Public Safety Committee
October 12, 2021

City Hall Conference Room

AGENDA

- Call to Order

- Approval of Minutes

- Police Chief Report

- Fire Chief Report

- Safety Service Director Comments

- Old Business

- New Business
  - Zoning regulation changes
  - Ordinance 207-21

- Adjourn

Safety Service Committee

20 S. Walnut Street

Minutes
October 12, 2021

Committee members present: Chairman Rich Hays and Andy Hitt
Committee member absent: Carla Blazier
City representatives in attendance: Safety Service Director, Rex Castle; Fire/EMS Chief, Todd Eades; Police Chief, Glenn Nicole; Law Director, Jennifer Hitt; Executive Assistant, Amy Rees and City Councilman Anthony Smith
Community members in attendance: Michael Norman; Brendan Shea; George Swartz; Steve Miller; Jordyn Close; Michelle Davis and 10TV reporter, Richard Solomon

Mr. Hays called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

The minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Chief Nicol - Report attached

- The department is currently in the process of filling the position of one, full-time, police officer.

Chief Eades - Report attached

Rex Castle - Safety Service Director
Traffic Light Removal

- The Police Department recently conducted a traffic study at the intersection of Westmoor Drive and High Street. There have been no traffic incidents since the light has been removed and the speed of traffic has not increased.
- Mr. Castle stated that the Administration is taking the community's comments and concerns about the removal of specific traffic lights into consideration.
- The advertisement to receive bids for the purchase of traffic lights and related equipment will appear in the next two issues of the Madison Messenger.

OLD BUSINESS
Two-hour Parking on Union Street

- At the October 7, 2021 City Council meeting, the legislation was amended to only enforce a 2-hour parking ban from High Street to the alley.
- Chief Nicol explained that the current law limits parking on streets, not in the downtown area, to 72-hours. He stated that enforcing a 2-hour ban in a specific area and not in all areas, similar in nature, is unfair. He also noted that the only complaint that he has received relates to cars parking on the sidewalk and that issue has been resolved.
- Mr. Castle explained that City Council could vote against the legislation, and if so, the 72-hour limit would apply.

Residential Lot Coverage

- Mr. Castle explained the increase in the allowable residential lot coverage and the reasons the Administration is requesting the change.

NEW BUSINESS
Ordinance 207-21 - Sponsored by Anthony Smith – An ordinance outlawing abortion, declaring London a sanctuary for the unborn, making various provisions and findings, providing for severability and establishing an effective date

- Mr. Smith explained the he is requesting the legislation to be amended to include verbiage that would strengthen the ordinance. He also stated that if the committee amended the legislation and voted to present it to Council, it would then go to the Finance Committee to do the same. After both committees vote to take it back to Council, the entire, amended version would be presented for a vote. Mr. Smith also stated that there were individuals on social media, who are opposed to the legislation, making threatening comments and planning to attend the next City Council meeting. He said that voting on it quickly would quell the protests.
- Mr. Smith also explained that there was no evidence of cities being sued or negatively affected by the passage of laws exactly like the one proposed.

- Ms. Close stated that the reason there have been no judgments against cities yet is because the legislation is still going through court proceedings.
- Mr. Hitt stated that because there were so many strong viewpoints for and against the legislation, the committee should take the time to review and understand the ordinance and its possible implications on the city. After the statement by Mr. Hitt, Mr. Smith asked Mr. Hitt if he was scared of witches and wiccans. Mr. Hitt stated that he was not scared of public input and wanted the ordinance and issues to be fully reviewed.
- Mr. Hays stated that the amendments that Mr. Smith is requesting to be voted on were just sent hours ago and he has not had a chance to review them.
- Mr. Norman also stated that it seemed to be getting rushed through the legislative process, to which Mr. Smith denied.
- Mr. Miller voiced his concern about sending the legislation back to Council without further consideration from the committee. He said that this would lessen the time for public input.
- Mr. Norman asked about the enforceability of the ordinance and what could happen to him and his wife if he was pulled over by law enforcement and found to have Plan B contraception in his car.
- Mr. Hays stated that the committee needed more time to study the ordinance and moved to table the legislation for further review. Mr. Hitt seconded the motion.

The meeting Adjourned at 5:41pm.

The next Safety Service Committee meeting will take place on November 10, 2021 at 5:15pm at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: Amy Rees

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Respectfully submitted by: Amy Rees

LONDON POLICE DIVISION

10 East First St.
London, Ohio 43140
740-852-1414
lpdrecords@londonohio.gov

Public Safety Committee Meeting
October 12th, 2021

- We are currently accepting applications for police officer through lateral transfers, (those with experience and current certification). We will discuss with CSC about extending the recent application process; as we had very few applicants. We have one current open position.
- A new generator was ordered after capital appropriations were authorized.
- Our cruiser photo submitted in the Light Ohio Blue contest finished in first place for our group with over 1,300 votes.
- Negotiations between the city and OPBA units were conducted on various days over the past month, with the sergeant group ratifying an agreement.
- An electronic fingerprinting system was recently installed and is operational; allowing LPD to submit criminal arrest records directly to the state database. This system was obtained with last year's CARES Act federal funds at no cost to the city. The $22,000 system was delayed due to manufacturing issues as well as software issues with BCI's system. While we have the capability to complete civilian background checks for the public, we will not currently offer that service.
- We participated in the LHS Homecoming Parade, as well as the London Schools safety drills at all the buildings.
- Officers participated in the community service day with St. Pat's school at Cowling Park.
- We continue to increase presence and enforcement efforts at Cowling Park due to several recent vandalism incidents. We have issued trespass restrictions to over five individuals in response to calls at the park this month. We have handled 92 CFS at the park in 2021 and over 280 individual security checks.

STATS: OVI's are up from 43 to 47 incidents, Thefts are up from 121 to 151; Unruly Juveniles are up from 27 to 45, Fraudulent Scams are up from 16-43; Warrant Executions are up to 81 from 36; Traffic Crashes down from 155 to 147. Overall RMS entries increased 15% from the same time frame last year. (reports, citations, parking citations, events.) Calls for service are up to 5992, an increase of 7% from 2020. We currently have 4,184 app users.

<u>Current Issue - Traffic Light Study:</u>

There have been no further crashes since the last month report of 5 on High St and none were found related to the intersections without the working signals.

A speed comparison from traffic analyzers on W High near Westmoor showed no significant increase in speeds without the light functioning at Westmoor. In 2019 the average speed was 36 MPH in the left lane (heaviest travelled) with the mode at 35 and the 85th percentile at 43.08. In the recent 2021 report, the average speed was 37 MPH with the mode at 35 and the 85th percentile at 43.16 MPH..

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October 2021 Summary for Safety Committee

Activities & Events

- Departmental EMS Training-Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support.
- Departmental Fire Training- Aerial Operations.
- New Hire orientation continued.
- Participated in parade in South Charleston.
- Participated in Touch a Truck Fire safety talk at Cowling Park with St. Pats.
- Provided EMS for Horse Show at Madison County Fairgrounds.
- Participated in Birthday Drive-by.
- Provided EMS for football games.

Remember:

1. Maintain physical distancing by a minimum 6-foot distance from other individuals.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20-seconds (Happy Birthday song twice), especially after coughing or sneezing.
3. Avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
4. Cover coughs/sneezes with your arm or a tissue (discard tissues in the trash).
5. Avoid exposure to others who are sick, especially those sick with respiratory symptoms.
6. Stay home if you are ill and avoid close contact with others.
7. Wear a mask. Masks are no longer just for sick people.
8. Get adequate sleep, eat well-balanced meals, and hydrate frequently to ensure a healthy immune system.
9. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Todd D. Eades