

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday April 17, 4:30 p.m.
MMEU Conference Room

Kuhlman called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Present: Dick Rickerl, Kevin Kuhlman Cory Simonson entered at 4:43 p.m.

Others Present: Josh Boldt, Frank Ellenz, Tom Messerli, Paul Hahle and Jan Ketelsen

Motion by Rickerl, seconded by Kuhlman to approve the agenda.

Motion Carried 2-0

Motion by Rickerl, seconded by Kuhlman to approve minutes from March 6, 2024 Public Safety meeting.

Motion Carried 2-0

Boldt opened discussion with the Traffic Safety Action Plan Task Force with a little background and history of the submitted SS4A grant. The grant administrators recommended to categorize and focus on particular areas. It currently reads too much like a roadway maintenance plan. The updates are due by April 30, 2024. The areas recommended to think about include safe routes to schools, and widening of sidewalks and streets. If awarded an SS4A grant, outside help from federal funds will cover 80% of the costs, and the City will need to cover the remainder in a local match. Boldt and the Traffic Safety Action Plan Task Force discussed how to connect the south side of the city to the Briggs corridor and the proposed Apple Street connector trail. The clear option was using S. 2nd St. as a pedestrian connector and then recommend N Niagara to serve as a connector due to the traffic light in place.

The expansion of Briggs Elementary will add 40 – 50 additional parent vehicles traveling on W. Quarry.

Kuhlman stated he uses Quarry St. continuously and something definitely needs to be done to fix and widen W. Quarry Street.

Boldt added, one plan for bus traffic is to have the buses exit using Quarry St. another is to enter on 5th and out Apple. There is a lot to decide and further studies are needed on the school districts part.

Boldt explained about the need to widen Locust Street including ADA ramps from the 700 West Block to the 500 East block. If the City were to complete this project without the grant, it would cost in the range of \$300,000 - \$400,000.

Ellenz questioned if it would be a street maintenance project.

Boldt explained it would be described as a safety issue. The improvement of the Locust Street corridor to South 2nd would safely transport pedestrians, including school children to the middle school. The City is consulting with WHKS and presenting an engineers estimate on all works.

The purchase of speed signs is another item mentioned in the report along with the street painting beginning in May. The Council awarded a bid for a complete rehabilitation to address roadway safety on Walnut and E. Maple as already outlined in the Traffic Safety Action Plan.

Kuhlman stated his concern of where will the money come from. He also stated, it will be worth the money and that Quarry Street needs to be done. The schools gives these projects momentum.

Ellenz questioned if the cost includes stormwater. Boldt stated yes for W. Quarry.

Boldt explained it's for safety. Boldt gave an example if the grant will cover \$3 million, then the City will need to pay \$600,000 in local cost.

Kuhlman stated the City needs good roads for transportation.

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Rickerl to recommend council approval of the April 2024 update to the Traffic Safety Action Plan. Motion Carried 3-0

Boldt discussed identifying goals and restrictions on a golf cart ordinance. Boldt asked everyone about thoughts to start the process. He suggested to read through the copies of ordinances from other cities to see what they would like to include.

Hahle questioned why this was coming up as a topic.

Boldt explained in 2022 the Council put this topic away. He then proceeded to explain that in the codification of the ordinances, a golf cart ordinance was mistakenly added. The Council didn't approve a golf cart ordinance. This information was brought forward to the council to rescind because it shouldn't be in there. It was suggested to start from the bottom to build a golf cart ordinance.

Rickerl stated he talked with neighbors about a golf card ordinance and there was 0% support. He noted the letter read at council was the only one he knew in favor of the ordinance.

Simonson stated he doesn't like it, but would probably actually only effect 4 -5 neighborhoods. He suggested having a completed ordinance in place would help to regulate the golf carts.

Rickerl questioned about the flow of traffic and the safety of golf carts on the roads. Stated the golf carts should be outlawed on Main and Platt.

It was also questioned about the people who drive lawn mowers on the streets.

Kuhlman mentioned when golf carts were brought up before, his was the deciding vote and it was a no. The calls he is currently receiving have been concerns about the Walmart remodel and residents who want the golf carts. There are enough residents to change his vote to yes, in favor of having a golf cart ordinance. He also mentioned, there are people already driving the golf carts, so let's regulate it.

Messerli mentioned, this ordinance will be a lot like the chicken ordinance. There will be a lot of talk about it initially, but then it will quiet down.

Simonson stated the golf cart ordinance should restrict usage on high traffic areas. He suggested to see what other cities like DeWitt and Anamosa use and to create a map of the roads acceptable for golf carts.

Hahle mentioned the people driving lawn mowers are not trying to be a part of traffic.

Kuhlman mentioned there are other slow moving vehicles on the roads like mopeds.

Boldt commented that we don't want the police tied up with golf cart speed tests and for the UTV ordinance the City follows the state guidelines.

Kuhlman stated that permit stickers would need to be mandatory. Golf carts are not allowed out at night and the reflection from the stickers would make it easier for the police to notice them. He would also want golf carts outlawed on Main and Platt.

Simonson also stated to restrict Main and Platt St. The golf carts should drive close the curb so people could go around them. Stated to reach out to other cities to see what is working form them. Stated there will be a big push in the beginning but will settle down later, similar to the chicken ordinance. He doesn't think it will be as big of a problem. The driver's will need a valid driver's license. Boldt added the driver should also be reminded that DWI's apply to golf carts too.

Rickerl stated he will go through the ordinances and mark items that will fit and those that don't fit. One comment was made about the insurance at 300,000 was too high, thought it was more realistic at 100,000.

This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Rickerl brought up about his neighbor sitting on his porch watching the traffic fly by as they going up and down the street. Would like a 4-way stop sign between Vermont and Main.

Simonson stated a stop sign isn't going to slow the drivers down. It would be better to have the police out covering it. The flashing stop signs slow people down.

Kuhlman stated the flashing stop signs are a great reminder.

Rickerl stated he would also like the yield sign removed along 5th Street and Locust. It's the only yield sign along the street, but would like it gone.

There was no other business discussed.

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Simonson adjourning at 5:10 p.m. All ayes.

Kevin Kuhlman, Chairperson

Attest

Jan Ketelsen, Secretary