

City of Washington Public Safety Committee Meeting May 15, 2017

Alderman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Voting Members present:

Alderman Brian Butler, Alderman Carol Moss, Alderman Brett Adams

Other City Officials present:

Jim Culotta-City Administrator, Ted Miller-Chief of Police, Jeff Stevens-Master Sergeant, Ed Andrew-City Engineer, Linda Storer-Records Clerk

Residents:

Paul Spiezio, Liliya Stevens, Gerald Wolfe

1. **Aldermen wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item:** Alderman Butler opened with a brief welcome to Alderman Carol Moss and Alderman Brett Adams to the Public Safety Committee. There were no requests to be heard tonight.
2. **Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda items:**
 - Paul Spiezio spoke to the Committee about the continued speed issue on Dallas Road. He drafted a statement and submitted it to the committee to be entered into the minutes. It is attached. He also asked why Washington Police Department did not participate in the national distracted driving campaign. (Attached)
 - Liliya Stevens spoke on the problem with parking on Westgate. She would like to see parking on one side of the street from Hampton to the "T" at Devonshire Rd.
 - Gerald Wolfe advised committee that the speeding on Westgate by his house is down a bit because officers are present and writing tickets. He agrees that parking on Westgate is a problem for the flow of traffic having cars parked on both sides because there is not room to drive around them without going into the oncoming lane of traffic. He feels also that Devonshire & Westgate are used as a thoroughfare by drivers to cut through town.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – April 17, 2017 Regular Meeting: Motion by Alderman Carol Moss; 2nd by Alderman Brett Adams. All voted-aye.

4. **Business Items**

A. Monthly Report – Chief Miller presented Police Department’s monthly report. He added that he thought it would be useful to the Committee to add on a separate page the year to date against year to date. It gives a better snapshot of the activity levels at a glance. Department is running with supervisors on all shifts even if the designated supervisor is an OIC with good results. (Attached)

B. Westgate Road – Ed Andrews, City Engineer presented a memo addressing the problem with “no parking” signage on Westgate Rd by the park. Mentioned in this memo is the addition of paint striping on the pedestrian crosswalk. After a brief discussion, committee felt striping alone would signify no parking in the crosswalk negating the need for additional signs. (Attached)

Alderman Butler requested that a “no parking sign” be placed on Westgate east of Stratford Drive during last month’s meeting which would eliminate cars being parked too close to the entrance of the pool. This has been done.

C. Ernest Street Trail - There is an interest for an Ernest Street recreation trail with the Park District but no known potential funding. City staff can look for funding.

D. Police Vehicles – Chief Miller presented a request for the purchase of (5) vehicles from the police department. (2) Patrol Squads, (1) for Chief of Police, (1) for Master Sergeant and (1) for Investigations. Committee felt that the Chief of Police and Investigations car should be tabled for a later date. Alderman Butler directed Chief Miller to work with the lowest bidder to re-work the price for (3) cars. Once the final price is presented to Committee it can go before the City Council for approval. Will discuss at June meeting.

E. Roadway inventory – Ed Andrews provided a handout of the current road inventory which outlines the current functional class of the roadways within the city determined by IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. This is reviewed approximately every 5 years.(Attached)

5. **Other Business** – None

6. **Adjournment** – 6:16 P.M. Motion by Alderman Butler; 2nd by Alderman Adams

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It has been one year since I raised the issue of speeding on Dallas Rd. There have been no improvements since that time. The pedestrian signs did not slow the speed down.

Again, I make the request to change the speed limit from 30 to 25, and/or install stop signs at Dallas and Mitchell and Dallas and Westminster and/or place an environmentally friendly and seasonally placed speed bump, which I am willing to pay for.

I find it interesting that the City Council will approve a \$38,000 department head assistant to help over worked City Department Heads at tonight's City Council Meeting, but cannot find money to hire another police officer to help the understaffed police department.

I know the next step is the electronic speed signs which were authorized on February 6th and just became functional today May 15.

Question: How long will we wait to prove or disprove the impact on speed on Dallas Rd from these signs?

Submitted by Paul Spiezo on 5.15.17 at
Public Safety Committee Meeting.