

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 22, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairperson Councilmember Aaron Wahl.

II. Roll Call

Councilmember Aaron Wahl, Ward II, Chairperson, Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I, Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III, Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV, Councilmember Gary Budoor, Ward IV, and Mayor Bob Nation. Also, in attendance were City of Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer, Attorney Ben Kloos, Chief Ray Johnson, and Captain Dan Dunn, and Captain Mark Bruegenhemke. Also, in attendance were twelve citizens of Chesterfield

III. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Hansen motioned and Councilmember Monachella seconded to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022 minutes. The motion to approve the minutes carried 4-0.

IV. Code Enforcement

Councilmember Budoor noted that there have been complaints about a property next to Wildhorse Elementary School that has tall grass and weeds. Although the owners of the property have been notified, the grass and weeds continue to be non-compliant with grass being as high as 19 inches. Chief Johnson reported that when not cut, the Code Enforcement inspectors have arranged for the property to be cut by a vendor of the City. City Attorney Graville noted that City staff is now meeting weekly on code violations. Chronic offenders are being identified.

Chief Johnson described the process for handling code violations from the initial report to the legal actions the City may take. When the City starts cutting tall grass on properties, the charges are billed to the property owner and if not paid, a lien is placed upon the property. Since grass is a seasonal issue, the Code Enforcement staff will be reviewing previous offenders at the beginning of next season to handle the grass cutting in a prompt manner.

V. Staffing Request – Additional Police Officer

Chief Johnson informed the Committee members that the department has an opportunity to place an officer in an assignment with the St. Louis County Fusion Center as a Strategic Intelligence Analyst. The cost for this officer will be entirely funded (salary and full benefits) by the East West Gateway Council Homeland Security grant. Chief Johnson noted that the placement of a current officer into this fully funded position would

leave Department one officer short in regular manpower and asked for approval to add one officer to the current staffing, at no cost to the City.

Councilmember Hurt motioned and Councilmember Monachella seconded to approve this request. The motion carried 4-0.

This issue will now move on to the Finance & Administration Committee for further review with a recommendation from the Public Health & Safety Committee, if approved, on to City Council for a final decision/approval.

VI. Deer Control Program

The current City of Chesterfield Deer Control Program was reviewed. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of decreasing the deer population by other means such as anti-fertility darts. It was noted that Town & Country has tried this type of option with very little success. Chief Johnson informed Committee members that the City staff continue to work diligently to encourage subdivision trustees to allow hunting on common ground areas and also the City has opened several City parks to bow hunting by qualified City employees. The Missouri Department of Conservation has continued to support bow hunting as the safest way to cull the herds of deer in suburban areas. After continued discussion, the Committee agreed to continue the bow hunting program as is.

VII. Golf Carts & ATV's on City Roadways

City Attorney Chris Graville addressed the Committee regarding the use of ATV's, UTV's, LSV's, and Golf Carts on City streets. At the current time, only licensed motorized vehicles are allowed on City streets. City Attorney Graville reported that City staff has been meeting regarding this issue with considerations for safety being expressed. In the discussions, alternate licensing has been discussed with requirements for compliance and safety checks done by the police department. It was noted that the requirements would most likely consider LSV's (low speed vehicles) as other types would not meet the speed and safety requirements. At this time there are no State Statutes for licensing requirements.

Discussion continued regarding the safety of passengers, particularly young children riding in these vehicles.

Citizens present at the meeting noted that when they purchased their homes in Fienup Farms, they were expressly told by realtors that this type of vehicle would be allowed on the paved streets but not on the trails throughout the development. This group of citizens noted that they had canvassed subdivision residents and found that the majority of residents were in favor of the use of these vehicles. Councilmember Hurt stated that requests for a change for the particular subdivision must come from the Trustees.

City Attorney Graville will prepare additional information, including how other municipalities regulate these vehicles, for discussion at the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting.

VII. Special Circumstances Court

Chesterfield Prosecuting Attorney presented an outline for the possibility of developing a Special Circumstances Court to handle mental health and homelessness issues that continue to be present during municipal dockets. He noted that the St. Louis County Mental Health Court is no longer operational which places many offenders into situations with no appropriate social service referrals which would help stop recidivism. Attorney Ben Kloos, who currently runs a "veterans court" described a plan for a municipal treatment court where a judge would be able to refer an offender for treatment. Mr. Kloos noted the veterans court has an 85% success rate.

Prosecuting Attorney Engelmeyer noted that Chesterfield could be the groundbreaker court for other municipalities who may want to participate in this program. Mr. Kloos will develop a cost estimate to begin the program. Councilmember Hurt suggested that Prosecuting Engelmeyer and Mr. Kloos put together a budget request to begin the process 2023. The Committee supported the suggested program and Mayor Nation suggested that City Administrator Geisel also get involved.

This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next Public Health & Safety committee meeting.

- IX. Councilmember Hurt expressed concern for the safety of City Hall front desk personnel and suggested that possibly a solid barrier could be installed for additional protection. This item will be placed on the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting agenda.

Having no other items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.