MINUTES
City Council Public Safety Committee

Monday, July 22, 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 Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk
Guests:	Linda Gallo, Pat Webb, Marcia and Don O'Dell, Janice Castevens, Susan Azar, Victor Zona, Phil Stewart, and Peggy Bogarduce

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

City Clerk Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

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

D. Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2024 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Animal Control Policy – Dangerous Dogs

Chief Jordan reviewed the updated draft ordinance amendment and noted that the entire ordinance has been rewritten. He explained that this amendment provides

some further definitions and includes some of the potentially dangerous behaviors of attacking other animals, which is not included in state law. The amendment also goes into detail about what happens when an animal is declared dangerous and expands due process and appellate considerations.

During discussion, Mr. Hooper noted that the Appellate Board membership includes a "practicing" veterinarian, and he thought that might limit our pool of candidates. He suggested taking out the word "practicing" and permit retired veterinarians and others who may not be currently practicing to be candidates for that board; and that the veterinarian member does not have to be a resident of the city, but could be a resident of the county. It was noted that the citizen members should be residents of the city. Mr. Gallo moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow to forward the draft amendment with those changes to full Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Update on Transportation Working Group

Mr. Hooper updated the committee on matters that the Transportation Working Group has been working on:

- Probart Street traffic calming – Public Works has measured and identified locations for the speed cushions according to the dimensions that were recommended to us by our professional traffic engineer, which is between 500 and 600 feet apart and more than 20 feet away from driveways and 50 feet away from intersections. There are irregular measurements on Probart Street that might affect the placement of the speed cushions. which come in fixed dimensions. In order for them to work appropriately there needs to be two valleys that are 51 inches apart and the standard off-the-shelve fit is not going to work in every location. Mr. Hooper has asked the vendor if they have a custom option and is waiting to hear back from them. Some of the spots identified will work with the standard kit and he will go ahead and order those and try to figure out a new solution for the locations with irregular dimensions.

- Request from a resident to study traffic calming on Kilpatrick Street – this street is essentially an alley that serves a handful of houses, but apparently folks speed through there and it is not wide enough to accommodate two cars. Chief Jordan is going to place the speed sign out to verify that the speeds are as high as they claim, but even if they aren't, the street is narrow enough that it might warrant a one-way designation. Its intersection with Tinsley has some strange sightlines so there may be a compelling safety reason to make it one-way going west to east. These conditions will require further evaluation.

- Request from French Broad Place people to reconsider the reconfiguration of

West Appletree Street. The Working Group will look at doing something with the lines to try to accommodate the folks along that alleyway so that the patrons of Dugan's Pub aren't parking there and blocking access to the parking garage.

- The working group has talked about some experimental treatments for bike lanes on shared streets that might be good options for the segments of our trail that are on streets. The group will continue to explore those options more in future meetings.

G. Traffic Schedule Amendments – No Parking Zones and 3-Way Stop Intersections

Mr. Hooper explained that the proposed amendment adds the west side of Railroad Avenue, from Kings Creek where the trail crosses to Probart Street, to the no parking areas as a measure to protect the trail and its users. It also adds a 3-way stop at the intersection of Probart Street and Railroad Avenue.

Mr. Hooper added that we still think that adding on-street parking on east side of Railroad Avenue from French Broad Street to Whitmire Street is a good concept, but we haven't done all the measurements, so that is not on the traffic schedule yet. There was discussion about whether to make the east side of Railroad Avenue from Probart Street to King Street a no parking area also. Mr. Hooper recommended sending that to the Traffic Working Group for further study.

Mr. Morrow moved, seconded by Mr. Gallo to refer prohibiting on-street parking on the west side of Railroad Ave. from Probart St. to the trail crossing; adding lined on-street parking on the east side of Railroad Ave. from French Broad St. to Whitmire St., pending satisfactory dimensions; to refer prohibition of on-street parking on the east side of Railroad Ave. from Probart St. to King St. back to the staff committee for further study; and adding the 3-way stop at the intersection of Probart St. and Railroad Ave., to full Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Quarterly Pedestrian Report

Mr. Hooper distributed copies of car, pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle crash data for the second quarter of 2024 and noted that this report is a hybrid of two different data sources. The car crash information comes from the Fire Department and the remainder comes from the Police Department and asked whether this is the information the committee wished to see. Mr. Baker said he would like to see additional information on where these crashes are happening so we can look for patterns. Chief Jordan noted that the state does an annual report that identifies hot spots and the 2023 report will be available in August. Mr. Baker said I think in reality we probably have a lot more incidents than in the report, but you're less

likely to have an incident report unless somebody gets really injured. The car numbers are higher because of insurance claims. He thought maybe it is more of a communication problem and that maybe for data gathering purposes and to make the city safer, we need to start encouraging people to report incidents even if it is a close call. He thought it would be helpful in determining where to spend traffic calming dollars.

I. Public/Committee Comment

Morris Jenkins of 148 Probart St. encouraged the city to go ahead and install the speed cushions that fit, rather than waiting for the others, because that area where the big curve is between Railroad and James Street is probably the most dangerous.

Susan Azar of 12 Hilt St. Ext. thanked the committee for their hard work on the dangerous dog ordinance.

Linda Gallo of 671 Probart St. asked if there would be a speed cushion between Railroad and Oaklawn. Mr. Hooper said he believes there will be two.

Mayor Copelof mentioned that several constituents came to see her regarding a concern about mailboxes on Elm Bend Rd. All the mailboxes are on one side of the street and people have to cross the street to get their mail. Elm Bend is used as a major thoroughfare and has a lot of traffic that goes fast and there are no crosswalks. The request was to look at what could possibly be done, and she wanted to bring it up to make the committee aware. She will talk with the Post Office to see what their policy is and ask if they could move the boxes to the other side of the road. If they say no, she will bring it back to this committee to look at other options.

J. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee was scheduled for Monday, August 26, 2024 at 3:30 pm at City Hall.

K. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Minutes Approved: October 28, 2024

X Aaron Baker

Aaron Baker
Chair. Council Member

X Denise Hodsdon

Denise Hodsdon
City Clerk