

## City of Washington Public Safety Committee Meeting August 21, 2017

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

### **Voting Members present:**

Brian Butler-Chairman, Carol Moss-Alderman, Brett Adams-Alderman,

### **Other City Officials present:**

Jim Culotta-City Administrator, Michael McCoy-Chief of Police, Jeff Stevens-Master Sergeant, Daniel Cobb-Alderman, Linda Storer-Records Clerk

### **Residents:**

Paul Spiezio, Gerald Wolfe, Steve Hullcraz, Kendra Mescher, Nate Mescher, LaDesta Libotte

1. **Aldermen wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item:** None
2. **Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda items:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes** – July 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Motion by Alderman Moss, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Adams.
4. **Business Items**
  - **Monthly Report** –The Committee members were given a copy of the report prior to the meeting. They had already reviewed it and there were no questions.
  - **Eagle Avenue/Bobolink Drive Crosswalk** - Kendra Mescher voiced her concerns regarding this crosswalk and the parking along Eagle Avenue (Central School). Some of the cars are parking too close to the crosswalk. She said that these cars belong to some of the teachers. Her concern is the lack of visibility of the small children crossing and wanted to bring it to the committee for a solution.

Chairman Butler had photos of cars parked on various days near the school. He requested that the police department look at possibilities of making this area safer. The Chief said he would look at the line delineations, possibly using the pedestrian crosswalk signs and compliance checks conducted by patrol officers. He further advised that the police department would contact the school superintendent advising him of the teachers parking too close to the crosswalks. The police department will get back with the Committee on solutions for this area.
  - **Dallas Road** - Mr. Spiezio advised the committee that there is not a significant change for speeding on Dallas Road with the addition of the electronic speed sign. He advised that the cars still speed in the area. Now that children are back in school, he is concerned.

Mr. Spiezio read from a document from the November 2016 meeting, Page 4, concerning the study. Summarized, it states that roughly (90) days after implementing devices to reduce speed, the speed begins to rise again.

Chairman Butler advised Mr. Spiezio that Dallas Road can't always be patrolled. He went on to state that the City of Washington and the Township agreed to a local reduction of speed on Dallas Road from 35 mph to 30 mph. He advised Mr. Spiezio that he can't, in good faith, impede the flow of traffic on a major collector road.

Chairman Butler and the Committee agreed that no "funded" speed bump by Mr. Spiezio would be accepted. No unwarranted amount of stop signs would be installed. The Committee does not have an interest in bringing forth a request for the full council to reduce the current speed from 30 mph to 25 mph.

Mr. Spiezio will be meeting with the Chief of Police at a future date to discuss enforcement on Dallas Road.

- **Westgate Road Survey** – Last month (July, 2017) the Chief of Police advised that the Police Department would look at the possibilities of conducting a traffic survey for this area. The parking on both sides makes it difficult to travel through without delays. Additionally, there have been past requests for parking on one side only along Westgate.

Chief McCoy advised both the committee and its attendees that a survey is possible and that the Chamber of Commerce would be willing to tally the results. He wanted to point out that this survey would have to consider more than just the residents residing on the street. It would have to include the people traveling the roadway. Chief McCoy said if you only surveyed the residents of the street itself, you would have one side saying they don't want parking on their side and vice versa. A report was run looking at the number accidents that have occurred on this street. There are no accidents because the speed is so slow due to the parking. It's the opinion of the police department that this is "good news." The Chief made a recommendation that while the police department is still willing to conduct the survey, he feels as though there isn't an urgent need for one right now and asked for the opinion of the Committee.

The Committee agrees to keep the survey idea on the "back burner" for now. We are not saying "No" but there doesn't appear to be an urgency to conduct one at this time. There are no clear answers on how to permanently fix the problem of traveling down Westgate without a slight delay. Alderman Moss commented that this isn't a unique situation to only Westgate Road. There are streets throughout town that you know are slow to get through but totally passable.

Gerald Wolfe brought up the traveling on Westgate issue in conjunction with the above discussion and just wants them to know that parking on both sides of the

street is an issue to him. He also advised that the speeding has not stopped on Devonshire Road. When the police are present everyone slows down but once they leave, the speed continues. Lastly, he advised that motorists aren't stopping for the sign at Westgate & Devonshire. Mr. Wolfe stated he would be willing to record the activity and put it on Facebook page of Washington Strong.

- **Ordinance amendment renaming (ESDA) Emergency Services and Disaster Agency to (EMA) Emergency Management Agency** - This is being done to keep with the updated version of the agency's name. Chairman Butler asked for a motion to take to city council amending the name change. Alderman Moss made the motion, Alderman Adams seconded.
- **Video Gaming** – Chief McCoy advised there are currently (9) businesses and (39) terminals within the City. During the current moratorium on gaming licensing, he advised the committee there are several items to consider as it relates to amending Chapter 136 of the Code of Ordinances. (Memo attached with those considerations).

Chairman Butler directed City Administrator, Jim Culotta, Chief McCoy and Master Sergeant Stevens to begin crafting the ordinance changes. The Committee wants certain steps included in the draft ordinance. Chairman Butler advised that if need be, a special Public Safety Committee Meeting could be scheduled to accommodate the speed to which the completion of this ordinance change could be made for presentation to the full council.

- **Other Business** - None
- **Adjournment** - Motion for adjournment by Chairman Butler. Motion made by Alderman Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Moss. Meeting ended at 6:28 PM.