MINUTES
City Council Public Safety Committee

Monday, November 25, 2024 – 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Mac Morrow, Vice-Chair, Council Member Kevin Gallo, Citizen Member Mayor Mauren Copelof, Ex-Officio Member
Staff Present	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Tom Jordan, Police Chief Bobby Cooper, Fire Chief Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager
Guests:	Linda Gallo, Lani Callison, Monica Driscoll, Bill Shamrock, and Don Rowe

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Assistant to the City Manager Selena Coffey certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2024 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Gallo to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Update on Traffic Calming Measures

Mr. Hooper reported to the Committee about speed cushions placed on Probart Street and that the next speed cushions will be installed within the next month. He

shared that staff is currently considering the use of these traffic calming measures on Kilpatrick Street and Pisgah Drive. Mr. Morrow asked about a four-way stop and crosswalk at Rosenwald and Mr. Hooper agreed to have staff research this and determine if a three-way stop or crosswalk may be feasible notwithstanding this section's geometric challenges.

Mr. Baker requested a staff review of Fisher Road from McLean to the school for consideration of a sidewalk, which Mr. Hooper agreed to look into. Mr. Gallo distributed photos with suggested locations for future speed cushions on Probart Street, the Committee discussed, and Mr. Hooper agreed to have staff review the suggestions to determine if they were feasible. Mr. Hooper will continue work on traffic calming measures, reporting back at the next Committee meeting.

F. Police Department Accreditation Grant Award

Police Chief Jordan reported that the Brevard Police Department received a two-year grant from the Community Oriented Policing Division of the U.S. Department of Justice for $131,524 for the Department's accreditation process. Funds will be used to ensure that the Department's new physical location will provide adequate space for evidence storage and evidence management policies are appropriate. Mr. Hooper and Chief Jordan shared the benefits of being an accredited agency, such as discounts on insurance and other expenditures.

G. Resolution Supporting Changing State Law regarding Age for Purchase of Tobacco/Vaping Products

Guest Lani Callison, Regional Tobacco Control Manager for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, was in attendance to provide a presentation regarding a request for the City to endorse a resolution supporting changing State law to match Federal law for increasing the age for purchase of tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 years of age. The Committee discussed the request at length.

Mr. Gallo moved to recommend City Council's adoption of a resolution asking the State to change the North Carolina law increasing the age for purchase of tobacco and vaping products to 21 years of age. Mr. Morrow seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to support the motion.

H. Vehicle & Pedestrian Safety at West Main Street and Oaklawn Avenue Intersection

Mr. Baker shared with the Committee that the intersection of West Main Street and Oaklawn Avenue had been brought up at a recent City Council meeting due to pedestrian and vehicle safety concerns. Mr. Hooper noted that he will be asking City Council at its upcoming meeting to authorize staff to approach the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and ask to take over West Main Street. He

noted that, if this is granted, the City will be able to change this intersection to make it safer. The Committee discussed the benefits of the City having ownership of this section with regard to ensuring additional safety measures are implemented. Mr. Bland noted that the process for having the City take over the Street could take up to a year depending on the State's timing of the decision.

I. School Crossing Safety

Chief Jordan provided history and an update on the Brevard Police Department's practices for staffing school crossings. He shared that the Department provides staffing at Brevard Elementary School in the mornings by 7:25am and afternoons at the end of the school day and an additional staff member on the other side of the school on Elm Bend in the mornings and afternoons. The Committee discussed NCDOT's future improvements at the Elementary School. Mr. Baker asked that the Committee be provided with the concept plans for these improvements.

J. Planned Timelines for Improvements to Certain Crossings within Multi-Use Path

Mr. Baker introduced this agenda item asking for reports on the crossings at Rosman Highway and McLean Road. Mr. Hooper noted that the City has flashing lights that can be installed at McLean Road. He noted that Rosman Highway may require some negotiation with the State for a commitment for them to install a crosswalk and sidewalk to this area. Mr. Morrow noted that this project is included and at the top of the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) for fiscal years 2026-2032.

Mr. Baker then raised the issue of the crossing at Asheville Highway and a recent cycle accident. Chief Jordan addressed the accident and indicated that the system worked the way it should have, but indicated that the driver was not attentive, which caused the accident.

Mr. Baker raised an issue brought to him by a resident regarding the alignment of the Probart Street crossing. Mr. Hooper agreed that the crosswalk is awkward, but that geometry makes the crosswalk difficult. He indicated that having the crosswalk that close to a stop sign is not ideal, but other alternatives would be challenging due to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards. The Committee and Mr. Hooper continued this discussion of potential improvements, including the possibility of redesigning the curb in that area.

K. Public Comment

Bill Shamrock expressed concern regarding traffic hazards at trail crossings in the City, but specifically addressed the bike trail from McLean to Probart. He asserted that flashing lights are needed at the McLean crossing due to vehicular traffic

speeds. He also asserted that the stop sign needs to be in front of the crosswalk on Probart Street and that stop signs shouldn't be used to control speed.

Don Rowe shared his concern about the intersection of South Oaklawn Avenue and Carver Street being a dangerous intersection due to poor visibility and speeding vehicles. Mr. Hooper asked Mr. Roe if he might be willing to sell or donate a portion of his yard, removing some bushes to improve the sightline. Mr. Roe indicated that he would be willing to consider this.

Linda Gallo expressed appreciation for the speed cushion installations and for the Police Department's staffing of school crossings. She suggested that parents may be invited to volunteer to assist with school crossings in the future.

Monica Driscoll spoke about the parents' responsibility to stay with their children until staff arrives at school crossings and her agreement that the City should adopt the resolution increasing the age for purchase of tobacco and vape products. Ms. Driscoll asked that the City consider the use of overhead crossings for the multi-use path street crossings.

City Communication Coordinator Becky McCann read an email from a resident, Kellyn Haight, expressing concern about speeding on Carolina Avenue.

L. Set Date for Next Meeting

The Committee rescheduled the December 23, 2024 meeting for Monday, January 6, 2025 at 3:30PM. The meeting will be held at City Hall. Mr. Hooper noted that City Council had a meeting in the room that evening but indicated that there could be a short Committee meeting agenda or that the Committee could meet in another space on that date.

M. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes Approved: January 6, 2025

X _____
Aaron Baker
Chair, Council Member

X _____
Selena Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager