

**City of Washington  
Public Safety Committee Meeting  
July 15, 2019**

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

**Voting Members present:**

**Chairman- Brian Butler, Alderman-Brett Adams, Alderman-Randall Black**

**Non-Voting Members present:**

**Alderman Liliya Stevens, Alderman Daniel Cobb**

**Other Officials present:**

**Chief Michael McCoy, City Administrator-Ray Forsythe, Fire Chief- Roger Traver and Admin Assistant-Linda Storer**

**Residents:**

**Bob & Allison Montgomery, John & Sharon Amdall, Charon Smith, John Blundy**

- 1. Alderman wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item:**  
None

- 2. Citizen wishing to be heard on non-agenda items:**

Charon Smith, Cherry Point Subdivision wants to know if the city would allow golf carts on Brown St off Nofsinger Rd. Would the City give a variance or a permit?

John Blundy would like to have the ability to ride golf carts on all residential streets. He conducted a small survey with many folks approving that idea.

Allison Montgomery has safety concerns for farmers along E. Cruger Rd when the winery begins their business.

She read from a prepared statement that outlined the following topics:

- A. After a recent zoning board hearing, she was told by a commissioner that she should "go easy on safety" because the roads weren't made for the large tractors in their photograph." He assured her he was not trying to shut down farming but reiterated that she should "go easy on safety" and he told her there are already impaired drivers on Cruger Road.
- B. Allison had no doubt that there are impaired drivers currently driving on Cruger Rd.
- C. She has contacted the Illinois Farm Bureau, Farm Service Officer and the Department of Motor Vehicles. All of them advised her that tractors are consider "husbandry machinery" and are allowed on paved county roads.

- D. The winery is constructing a parking area for over 80 cars. Her concern is the increase in volume on the Bypass, Cruger, Dieble and Dee Mack Roads. All four highways have a speed limit of 55mph.

She asked if there has been any discussion about the increased risks of accidents at the intersection of Boyd with Dieble and Dee Mack Roads?

**3. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2019**

Motion to approve requested by Chairman Butler – Alderman Black motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alderman Adams.

**4. Business Items:**

- A. **Video Gaming** – The recent changes in the law allow for up to 6 terminals instead of 5. Patrons can win larger jackpots and they can play the games with the addition of adding bigger amounts of money.

Committee had a discussion and determined, for now, that the City will remain with five. We are aware of the recent changes and will wait to see how the performance of each establishment is doing before allowing an ordinance change to increase the number to six.

- B. **Golf Carts** – Alderman Black stated that obviously there are pros and cons with allowing golf carts on the roads. He conducted research and determined that there are 164 communities in Illinois that allow them. These include Chillicothe, Chenoa and Peoria Heights.

Alderman Adams can see benefits as well as detriments.

Chairman Butler asked if the Committee is willing to take on the liability and the responsibility by going away from the Illinois State Statute. The City would have to determine the safety of the public before anything could be approved. This would include the volume and character of the roadways. Chairman Butler felt this would be difficult to accomplish and costly to investigate. City Administrator, Ray Forsythe is concerned with the costs associated with not only the “study” but the liability that would fall on the City for creating an ordinance allowing golf carts on public roadways.

Chief McCoy said that if there were private roads that would be fine however there are none in the City of Washington. The speed limits and the volume of traffic are too great to allow golf carts on the roadways.

The cost and safety factors are too great for City just to allow a recreational use of golf carts on the City roadways. It was agreed that there would be further discussion with the Committee of the Whole at the next meeting.

**5. Other Business:**

Chief McCoy presented a copy of the Washington Police Department's Core Value Statement. He will be discussing these at the next Police Department Staff Meeting and then will have them posted for the public and personnel to view.

- 6. Adjournment – 6:17 PM, motion by Alderman Adams and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Black.**

MDM