

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 30, 2016

Members Present: Scottie Ard, Jim Jackson and Mike Montello

Others Present: Craig Yehlik, Jim VanderWyst and Jeanne Bergman

Scottie Ard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Mike Montello moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Mike Montello moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of June 22, 2016, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Traffic/Speed Concerns on Paperjack Drive

There have been numerous complaints regarding excess speed and the disregard for property along Paperjack Drive. Discussion took place on the following items to help control the problem:

- Educate the public, ask Ray Rivard to write an article for the newspaper
- Increase the use of the speed trailer
- Install more bump outs, islands, grated crosswalks, etc.
- Increase patrol presence
- Use a unmanned police car as a deterrent
- Increase the use of signage

Craig Yehlik will collect data from the speed trailer and give a report on any traffic patterns at the next meeting.

Discussion and Action on Speeding/Construction Zones Public Information Campaign

Craig will write a statement for the newspaper on what steps the City has taken to control the speeding problem and include data from the speed trailer. This information will also be posted on social media. If the problem persists, the police department will have no recourse but to issue citations.

Off-Leash Dogs on Trails

Numerous complaints have been received from people who live by and use the walking trails, regarding dog owners who are allowing their pets to be off leash. The intent of the ordinance is to make the parks and trails enjoyable for everyone. Currently it's at the police officer discretion to issue a citation for an unleashed dog. Mike Montello moved to produce an informational piece which can be handed out with dog licenses, at veterinary clinics and other public places, advising people of the dog ordinance, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried. The community service officer will be asked to compile a flyer. This information will be posted on Facebook.

Discussion Regarding an Ordinance for Cats

The feral cat population is becoming a problem in New Richmond. Currently the City does not have an ordinance regulating cats. Scottie Ard has been in contact with an organization that helps set up public feral cat colony sites. Cats at these sites are given shelter, fed, immunized, spayed and neutered. Expenses are covered from donated funds and volunteers see they are fed. Any colony sites located on private property is the responsibility of the property owner which includes all aspects of care. Scottie and Mike Darrow are looking at several possible public sites.

Discussion on Possible Licensing of Cats

Licensing of cats may be necessary to insure that family pets are returned to their owners. Discussion took place on a possible feral cat ordinance and the need to involve the public for their input. Mike Montello moved to investigate the issue of feral cats, ordinances and policies other units of government are using to help resolve the feral cat issue, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried. Each member was asked to contact a local municipality and collect information. This topic will be brought back to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.

Burning Leaves and Brush Notice

To increase public awareness Jim VanderWyst will put together a notice to remind the public of the City's burning ordinance. The notice will include what can be burned and the hours of the compost site where all leaves, limbs and brush are to be taken. This information will also be posted on all social media sites.

K9 Unit – New Richmond Police Department

The police department is looking into the possibility of a K9 unit in New Richmond. Start up costs is approximately \$30,000 (see breakdown of costs attached). Craig feels confident these expenses could be covered through fundraising, donations and grants. The annual maintenance cost to have a dog is \$2,000 to 5,000 depending upon veterinary bills. Benefits of having a K9 unit include tracking missing individuals or endangered persons, narcotics searches, clearing buildings, officer safety and detouring crime which will make the City safer and could lower the call for service from the police department. Mike Montello moved to recommend, to the City Council, to investigate the possibility of implementing a K9 unit, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried. Craig will be making a presentation at the September City Council meeting.

Communications and Miscellaneous

Faith Community, Cornerstone Assembly of God and Westconsin Credit Union hosted a luncheon today honoring the police, fire and EMS departments. Craig expressed his gratitude for this event.

Mike Montello moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Minutes by Jeanne Bergman