

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2005
TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Public Health and Safety Committee met on Thursday, February 17, 2005. Those in attendance included Chairperson Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, Councilmember Barry Streeter, Ward II, Councilmember Mike Casey, Ward III, Councilmember Connie Fults, Ward IV, City Administrator Mike Herring and Chief Ray Johnson. Also in attendance were Councilmember Bruce Geiger, Ward II, and Councilmember Mary Brown, Ward IV and approximately twenty (20) interested persons, including members of the Press.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Councilmember Flachsbart. Councilmember Flachsbart noted that Item #2 on the Agenda, "Adult Entertainment/Display Issues-Proposed Ordinance", had been held over to the next meeting of this Committee.

1. Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2004

With concurrence from the members of the Committee, Councilmember Flachsbart declared the minutes of the December 20, 2004 meeting approved, as written.

3. Smoking Ban

Councilmember Flachsbart informed those attending the meeting that tonight's meeting was for discussion purposes only, at this time. Councilmember Flachsbart then stated:

- A. Second-hand smoke is dangerous to health.
- B. Some restaurant/bar owners believe that they will lose business if a ban on smoking is implemented, although studies have proven this to be untrue.
- C. A smoking ban would regulate how owners of restaurants/bars run their businesses but he also noted that cities often do regulate health and welfare standards. Councilmember Flachsbart stated that "smoking" is a health issue similar to "asbestos".

Councilmember Flachsbart stated he was unaware of any studies that indicated a smoking ban in restaurants was detrimental to their business or financial well being. He then opened this subject for discussion.

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2005
PAGE 2

Councilmember Fults inquired if there were smoking bans similar to the geographic and demographic area of Chesterfield. She noted her concerns of implementing a ban that may hurt Chesterfield businesses because patrons would be able to go just a short distance to a neighboring municipality where smoking would be allowed.

Joan Schmelig, Executive Director of the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce, presented the results of a recent survey of their members. The results are attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

Councilmember Casey agreed that the issue of “surrounding communities” is a large part of this issue. Councilmember Casey motioned that a letter signed by Mayor Nations and Chairperson Flachsbart be sent to St. Louis County, and that staff contact the Lafayette Area Mayors Association, the St. Louis County Municipal League, the City of Creve Coeur and the City of Maryland Heights to inquire what their status is regarding a smoking ban in restaurants and bars. The Committee members will then review this information at the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting.

Councilmember Streeter seconded this motion. After discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Councilmember Flachsbart asked that any printed information on studies that show the impact on businesses from a smoking ban be forwarded to him by mail or e-mail. This information would be included in the discussion of this issue at the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting.

6. Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Feeding of Geese and Deer and other Wildlife within the City

Citizens in attendance at this meeting were in support of the passage of this ordinance. Ms. Wendy Geckeler provided a revised ordinance that had been suggested by a representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The revised version of the ordinance was reviewed. Suggestions for additional changes to note Canada Geese and White Tail Deer throughout the document were accepted. Councilmember Fults motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to recommend that the revised ordinance be forwarded on to City Council, for the March 7th Council meeting with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Herring will have City Attorney Beach review the revised ordinance.

4. Edison Avenue Speed Limit

This item was brought back to the Public Health & Safety Committee at the request of City Engineer, Mike Geisel. Additional engineering studies have shown that the speed limit on Edison Avenue should be established at 45 miles per hour. Councilmember Streeter motioned to recommend approval of an ordinance changing the speed on Edison Avenue to 45 miles per hour. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded that motion.

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2005
PAGE 3

Councilmember Fults voiced concern regarding motorists attempting to leave the Valley shopping areas, where planter boxes constructed by THF obscure motorists' view, when exiting onto Edison Avenue. City Administrator Herring reported that the City is currently attempting to have THF move the planters and thereby eliminate this sight problem. Councilmember Casey voiced his support for changing the speed limit to 40 miles per hour but not 45 miles per hour. Councilmember Flachsbart supported the change to 45 miles per hour as advised the Engineering Department. The Committee requested that the City strongly act to have each of the planters located at the Edison Avenue intersections moved. The motion to recommend approval of an ordinance to change the posted speed limit to 45 miles per hour, on Edison Avenue, then carried 3-1 with Councilmember Casey voting "NO". This ordinance will be forwarded to City Council, at the March 7th meeting.

5. Police Reserves

Chief Johnson informed the Committee that he had acted to disarm uncertified Reserve Officers to conform with State Statute. The Committee noted that they had received this information and approved the Chief's actions.

7. Bicycle Safety Helmet Ordinance

The Committee reviewed information to consider the adoption of a bicycle safety helmet ordinance for the City of Chesterfield. This ordinance would only apply to juveniles. After discussion, the Committee members felt no need to implement an ordinance. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to include information promoting the wearing of bicycle safety helmets in the upcoming Chesterfield Citizen. Councilmember Streeter seconded. The motion carried 4-0. An article will be prepared for the next issue of the Chesterfield Citizen.

8. Proposed No U Turns

The Committee members reviewed a proposed ordinance to enable the enforcement of a recently enacted "No U Turn County" prohibition on Chesterfield Airport Road approximately 1500 feet west of Olive Street Road. Councilmember Casey motioned to recommend approval of this ordinance. Councilmember Fults seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. This ordinance will be forwarded to City Council at the March 7th meeting.

9. VIP Program Update

Chief Johnson updated the Committee members on the Chesterfield Police Department VIP (Volunteers In Policing) Program. He noted that the program was initiated in 2003 and has developed well. At this time there are 10 active participants in the program. Chief Johnson informed the Committee members of plans to expand the program to include a VIP Speed Monitoring Program, a Park/Trail Watch, and Municipal Court Assistance. The Committee commended the Police Department's efforts and directed that an article be prepared for the Citizen Newsletter, promoting this program.

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2005
PAGE 4

10. Traffic Enforcement Cameras

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to have City Staff contact State Legislators, requesting them to sponsor a project by the Missouri Transportation Institute to study the use of cameras for traffic control in three areas: Red Light Violations, Ignoring Stop Signs and Speeding; and to further ask the State Legislators to advise the City of Chesterfield of the outcome of the study. Councilmember Streeter seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

11. Citizen Survey

Chief Johnson presented a copy of a Citizen Satisfaction Survey that is sent out to 60 random people each month, who have had some type of police contact. Chief Johnson suggested sending this survey through the Citizen Newsletter, once every three years. This would enable the Police Department to reach all Chesterfield citizens and provide additional input to improve the Police Department's overall quality of service. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Casey seconded to approve the request and to include the Citizen Satisfaction Survey in the Citizen Newsletter once every three years. The motion carried 4-0.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee will be scheduled for mid-April.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.