

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, May 3rd, 3:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers

Simonson called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m.

Present: Cory Simonson, Dick Rickerl, Kevin Kuhlman  
Others Present: Brendan Zeimet, Josh Boldt, Katie Pauls, Paul Hahle and Jan Ketelsen

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Rickerl to approve the agenda. Motion Carried 3-0

Motion by Rickerl, seconded by Kuhlman to approve minutes from February 1, 2023 Public Safety meeting. Motion Carried 3-0

Boldt opened discussion on establishing a Traffic Safety Action Plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify and prioritize high risk accident areas and improve road design and infrastructure. The grants are a two-step process. The first grant is for the planning process and the second grant is for implementing the plan. The funds for the plan will be 80% from the Federal Government and 20% from local road use tax. A survey will be going out to residents of Maquoketa in the utility billing on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Pauls mentioned it would be good to ask if the person filling out the survey work or lives in Maquoketa. A survey will also be set up on Survey Monkey. Kuhlman explained having the 2 different options to complete the survey will cover everyone interested in completing the survey. A traffic Safety Action plan draft will be due June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Boldt explained other groups to reach out to for input on where they see the risks would include the school board and community groups.

Hahle addressed discussing the 4-wheelers and ATV's. He mentioned the drivers seem to be using good behavior. Zeimet stated there hasn't been a lot of complaints and no accidents to date. The only talk is about the fact they are a louder vehicle.

Pauls mentioned Main and Locust is an intersection where she sees a lot of close calls and has concerns for safety.

Boldt opened discussion on street lighting complaints for 200 S. Olive Street and 400 Circle Drive where the residents would like additional lighting installed. The resident also stated there are tree limbs blocking the light. Boldt explained the quote from MMEU would range between \$3,000 and \$4,000 depending on the wire boring costs. The City standard distance is 300 feet.

Simonson stated he is not in favor of adding the light at Circle Drive because it currently meets the City standard. He included that Public Works could address the limb issues.

Hahle stated there are ways to address the lighting issue at Circle Drive without incurring additional costs.

Kuhlman questioned the cost of lights that would do a better job of fanning out the light in comparison to the LED lights that are focused downward?

The complaint at 200 South Olive Street is different as it is approximately 549 feet away from the next nearest light. MMEU quoted an estimate cost of \$3,900.

Motion by Rickerl, seconded by Kuhlman to approve lighting at 200 S. Olive Street.

Boldt opened discussion on the complaint of the intersection at Locust Street and S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Rickerl explained a stop sign would be a better option over the current yield sign that's posted at the intersection. He said within a 3 week span there was potential for at least 3 accidents. He also stated if it was a stop sign, people may look both ways before continuing across the intersection.

Simonson stated it's hard to see because of the church at Niagara Street. It was stated to add the intersection into the traffic action plan and to table further discussion.

Boldt opened discussion on amending the City Code 3-3A-468 weight restrictions. He explained one of the issues is the statement in the ordinance where it states, "shall not apply to anyone who operates a vehicle enroute to and from their place of residence or business."

Simonson stated, it's fine to have the truck parked in the driveway, but not to have the truck and or trailer parked on the streets. It's hard on the roads and they are hard to see around. He is fine with changing the City ordinance to get the semis off the side streets.

A question came up about farm vehicles. Zeimet explained those are exempt. He stated companies need to explain to the drivers when they are making their deliveries to stay on the truck routes and to take the most direct route. Zeimet questioned how to enforce code? Add the fee to the code, or issue a state ticket and if state tickets are issued everything needs to be in order, such as truck route signs need to be posted. He explained enforcing is hard because have to prove reasonable doubt.

Simonson stated to clean-up ordinance to state no trucks on City side streets off the truck routes.

Kuhlman stated to look into weight restrictions for City streets and driveways.

Zeimet presented the Chief's report. James Tenney is the new officer that just started. He stated it's nice to be back to full staff. There is no increase in recordables. He stated that next week the department will be attending active shooter training. The first day is to stop the threat and the second day is an integrated response to include first responders, medics, learning patient assessments. Schedules will be adjusted for officers to attend.

There was no other business to discuss.

Motion by Rickerl, seconded by Simonson adjourning at 4:43 p.m. All ayes.

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Cory Simonson, Chairperson

Attest

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Jan Ketelsen, Secretary