



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
April 13th, 2022
7:00 P.M.
700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

MINUTES

Call to Order: Vice President C. Soltysiak called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Councilors Present: Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor A. Khalil

Councilors Absent: Councilor K. McGlenn

Others Present: Manager G. Locke, Engineer M. Bickerton, Chief T. Scott, Fire Marshal K. Lynch, Mayor G. Lerman, Nick Pettinati

Public Comment: Manager G. Locke read an email from Maureen Lucak – Cedar Street (00:33:20): Her concern is with patrons of King’s Corner parking in yellow painted curb, no parking areas at the intersection of Cedar and Summit, which makes it difficult to see cars already at the intersection. A second note from M. Lucak commended an officer who went after someone who ran a red light at York and West, later seen pulled over a couple blocks down the road. Later that same day, a second person was pulled over in the same location.

REPORTS

1. Police Department: Chief T. Scott gave the following updates:
 - a. 497 total incidents
 - b. Signage for Washington Lane at Old York Road regarding no trucks.
 - c. Accident statistics on Old York Road – discussions about traffic calming are underway.
 - d. A thank you letter was received for all of the officers who tend to calls at 610 York Road.
 - e. Some of our officers and Fire Marshal K. Lynch attended the memorial service for a Hatboro Officer Ryan Allen and assisted with traffic control.
2. Pioneer Fire Company: Nick Pettanati said the report has been provided and no other updates to be discussed at this time.
3. Independent Fire Company: Fire Chief K. Lynch said he just received a financial report so he will resubmit his report to include all updated information. Joint training will be resuming with warmer weather coming.
4. Fire Police – Report was submitted by Fire Chief K. Lynch.
5. Second Alarmers – Latest report received at the end of March.

NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Welcome to Police Chief Scott**
 - Public Swearing into Office to take place Wednesday April 27th at Borough Council meeting, location to be announced in near future.
2. **Fire Commission Meeting**
 - The Fire Commission meeting was held prior to this meeting. The next Fire Commission meeting will be held on May 11th.
3. **Police Work Group update**
 - Update to be provided by Councilor K. McGlenn (Absent). Vice President C. Soltysiak mentioned Chief Scott's upcoming swearing in.
4. **COVID 19 Update**
 - In Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, community level is rated as Low at this time.
 - The Borough's COVID-19 Policy adopted by Council, is in place for both Uniform and Non-union employees and serves as a guideline detailing what measures are to be taken in the case of exposure or illness following CDC guidelines.
 - Pennsylvania has reached a new COVID-19 vaccine milestone with 95 percent of Pennsylvanians ages 18 and older receiving at least one vaccination. Additionally, according to the CDC, as of Monday, Feb. 28, 76.5% of Pennsylvanians age 18 and older are fully vaccinated.
5. **Fire Department Training Ordinance Amendment**
 - Proposed Ordinance revisions being discussed at Fire Commission.
 - Once revisions have been discussed at Fire Commission, the Ordinance will be brought to Public Safety for consideration to be sent to Full Council.
 - Borough Council will consider voting to advertise the revised Ordinance for adoption at a public meeting.
6. **Greenwood Avenue and Washington Lane Traffic Light Upgrade Road (00:49:20) Engineer M. Bickerton** went into detail about the plans recently submitted.
 - Plans were received for the traffic light and permit upgrades. Authorization sought for Borough Engineer to review submittal as requested by PennDOT.
7. **Crosswalk and Traffic Light Safety – Greenwood/West at York**
 - Traffic Engineer was asked to observe traffic blocking intersection and crosswalk timing at these two intersections. Has an informal report to provide on observations made and possible improvements. (00:51:08) A discussion between Councilor D. Pancoe, Engineer M. Bickerton, Fire Marshal K. Lynch and Fire Chief K. Lynch took place regarding the lights being out of sync.
8. **Second Alarmers / Emergency Service Staffing Concerns**
 - Second Alarmers have approached the Borough to discuss their staffing issues and to ask for additional funding.

- Meetings have been held with several local Municipalities served by Second Alarmers to discuss possible solutions.
- PA State Borough Code requires the Borough to provide Emergency ambulance services. The Borough has between 300/400 calls for service per year.
- A meeting was held with MONTCO and Cheltenham Twp. to discuss possible solutions.
- It appears a solution may be needed for the 2023 budget season.

9. School Zone Extension – Walnut Street

- The Borough Administration and Engineer have submitted for the MONTCO 2040 Implementation Grant to fund the construction of this project. The MONTCO 2040 Implementation Grant would leave a balance of 12K for the approximate 60K project.
- This Grant was submitted prior to the March 1st deadline.
- The PennDOT permit plan has been approved for the extension of the School Zone on Walnut Street from West Avenue to Hillside Avenue. This was the 1st of the 3 phases of the project. The approval of this permit plan was a huge success for this unconventional project, and it should improve the safety of pedestrians traveling to and from the school.
- If Funding were to be approved, the 3rd phase will follow which is the construction of the proposed project.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. York Road Speed Reduction / Safety Plan

- The Plan has been Approved by PennDOT and Engineer has worked to establish an ‘Estimate of Probable Cost’ so that Funding can be pursued.
- Speed limit signs reported missing from Homestead Road to Rodman Avenue at Borough limits. Report made action taken, Traffic Engineer and/or Mr. Riggins can report on it.
- Council has authorized the Borough Traffic Engineer to develop an Engineered plan of York Road.
- The plan will implement approximately five (5) speed reduction / safety features discussed with PennDOT.
- Currently the speed reduction/safety features PennDOT favors are: speed zone reduction signage, larger speed signage, rumble strips at cross walks, street painting and real-time/digital responsive signage.
- The latest version of the plan that has been submitted to PennDOT has been placed in your packets. This plan was also shared with Melissa Hager, owner of the herb/tea shop on Yorkway Place who has worked with other Business owners, the Borough and PennDOT to help bring this plan to fruition.
- The plan has been submitted to PennDOT for approval. Once approved, it will then be used to seek funding sources to implement the public safety measures.

2. Washington Lane Safety Concerns Raised by Residents

- The permits have been approved. The ‘NO Trucks’ and ‘Reduced Speed Limit’ signage have been installed.
- State Senator Haywood and State Representative Nelson’s Office have held meetings with Officials from Penn Dot, Montco and Abington Township and Jenkintown Borough

- Permits to install updated No Truck (except local delivery) signage at York Road and Washington Lane and Reduced Speed Ahead signage at Route 73 crossing over Township Line Road and entering Washington Lane from Cheltenham Township have been submitted.
- The permits were submitted 10/11/21 and PennDOT has agreed to expedite the approval process so signage can be installed without delay.
- Pavement markings showing the speed limit are under consideration. These 25 MPH pavement markings have been installed on Homestead Road and the specification sheet for them are in this evenings packets.

3.2019 FEMA SAFER Grant

- Recruitment inquiries continue, retention payments have been disbursed, grant authority issued payment to the Borough and consultant was issued payment.
- The Borough Fire Department recruitment website is active, and we have had inquiries from many volunteers.
- There are also support/recruitment yard signs available to residents and the first mailer has been sent to residents as the program continues to be rolled out to assist in the recruitment and retention of the Jenkintown Fire Department Volunteers.

4. Fire Department Training Log

- Both Fire Companies have met and organized the Borough Training Log.
- Additional training certificates are delivered to the Fire Marshal as attained.
- Further training continues to be discussed at the Fire Commission

5. 2017 CFA Multimodal Grant – Washington Lane & Greenwood Avenue

- Mark Bickerton has confirmed Green Light Go funding has been re-instated which includes the traffic lights for the entire intersection in the scope of the project again (#6 Order of Business / New Business)
- This grant was awarded in conjunction with Abington Township.
- During the January Council meeting, a resolution was approved to complete improvements including the signal pole on the northeast corner to be replaced/relocated and the controller cabinet to be relocated to facilitate the stormwater and trail improvements at this location.
- Due to COVID-19, the Green Light Go funds have been withdrawn from the project which postponed improvements to three of the four corners of the intersection.
- The other three (3) corners of that intersection improvement will be addressed when the Green Light Go funding is released.

Manager Locke read another email he received from Walter S. Flores (CEO – Wealth Financial Services) congratulating Chief Scott and his officers. He wanted to provide food and drink for the swearing in of Chief Scott and make a \$1000.00 donation to the Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice President C. Soltysiak adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM.