Morison said his preference would be to wait before replacing the position for at least a few more months. He said the Chief could always start the recruiting process now but plan on a fall hiring date. His concern would be that he does not want the Chief to hire someone now, only to lay off that person at a later date.

Mr. Masser asked the Mayor his thoughts on the matter as the Safety Director. Mayor Brennan said he was in favor of waiting to replace the position as well. He said for practical purposes, it would be beneficial to schedule overtime to cover the shifts.

Mr. Masser said he would take a different view on the matter. He said firstly, the position is already in the budget. Secondly, summer is the busiest season. It would not be in the best interest of the community to be short staffed with police officers. He said the residents made it clear at the public meeting; they do not want police cuts. He said if we go forward and pay overtime if it would be equally as costly. He thinks the Chief should go ahead and replace the position. His personal view is to not reduce the police staff.

Chief Rinehart said he agrees he does not want to replace the position without knowing the position is secure. Mr. Morison said we have to be realistic. Mr. Kessler said there are always other options.

President McClelland agreed with Mr. Masser. He does not think it would be beneficial to reduce the current police staff. He asked about the hiring process and Chief Rinehart explained all applicants must take both a written and physical testing process. They are required to pass both and then individuals with the top ten highest scores are contacted to go before the Oral Board. The Board offers them the position on a "conditional" basis provided they pass the remaining test and background checks.

Report of Mayor/Safety Director: Mayor Brennan said the flashing speed limit sign will be removed from the front of the Montrose school since school is not in session. He plans to have it moved back to Roosevelt.

Mr. Masser received a request to have a traffic study conducted at Cassady and Broad Streets. There have been two recent accidents there. Chief Rinehart said he does not think it is necessary to have a traffic study conducted at this time since the last one was fairly recent. The Chief said there had only been 10 total in the past years and ODOT currently looks at the traffic issues every two years.

Ordinances – None

New Business:None

Other Business: None

Adjourned