

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 15, 2004
TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Public Health & Safety Committee met on Thursday, March 11, 2004. Those in attendance included Chairperson Michael Casey, Ward III, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, and Councilmember Mary Brown, Ward IV. Also in attendance were Chief Ray Johnson, Steve Cheslak, Annisa McCaskill, and Brian Calderwood.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Councilmember Casey.

1. Approval of Minutes – October 29, 2003

Councilmember Brown motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2003 meeting. The motion carried 3-0.

4. Allowable Number of Dogs per Residence

The Committee discussed a discrepancy between City Ordinance and the City's Residents Guide regarding the allowable number of dogs in a resident. Ms. McCaskill of the Planning Department quoted both the City Ordinance and the Residents Guide noting the City Ordinance allows no more than three dogs unless the area is licensed as a kennel. The committee noted that this is the first complaint that had been received regarding the number of pets in a home. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Brown seconded to recommend a change to the City Ordinance to conform to the residents guide and the changed ordinance be sent to City Council with a recommendation for approval. The Committee discussed recommended changes to allow a maximum of 4 dogs or 6 cats and change the definition of a kennel to 5 or more dogs (over the age of 4 months) or 7 or more cats (over the age of 4 months), or the keeping of more than 5 dogs and cats. The motion carried 3-0. The recommended changes will be forwarded to City Attorney Beach and the revised ordinance will be prepared for City Council.

2. Clarkson Road/Dierbergs Entrance - Median

Chief Johnson reported that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) had contacted the City to request an endorsement for their plan to extend medians, on Clarkson Road, which would, in effect, preclude any left turn, from Clarkson Road, into either the Dierbergs Shopping Center or Clarkson Square. MoDOT has determined that this entire location is unsafe, due to sight limitations and heavy traffic volumes, especially between Baxter and Lea Oak, on Clarkson Road. Chairperson Casey noted that Councilmember Streeter, who was unable to attend tonight's Committee meeting, asked that his opposition to this proposal be noted, for the record. Following some additional discussion, Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct City Administrator Herring to send a letter to MoDOT, on behalf of the PH&S Committee, in support of MoDOT's recommendation to extend medians and prevent left turns, as noted above. The letter should

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acknowledge the potential inconvenience to motorists and the possible impact to businesses, in this area, but should stress that the safety issues/concerns outweigh these other factors. Finally, Councilmember Flachsbart wanted the letter to include a request that the timing of the traffic signal, at Clarkson and Baxter, be adjusted to provide additional time for left turns onto Baxter Road, from southbound Clarkson Road, in conjunction with this other work. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 3-0

3. Athletic Runs

Councilmember Flachsbart noted several complaints of athletic runs being run through Ward I, specifically the River Bend/River Valley area, during the past few months. These runs are most often done on Sunday mornings resulting in traffic being detained while runners make their way through intersections. Councilmember Casey had investigated the history and routes associated with the various runs and reported that there is a series of events, the Snowball Series, where athletic runs were scheduled in Ward I during the past several months on Sunday mornings. Chief Johnson noted that the Police Department provides traffic control as a safety issue for the runs. After discussion the Committee recommended that there be a dialogue between the City and the sponsor of the runs to encourage the routes be evenly distributed throughout each of the City's Wards and neighborhoods. Chief Johnson will contact the sponsor of the various runs and report plans back to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee members then discussed safety issues regarding runners, joggers, walkers and cyclists utilizing roadways a dusk, after dark and in the early morning hours throughout the City. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Casey seconded to recommend the Citizen Newsletter make safety recommendation of reflective clothing for those using City streets. It was suggested that there be an initial article and reminders in following issues of the Citizen Newsletter. The motion carried 3-0.

5. Old Baxter Road – Speed Limit

The Committee members reviewed a request to change the speed limit on the newly reconstructed Old Baxter Road to make it the same speed limit throughout. Currently Old Baxter Road is 25 MPH in one area and 30 MPH in another. Councilmember Brown motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to recommend that the City Council approve an ordinance making the speed limit on Old Baxter Road 25 MPH. The motion was approved 3-0 and the revised ordinance will be sent to City Council for approval.

6. SMART Information - Internet

The Committee reviewed a suggestion by Councilmember Streeter to include information regarding various vehicle speed data provided by SMART trailers on the City's public web-site. Upon discussion, it was agreed the information would be helpful to citizens but the exact quantity and type of information still needed to be investigated with the City's MIS department. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next Public Health & Safety Committee meeting.

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7. Proposed Ordinance – School Zones

A proposed ordinance was presented to make all school zone regulations conform to the standard recently adopted by St. Louis County. This Ordinance would make school zone speed limits 10 MPH below the posted speed limit, but not lower than 20 MPH, in school zones between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM on any day when school is in session. Councilmember Brown motioned to recommend that the City Council approve this ordinance. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion with grammatical corrections to the ordinance. The motion carried 3-0.

8. High Accident Intersections – Reduction Programs

Chief Johnson reviewed police actions at high accident locations throughout the City. In these areas, the Police Department has initiated programs such as the Red Light Violation program and increased traffic patrol at these locations. He reported that there has been continuing dialogue with both the County and MoDOT regarding safety issues at these locations. Although ongoing programs continue to reduce accidents, increasing volume of traffic also means additional accidents. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested cameras posted at these high accident locations may make motorists more cautious in these areas and help alleviate traffic violations that cause accidents. Chief Johnson replied that all of these locations are either County or State Roads where cameras are not allowed and also the expense of cameras is not feasible at this time. Councilmember Casey suggested that an article alerting residents of these intersections and a public awareness campaign in the Citizen newsletter regarding the Police Department's Red Light Violation Program. The Committee members agreed.

Chief Johnson distributed copies of a recent accident reconstruction report for review by members of the Committee.

9 Proposed Revisions to Trespassing Ordinance

The Committee reviewed a proposed amendment to City Ordinance 62, Section 21-57 relating to the newly passed State Statute which allows the carrying of concealed weapons. The City may require that no concealed weapons be allowed on City property or in City buildings. However, the City Ordinance regarding "Trespassing" needs to be re-written to allow for that prohibition. After review of the proposed changes to the Ordinance, Councilmember Casey motioned and Councilmember Brown seconded to recommend that the City Council approve the newly rewritten ordinance. The motion carried 3-0.

There were no additional items to discuss. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Brown seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.