



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 8th, 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 Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Committee members absent:** None.
- **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: None at this time.

Reports

- **Police Department** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Police Chief A. DiValentino wanted to highlight on March 17th the Police Department and the Montgomery County Radio room will present a program for grade school kids from Kindergarten to second grade. The program will be about 911. Police Chief A. DiValentino will also be giving a presentation to Beaver Hill regarding fraud.
- **Second Alarmers** – A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – No report.
- **Independent Fire Company**- A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Fire Chief K. Lynch is continuing to communicate with Beaver Hill in making that building more “fire safety friendly” such as labeling stair towers, completing inspections and so forth.

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. Vice President R. Bunker wanted the committee to note that both Fire Departments have taken the some of the recommendations listed in the report such as having Training Officers, and better tracking of trainings. Vice President R. Bunker wanted the Fire Departments to know that the Borough appreciates that.

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. Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that it will be in the paper for three days.
3. **Fire Commission Meeting** - Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the date for the Fire Commission meeting has been set and will be held on March 22nd at 6:30pm at Independent Fire Company.

Old Business

1. **Accessible Walk to Playground** - Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the railings have been ordered and installed. Borough Manager G. Locke stated that there is a volunteer group collecting money to help fund the Phase two connecting path. The Grant activities will include various structure for the children to play on such as a dropzone as well as plantings. The Borough and JSD are collaboratively working towards connecting the two paths.
2. **Timing of Traffic Light at Greenwood/Summit/Township Line** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated that the timing has been reset and there have been no concerns voiced to the Borough. Township Line Road closed from 9-3 until June for water main replacement by AQUA.
3. **School Zone Safety Lights on Walnut Street Update** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the pole foundations have been installed. There will be lights on West Avenue and two lights on Walnut Street. The lights have been ordered and should be received soon.
4. **Resident Concerns regarding Walnut Street** – There is no new updates from last month as the 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 Cheltona Avenue. The Police Department believes that the accidents occurring on Walnut Street were the result of stop sign violations and DUI's. The Police counter 29,000 driving on Walnut Street in both directions during this time with a median speed 26mph and the highest speed of 47mph.

5. **Greenwood Avenue School Safety Zone Report** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the preliminary plans have been approved and the Borough is now waiting for the official approval from PennDOT.
6. **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 Cheltona 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.

- 7. Striping on Florence Avenue to playground –** Borough Manager G. Locke stated that the Borough has a meeting with the Boroughs Traffic Engineer 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. Engineer K. Hassan summarized the Engineers' Opinion which stated that the Borough has to meet certain criteria for this proposal to move forward. First the posted speed limit must be less than 35 mph, in this case the Borough's speed limit on this block of Florence is 15 mph. The second criteria is that the nearest marked crosswalk has to be 300 feet or greater away, Engineer K. Hassan is unsure if this meets the criteria as he has not measured the closest marked crosswalk. Finally, the number of pedestrians crossing must be more than eighty in one hour or forty over four house. If elderly or children are crossing this number may be reduced by 50%. Pennoni is creating a final recommendation, and will be delivered to Council as soon the recommendation is completed.

- 8. Status of PD Request on Language in Borough Code to Match Accreditation Standard –** Chairperson C. Whitney stated that the solicitor has these changes and are reviewing them. Borough Manager G. Locke stated that the Ordinance has been provided in Dropbox.

Chairperson C. Whitney made a motion, seconded by Councilor K. Farrell, to send Ordinance #2017-3 regarding the Police Departments request on language in Borough Code to match Accrediation Standards to full council for advertisement.

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion of Chairperson C. Whitney, seconded by Vice President R. Bunker, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.