

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 2008
TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Public Health and Safety Committee met on Monday, September 15, 2008. Those in attendance included Chairperson Bob Nation, Ward IV, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, Councilmember Bruce Geiger, Ward II, Councilmember Mike Casey, Ward III, City Administrator Michael Herring, City Attorney Rob Heggie, and Chief Ray Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by Councilmember Nation.

1. Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2008

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Geiger seconded to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

2. Advertising on Commercial Vehicles

The Committee discussed the regulation of parking of commercial vehicles with advertising in residential areas. The proposed ordinance had been returned from City Council for further discussion by the Committee. City Attorney Heggie reviewed the ordinance with the Committee members and the definitions therein. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested an additional definition be added regarding the size of the vehicle and noting that there should be a reasonable size of the advertising for identification but not so big as to be considered advertising. Mr. Heggie noted that there is already an ordinance in effect regarding the parking of large commercial vehicles in subdivisions. Upon further discussion, the Committee requested that the Police Department and Zoning Staff investigate specific vehicles that may be in offense of the current ordinance restricting the size of commercial vehicles in subdivisions. Chief Johnson will coordinate this process. After discussion, Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Casey seconded to remove this item from the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Non-Domesticated Animals In Residential Areas With Exceptions

The Committee reviewed a proposed ordinance that would prohibit non-domesticated animals in residential areas, specifically on those residential lots smaller than one acre. The issue was discussed at the previous meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee where Mr. Heggie was directed to contact other municipalities for the development of the ordinance. The proposed ordinance would not be retroactive to any non-domesticated animals that are currently owned by residents. Councilmember Flachsbart recommended the proposed ordinance be changed to lower the size of lots exempted, to $\frac{3}{4}$ acre or larger. Other members of the Committee suggested that the

exemption be raised to 2-acres in size, or greater. City Administrator Herring commented he had researched this issue, by contacting his peers in other cities in St. Louis County. As a result, he determined that virtually every other city in St. Louis County had a similar ordinance, already on the books. Councilmember Casey motioned and Councilmember Geiger seconded to forward this proposed ordinance to City Council for their approval. After discussion, the motion carried 3-1 with Councilmember Flachsbart voting "NO", since he felt the "exemption" should be lowered to 3/4/acre lots.

4. Proposed Ordinance – Prohibits The Possession of Certain Theft Detection Shielding Devices

Chief Johnson described certain theft detection shielding devices utilized by shoplifters in the City of Chesterfield. At this time, the Municipal Court Prosecutor has requested an ordinance that would allow him to prosecute thieves for the possession of these devices. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Nation seconded to forward the proposed ordinance to City Council for their approval. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Red Light Cameras

Councilmember Flachsbart requested that the Committee reconsider the installation of red light cameras at appropriate intersections in the City. Councilmember Flachsbart further suggested that the City itself purchase, install and manage the cameras without an outside agency. He also recommended that there be no change to timing on the electric signals unless monitored trends suggest they be changed to improve safety or traffic flow.

Chief Johnson voiced his support for red-light cameras and noted that studies have shown their effectiveness. He noted that it is much more cost effectiveness to utilize one of the companies who provide, install and monitor the equipment because there is no charge to the City for the equipment or the installation. He suggested, if approved, that any generated revenue from fees collected go to funding additional traffic officers and equipment to improve traffic safety throughout the City. City Administrator Herring also voiced his support for Chief Johnson's proposal.

Mr. Heggie noted that litigation had been filed regarding red light cameras, additional discussion ensued.

Councilmember Casey motioned to direct City Administrator Herring and Chief Johnson to bring statistical information and quantifiable evidence regarding accident reduction, proposed placement for cameras and information from other area municipalities who currently have cameras installed to the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting. After further discussion, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Geiger and carried unanimously. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2008 at 7:30 AM.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.