

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 11, 2010

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Jim Grant

Committee members present: Jim Grant, David Liss and Lisa Harbeck

Staff/Officials present: Chief Charles Wenten, Darrell Hofland, Village Administrator, Mike Rambousek, AICP, Director of Planning and Development, Tom Johnson, Building Inspector and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.36.060 / ELIMINATION OF 2 HOUR PARKING ON 7TH AVENUE

Chief Wenten explained that the 2 hour parking limit on 7th Avenue, 1500-1600 block, was put in place prior to 1990 when the EST Company worked 3 shifts. Since that time, the employee volume (now PACE Industries) has dropped significantly. PACE Industries does not have sufficient off street parking for two shifts of workers. This has become an area of concern at shift change because some of the employees must park on the street and then are required to move their vehicles during their shift to avoid violating the two hour parking restriction. This is causing a significant disruption to the work environment. Area residents were notified this item would be on the agenda. Chief Wenten advised this area would be monitored for any issues.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board amend ordinance Chapter 10.36.060 / Two hour parking on Seventh Avenue, as presented. Approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.36.060 / ENACTING 2 HOUR PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PARKING LOTS IN THE 1200 BLOCK BETWEEN 12TH AND 13TH AVENUES

Mike Rambousek, Director of Planning and Development, advised that the issue of employees absorbing a large portion of the parking spaces in the Village Center parking lot was discussed at a recent CDA meeting. The Project Management Team (PMT) believed a 2 hour restriction would deter this practice for all public parking lots in this block, and felt the best hours of the restriction would be 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To be consistent, Mr. Rambousek concurs in his recommendation that this be enforced in all public parking lots located adjacent to 13th Avenue south of STH 60.

Chair Grant reaffirmed this item would not need to be addressed if business employees would not park in the public parking lots.

Rhonda Albert, Federal Heath Sign Company, stated she works at a small upstairs office and has not been notified not to park in the public lot; however, she will no longer do so. Four employees work in that office.

Billy Nguyen, owner of A Nails, 1206 12th Avenue, was concerned as some customers take longer than 2 hours for their nails, especially if they come in a group.

Rod Mayer, Urban Planning and Development, noted that parking was an amenity offered to new downtown businesses, and now the Village is whittling away at it with restrictions.

Mike Rambousek said the issue is that up to 20 employees are parking in the lot, where these spaces could be used by customers.

Administrator Hofland indicated the Village has done their best to direct people to public parking areas by signs, providing maps noting public parking, and web link information.

Mr. Mayer said the downtown was designed to be a walking area for customers, and this will deter people who would like to park and go to different businesses.

Chris Steeno, Sweet Trio, advised this is a start, and thanked Chair Grant for the time put into resolving the parking issues.

There was discussion on how parking will be enforced, with Chief Wenten advising when officers have the opportunity they will monitor the vehicles, and they will respond upon complaint. Chair Grant noted if there is a chronic problem with a vehicle, it enables officers to ticket.

Trustee Harbeck asked the Committee to consider an amount of 15 minute parking spaces, for customers who just need a "quick in and out" of a business.

Mr. Gruetzmacher, The Bridge Inn, was concerned that the 2 hour restrictions in the lot adjacent to his business would be a hindrance to customers in light of televised sporting events.

Rod Mayer said that the Village should get the employees out of the lot. Mike Rambousek responded that has already been attempted but was not supported by the Downtown Business Association.

Mike Rambousek offered that prior to recommending the parking restriction, that the businesses with concerns meet and discuss other ways to make the lots more customer friendly.

Bill Harbeck believes the 2 hour parking will be a mistake, pointing out that patrons at Vino 100, Milwaukee Ale House, and Alterra, have customers that stay longer than 2 hours.

After further discussion, Chair Grant advised there are two options, to recommend approval of the 2 hour restriction, which can be amended after further review, or to table the issue and request more input from the affected businesses.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to table approval of an ordinance to restrict parking to a 2 hour maximum in the public parking lots in the 1200 block between 12th Avenue and 13th Avenues from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00

p.m. Monday through Saturday, and to refer back to Mike Rambousek and the CDA for further review. Approved unanimously.

Chair Grant requested that anyone with input on the parking issue contact Mr. Rambousek.

Jim McCabe, Milwaukee Ale House, inquired about the status of the HAWK signals at 13th Avenue and Washington Street, and was advised of a September installation.

ORDINANCE REPEAL AND RECREATING SECTION 1.08 / RELATING TO PENALTIES

Chief Wenten informed the Committee that, in 2009, when the bond schedule was amended to match the Mid-Moraine Municipal Court bond schedule, the penalty section was not amended. This is a bookkeeping measure to correspond with the bond schedule.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 1.08 / Repeal and recreate penalties, as presented. Approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 / ADOPTING STATE STATUTES

The Village Attorney has also recommended amending Chapter 9 to adopt State Statutes by reference. Chief Wenten advised this is straightforward and will save a tremendous amount of time by not having to amend ordinances when state law changes.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board approve an Ordinance creating Chapter 9.01 / Adopting state criminal statutes and amending various sections of Chapter 9, as presented. Approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10.32 / STOP AND YIELD INTERSECTIONS FOR WEST BRIDGE STREET AT BOBOLINK AVENUE

Chief Wenten reviewed the intersection of West Bridge Street at Bobolink Avenue. He stated that he thinks the existing yield signs could be confusing to drivers. He recommended replacing the yield signs with a 2 way stop .Lisa Strebel, 1299 Bobolink Avenue, asked if a 4 way stop could be considered at a later time. Chief Wenten believed his recommendation was reasonable taking into account the traffic and accident statistics; however, the Department will continue to monitor the intersection for future needs.

Motion by Trustee Liss , seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board amend ordinance Chapter 10.32.010 / Stop intersections and Chapter 10.32.020 / Yield intersections for West Bridge Street at Bobolink Avenue, as presented. Approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.24 / DIRECT SELLERS

Chief Wenten advised that his recommended change to the Direct Sellers ordinance comes as a result of last month's meeting where a citizen voiced concern regarding people soliciting after dark. He discussed a change in hours for soliciting with the Village Attorney, and is recommended limiting the hours to 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Chair Grant inquired if there should be other limitations relating to this ordinance, with Chief Wenten responding that further changes may affect groups such as the Girl Scouts. The Committee was comfortable with the change in the hours.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board amend ordinance Chapter 5.24 / Direct Sellers, as presented.
Approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RECREATING SECTION 2.56.035 / SERVICE FEES

Administrator Hofland gave some background on the warrant service fee. He identified that in 2008, the Village Board approved an ordinance to create a \$25 warrant fee; however, the judge at that time was not confident in its legality. Due to a recent opinion of the Attorney General, the current judge has been working with the Mid-Moraine Court to develop a new ordinance, with a recommended service fee of \$35. The service fee is returned to the municipality.

Chief Wenten noted the \$35 fee is an accurate cost of processing and validating the warrants, which is very labor intensive.

Motion by Trustee Liss , seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board adopt an ordinance repealing and recreating section 2.56.035 / service fees of warrants and commitment orders, as presented.
Approved unanimously.

POLICE OVERTIME COMPARISON / APRIL 2010

It was noted the overtime continues to be lower than last year. The Department is currently fully staffed.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gregory Parchim, 756 9th Avenue, was present to discuss a citizen complaint regarding his property. Building Inspector Tom Johnson advised there is a large amount of construction equipment being stored in his backyard. Mr. Parchim admitted he does work in the construction business. He informed the Committee he is in the process of putting up a fence, and he will begin removal of the equipment. Mr. Johnson stated he will have a period of no more than 30 days to remove his equipment, and he will monitor the residence.

There was a brief discussion on off street residential vehicle parking. Both Chief Wenten and Tom Johnson would like to deal with any issues on a case to case basis instead of adopting a property ordinance.

Chief Wenten informed the Committee that Captain Gabrish has again been invited by Concordia College to sit on a panel which conducts mock interviews. He is pleased our expertise is recognized. He also discussed the intern program the Police Department has conducted, which is actually mini-field training.

A grant has been received for \$1,575 for Captain Grissom to attend a 3 week police administration course being held in Port Washington.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Approved unanimously.