MINUTES
City Council Public Safety Committee

Monday, June 23, 2025 – 3:30pm
City Hall, Council Chambers

Members Present: Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member
Kevin Gallo, Citizen Member
Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio Member

Staff Present: Wilson Hooper, City Manager
Tom Jordan, Police Department
Bradley Elmore, Interim Fire Chief
Mack McKeller, City Attorney
Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager

A. Welcome & Call to Order

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

B. Certification of Quorum

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Baker requested to add a review of the recent incident at Probart and Broad Streets as item G. Mr. Gallo made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Baker. All voted in favor.

D. Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2025

Mr. Gallo made a motion to approve the minutes, which awas seconded by Mr. Baker. All voted in favor.

E. Code of Conduct

Mr. Hooper provided an overview of the recently approved Code of Conduct for appointed committee members. Committee members were asked to review the Code of Conduct, sign the acknowledgement form, and return to City Clerk Denise Hodsdon.

F. Hemp/Vape Shops Regulation Discussion

Mayor Copelof introduced the item and shared that HB-900 had recently gone into effect at the state level to help in restricting products potentially sold to minors. She then spoke about the CBD products and shared that other local jurisdictions have developed and implemented programs to prohibit the sale of these products until the state begins regulating them further. She shared that the City of Hendersonville's program, which an ordinance in place whereby the city can control who is permitted to buy the products. This program prohibits a store or vendor from selling CBD products to anyone below 21 years of age within 1,000 feet of any public or private school or any public park. She suggested that Brevard put this type of program into place. City Attorney Mack McKeller then shared his legal opinion on the Hendersonville program, noting that Hendersonville has not been challenged on this ordinance at this point. He felt that this type of ordinance could be broadened to include daycares as well. He noted that the bills at the state level appear to have bi-partisan support and would put regulations on the hemp/cannabis industry making it illegal to sell to anyone under 21 years of age, similar to alcohol. Mr. McKeller felt that the city would learn about the State House decision very soon.

Mr. Hooper asked that the committee allow staff time to further review the Hendersonville policy and develop it based on Brevard's situation and the impacts regarding civil penalties, location of these vendors, etc. The committee further discussed a potential local ordinance and regulations and the impact of any state actions on the topic. Mr. Hooper summarized that staff would continue to keep abreast of the state's actions in this regard and review the Hendersonville policy to see how it might fit Brevard's needs.

G. Recent Probart/Broad Street Pedestrian Incident

Mr. Baker asked for an update on the recent Probart and Broad Street incident with a child riding an electric scooter that was struck by a car. Without revealing details about the juvenile, Chief Jordan provided a detailed report on the incident, noting that there were discrepancies in what had been heard secondhand versus the true event. Ms. Copelof shared that she had spoken with the child's parents, who are concerned that there is no stop bar or crosswalk where the incident occurred. The committee members discussed options for improving safety at this intersection. Mr. Hooper shared that he would like to have the opportunity to speak with the city's traffic consultants, asking them to provide some opportunities for safety improvements at this intersection.

H. Update on Traffic Calming Measures

Mr. Hooper shared that the traffic calming work team had worked this month on the exact location of new stop signs and Oaklawn and Main Streets and Oaklawn and Carver Streets. The team also spent quite a bit of time discussing ADA requirements and other considerations before the Jordan Street re-striping plan is finalized.

Mr. Jordan then shared that the Black Cat data collection devices have been placed on West Main Street. It analyzed 930 vehicles over more than a week's time and only 2 enforceable violations. The speed limit there is 20 mph, the average speed was 15 mph and the fastest speed was 26 mph at the hill on West Main.

On Carolina, the device analyzed 3,731 vehicles in a week's time, of which 345 enforceable violations detected with average speed at 27 mph and two at fastest speed of 57 mph.

Mr. Jordan shared that one of the devices will be moved further down on Carolina to get an idea of enforceable violations in that area, with the second device being placed on Gallimore Road near the schools.

I. Update on Police Accreditation

Mr. Jordan updated the committee that the Brevard Police Department has had over 109 task items to work toward accreditation on and 91 have now been completed. He anticipates clearing the remaining 18 task items within the coming weeks and shared that he felt positive about the progress towards accreditation. He stated that the Department is scheduled for a mock assessment in September 2025.

J. Fire Chief Recruitment Update

Mr. Hooper reported that there are 5 finalists, with 1 internal, 2 local, and 3 from outside the region. He stated that staff was holding mini assessment centers the upcoming Wednesday and Thursday with members of the executive team acting as assessors. He stated that he was pleased with the 40 plus candidate applications and proud of Interim Chief Elmore for doing a good job. Mr. Hooper stated that he hopes to have a final candidate by the end of July.

K. Public Comment

Steven Zvengrowski, a resident of Deer Lake Village, spoke to the committee about his concern with a sidewalk near Deer Lake Road that ends and requires people to walk or ride their bikes into the street. He shared that he had an accident there and asked that the city address this issue.

The committee continued to discuss the city's sidewalks and policies for paying for and installing sidewalks at length.

Another resident spoke up about the incident at the intersection of Probart and Broad Street and encouraged the city to make the necessary improvements.

Mr. Sankey questioned how long it is going to take for Berry Group to finish their work. Mr. Hooper and Mr. Jordan responded that this should be completed by September.

Ms. Kellyn Haight again advocated for traffic calming measures on Carolina Avenue. Mr. Hooper responded and offered to share the matrix used for determining where traffic calming measures are implemented in priority order as well as funding challenges.

L. Set Date for Next Meeting – July 28, 2025 at 3:30pm

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2025, at 3:30pm in City Council chambers.

M. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Gallo made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Baker. The vote carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm.

Minutes Approved: July 28, 2025

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member or
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member

X _____
Selena D. Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager