

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

July 12th, 2011
5:30 P.M.

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

Roll Call: Chair Mark Masser and Jed Morison present. Matt Lampke excused due to military leave.

Others Present: Lou Chodosh, Bill Harvey, Ben Kessler, President McClelland, Jed Morison and Rick Weber.

Review of Minutes: June 14, 2011 - **Approved**

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Rinehart said the 4th of July holiday celebration went well. He said he believes the crowd was even larger this year than last. The police have been very busy lately with calls. Most the events are petty crimes.

Report of Mayor/Safety Director: No Report

Ordinances – None

New Business: Discussion of golf cart usage in the City of Bexley.

Jodi Kopp, 2844 Elm Street said she has seen an increase in cars used in the City of Bexley. She was looking for an alternative commute and after having visited her sister, discovered golf carts are more fun, less noise and less pollution. She said if more people would use golf carts, it would be a greener perspective. President McClelland asked Chief Rinehart's opinion on this issue.

Chief Rinehart said it is feasible based on the Ohio Revised Code language:

- (a) Law enforcement inspections are to be conducted with each vehicle to make sure it meets all "street" requirements such as license plates, window wipers, etc. (The County Sherriff also has jurisdiction in this matter and residents can have their golf carts licensed through this agency).
- (b) There are some comments about cities being allowed to include their own laws as well. It is not illegal for someone to come from one of those other communities where golf carts are permitted, to our community.

Chief Rinehart said the typical restrictions would need to apply:

- (a) golf cart would have to be able to maintain a minimum speed of 25 mph;
- (b) "street" licensed (including working wipers, lights, seat belts, etc.);
- (c) licensed driver only;
- (d) no driving on the sidewalks.

He said the same regulations that apply to driving a car would apply to driving a golf cart. He said most people aren't aware that you cannot operate a golf cart under the influence of alcohol, just like a car.

Chief Rinehart distributed a sample Ordinance for golf carts to Council members. He said this would be a good guideline to use. Chief Rinehart said if someone wanted a golf cart "street" licensed, the police officer would have to go to the house of the owner and after completion, check the list.

Mr. Masser said golf carts can be expensive, plus you have to pay extra to make them "street" worthy. Ms. Kopp said the cost is \$350 for the basic package of additions only. Mr. Masser said he thought it was approximately \$2,000 for a new one. Ms. Kopp said most golf carts only go 20 mph so there is an adjustment that can be done to increase the speed.

Mr. Morison asked if this Ordinance would be applicable to something like a John Deere "gator" vehicle. Chief Rinehart said all vehicles have different definitions, if it is street legal and meets the requirements, it would be legal.

Mr. Morison confirmed the local laws would supersede the State law with Mr. Chodosh. Chief Rinehart said we can always add to the State law, we just can't make it more lenient.

Mr. Weber asked what type of communities other than a senior living community, allow people to drive golf carts? He was wondering if this would add to the congestion in the street traffic. Ms. Kopp said the Tri-Village area is allowed to have golf carts. This would be Grandview, Marble Cliff and Upper Arlington. They are much more of a commercial area as well and are not having any problems. Ms. Kopp said she is disappointed of learning about the August recess. Mr. Kessler said it would be possible to introduce it tonight and suspend the three reading requirement at the next meeting. President McClelland added there must be five Council members present to vote as well. Mr. Weber received two pieces of correspondence that were in favor of the passage. Mr. Masser said he received three pieces of correspondence, all in favor.

Julie Klopfer, 2816 Powell Avenue, wanted to state she was in favor of the passage to allow golf cart usage in the City of Bexley.

Tim Madison, 2753 Sherwood, agreed and stated he was in favor as well.

Deb Eliot, 2466 Fair Avenue was also in favor.

Mr. Kessler said perhaps Main Street should be an exception not to allow golf carts. President McClelland said he has seen motorcycles used by a 12 or 13 year old in the street. Chief Rinehart said any motorized vehicle should be licensed and "street" regulated. He said these are not toys and it would apply to motorized skateboards as well. He said there is a reason why 12 year olds do not get their license. Those can be very dangerous. He said some parents think it is "ok", but it is very serious. President McClelland said they are riding through stop signs, and his concern is the boy may be injured.

President McClelland said it should limit the use of Main Street except for the ability to cross the street.

President McClelland asked Ms. Kopp if it would be a problem or issue keeping off Main Street except to cross. Ms. Kopp said she felt that would be very reasonable.

Other Business: Mr. Morison congratulated the Chief of the apprehension of the third bank robbery suspect. Chief Rinehart said all of the credit goes to the detectives who did outstanding work.

Adjourned 5:30 p.m.