

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
JULY 1, 2024

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by Chairperson Aaron Wahl.

2. Roll Call

Councilmember Aaron Wahl, Ward II, Chairperson, Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward I, Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III, Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV, Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I, Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II, Councilmember Gary Budoor, Ward IV, Mayor Bob Nation, City Attorney Chris Graville, City Administrator Mike Geisel, Assistant City Administrator Elliot Brown, Justin Wyse, Director of Planning.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2024

Councilmember Wahl motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 minutes. Councilmember Hansen suggested that the word “lessens” be replaced with the word “neglects” in Item #7, paragraph 2. The Committee members agreed and the minutes were approved as amended.

4. Proposed Resolution

A revised proposed resolution to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of antisemitism and its eleven contemporary examples was discussed.

Councilmember Wahl motioned and Councilmember McGuinness seconded to recommend the proposed resolution to City Council for approval.

Discussion followed.

Councilmember Hansen questioned the necessity of the City stating the definition of antisemitism and also noting that this pertains to only one group of residents. Discussion continued regarding the relevancy of the City’s involvement. Councilmember Moore agreed that this would set a precedence for a specific group and any group should have the same consideration. Mr. Geisel asked if this is a true City Council issue and noted that the City has demonstrated support for all groups against hatred. Mayor Nation observed that the City is non-partisan with representation for all groups within the City to provide services but not to single out a particular group. Mr. Geisel also reported that the City receives 10-12 requests for resolutions monthly.

After additional discussion the motion failed 2-2 (Councilmember Wahl and Councilmember McGuinness voting “yes”, and Councilmember Moore and Hansen voting “no”.)

5. Unfit Buildings

Assistant City Administrator Elliot Brown and Justin Wyse, Director of Planning, addressed the Committee regarding two problem properties in the City of Chesterfield. Councilmember Monachella noted that the Public Works Committee had already addressed these properties. At this time, the City has no Health Department to address the living conditions within the properties and those issues have been referred to St. Louis County. The City of Chesterfield can only address the outdoor conditions of the property.

To enter the property, Chesterfield would need a search warrant from the City Judge or consent from the property owner, or person occupying the building, to enter the building. Mayor Nation voiced his opinion that the City needs to be able to enter these unfit buildings and certainly, no person should be living in these buildings.

The City of Chesterfield has cited properties, but at this time, no positive results have been observed other than those that the City of Chesterfield has initiated such as grass cutting and removing trash at the Stablestone property.

Committee members reviewed an example of the Creve Coeur ordinance dealing with dangerous and unsafe structures. The Committee members felt this ordinance was too strong for the needs of Chesterfield.

Councilmember Moore motioned and Councilmember Wahl seconded to direct staff to draft policies and procedures to enable City staff to enter properties and to then initiate the appropriate actions to direct owners to repair these properties or to allow the City to condemn the properties. After discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

6. Proposed Resolution-Flock Camera Installation on a County Roadway

Chief Funkhouser presented a proposed resolution to allow the placement of a license plate recognition camera (FLOCK Camera) on a County Roadway. This is a situation that has been done in the past since the camera will be placed on a utility pole that is at an intersection of a Chesterfield roadway and a County roadway. These cameras have been very successful for law enforcement and a deterrent to keep criminals away from the City.

Councilmember Hansen motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to pass the resolution on to City Council with a recommendation for their approval. The motion carried 4-0.

7. Letter of Agreement – Parkway School District

Chief Funkhouser presented a proposed letter of agreement between the City of Chesterfield and the Parkway School District to continue the School Resource Officer (SRO) program through 2027. It was noted that the Parkway School District is responsible for 100% of the salary and benefits of each officer when the officer is serving in the capacity of an SRO for the school district.

Council Moore motioned and Councilmember Hansen seconded to approve the letter of agreement and authorize City Administrator Geisel to sign this contract. The motion carried 4-0.

8. Proposed Ordinance imposing a minimum age for the purchase and sale of KRATOM products within the City of Chesterfield.

And

9. Proposed Ordinance imposing a minimum age for the purchase and sale of Hemp-Derived intoxicants.

City Attorney Graville presented a proposed ordinance that would impose a minimum age for the sale and purchase of KRATOM products and Hemp-Derived intoxicants. Mr. Graville noted the danger of each of these products because the ingredients in the products are not regulated by the State or Federal governments. He also reported that the Cannabis agencies in Missouri would agree with the regulation of sale of these products.

The proposed ordinances would regulate these substances sales and purchases the same way that alcohol and tobacco products are regulated in the City, prohibiting the sale to minors and keeping the products behind the counter where a clerk would check an ID of the person attempting the purchases. This will correspond to the minimum regulations that are enforceable.

Councilmember Wahl motioned and Councilmember Hansen seconded to move these proposed ordinances on to City Council with a Committee recommendation for approval. The motion carried 4-0.

10. There was no other business.
11. No new meeting date was set.
12. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.