



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
April 12th, 2017
7:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to order: Chairperson C. Whitney called the meeting to order.

Attendance:

- **Committee members present:** Chairperson C. Whitney, Councilor K. Farrell, Councilor J. Conners, Councilor C. Soltysiak, Councilor K. McGlenn, and
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, Borough Manager G. Locke, Engineer K. Hassan, Fire Chief K. Lynch, Fire Chief M. Brogan, and Police Chief A. DiValentino.

Public Comment: Charles Dotger, 311 Rodman Avenue, appeared before the Committee to continue to discuss the concerns he has regarding Walnut Street, specifically between Hillside Avenue and Runnymede Avenue. Mr. Dotger appeared before the committee back in November of last year, voicing suggestions to slow traffic down traveling on Walnut Street. Mr. Dotger would like to see a stop sign on Walnut Street at Cheltena Avenue, only on the north bound side.

Reports

- **Police Department** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Second Alarmers** – No Report. A written report will be provided for the Council meeting.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials
- **Independent Fire Company-** A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.

New Business

1. **Fire Department Training Assessment** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated that the Assessments have been completed and a final report has been completed and distributed. Chairperson C. Whitney stated that Council and the Fire Chiefs have begun reading the report. This will be continued to be discussed during the Fire Commission Meeting.
2. **Fire Marshall Part Time Position** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated the Borough has begun the search for the part time position for the Fire Marshall. The ad has been placed in the newspaper and is on various sites such as monster.com and aftercollege.com, and after an extensive search, the Borough has received five qualified applications. Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that interviews will be set up in the near future.

3. **Fire Commission Meeting** - Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the Fire Commission meeting was held on March 22nd at 6:30pm at Independent Fire Company. The topic of discussion was regarding the Final Fire Department Training Assessment Report, and the implementations that the report recommended. This will continue to be discussed at the monthly Fire Commission meetings.
4. **Crosswalk on 300 block on Florence Avenue to playground** – Borough Manager G. Locke stated that the Borough had a meeting with the Boroughs Traffic Engineer and Councilor C. Soltysiak on March 13th at 10AM for a site visit. Borough's Traffic Engineer has begun preliminary observations on whether a cross walk can be added onto the 300 block of Florence Avenue to allow for pedestrians to cross from Beaver Hill North to the playground. The Borough's traffic engineer has offered their preliminary opinion which has been placed in Dropbox for review. Councilor C. Soltysiak highlighted that the meeting went well, and they found a location for the crosswalk. The next step is deciding whether or not the Borough wanted to install a "bump out" for the crosswalk or not. Diagrams have been placed in Dropbox depicting the bump out and the non-bump out crosswalk. This will be included in the 2017 CDBG application.

Old Business

1. **School Zone Safety Lights on Walnut Street Update** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the two West Avenue and two lights on Walnut Street have been installed. Tomorrow the signage will be installed
2. **Resident Concerns regarding Walnut Street** – New concerns discussed during public comment. The Borough's Engineer is reviewing the concerns with Dave Adams from PennDOT. In November of 2016, Charles Dotger, 311 Rodman Avenue, spoke before the committee to try and improve the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Rodman Avenue and Walnut Street. Mr. Dotger was looking to have the Borough install a pedestrian walkway, stop sign and signalization. Engineer K. Hassan explained to Mr. Dotger that a study must be completed before the Borough installs any signage and PennDOT has the final say as this intersection is on a state road, however Engineer K. Hassan stated that they would begin the study to consider the possibility of creating a safer intersection for pedestrians.

Police Chief A. DiValentino stated that the Police Department placed their traffic counter on Walnut Street on February 18th at 7pm and removed it on February 23rd at 11pm. The traffic counter was placed on Walnut Street between Rodman Avenue and Cheltena Avenue. The Police Department believes that the accidents occurring on Walnut Street were the result of stop sign violations and DUI's. The Police counted 29,000 vehicles driving on Walnut Street in both directions during this time with a median speed 26mph and the highest speed of 47mph.

3. **Greenwood Avenue School Safety Zone Report** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the plans have official approval from PennDOT.
4. **Walnut Street Safety Submittal to PennDOT** – There is no new updates for this topic. Last month, Councilor K. Farrell stated that Police Chief A. DiValentino pulled all of the accident reports on Walnut Street, between Hillside Avenue and Runnymede Avenue. Council has concerns regarding this section of Walnut Street due to the bend in Walnut Street at Cheltena Avenue. Traffic Engineer M. Bickerton, from Pennoni Associates, stated that Pennoni completed a field evaluation and have completed their recommendation. Pennoni recommends new reflective signage, more signage and new pavement markings. Traffic Engineer M. Bickerton stated that Pennoni Associates then filed with PennDOT for this project to be a part of PennDOT's low cost safety improvement contract, and PennDOT agreed to include Walnut Street as a part of that project. Their current contract is expired and is out to bid right now and PennDOT is hopeful that the improvements should be completed by the Spring of 2017.

5. **Status of PD Request on Language in Borough Code to Match Accreditation Standard –** Chairperson C. Whitney stated that Ordinance has been advertised and will be voted upon at the April Council meeting. A copy of the draft ordinance has been provided in Dropbox.

Adjournment: On motion of Chairperson C. Whitney, seconded by Councilor C. Soltysiak, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.