

Public Safety & Transportation meeting 10/15/12

Meeting was called to order at 5:21 p.m. by chair, Susan Silvers. Attendees included: Silvers, Michael Halley, Kevin Flanagan, Chief Harvey, Chief Vaughn, Darrel Bisgard, and media.

First item on the agenda was the proposed golf carts ordinance. Chief Harvey brought to the committee her concern regarding golf carts being used as private taxis, sometimes by unlicensed drivers. State law prohibits golf carts on city streets; although the city has the ability to amend and/or create new ordinances more specific. Chief Harvey suggested that operators be licensed to drive a motor vehicle and not have a suspended license. She also suggested that the carts be operated within a 3 block area of the golf courses and enter the course at the most direct point. It was also suggested by others that additional reflective devices or signage be affixed to the cart and that they only be operated from sun up to sun down. Halley moved and Silvers seconded that we move forward with bringing the draft ordinance to the full council.

Chief Harvey recommended that we place a yield sign at the uncontrolled intersection of Harrison and Park. Due to the amount of traffic in that area and parking on the street in close proximity to the intersection, the committee felt this was warranted. Chief Vaughn, Chief Harvey and Darrel Bisgard will be thinking about additional uncontrolled intersections that may need some signage as well and will bring to the next committee meeting. Halley moved and Silvers seconded that we move to place a yield sign at Harrison and Park. Motion carried.

Silvers asked the committee and other city officials for clarification on a sentence referenced in the minutes of the 8/21/12 meeting regarding beach regulations. The sentence in question was "that buoys are not to be used as a leisurely floatation device." Silvers had received comments that this was inaccurate. The concern was that someone who was using the buoys as noodles would make it difficult to determine if someone was really in trouble. Therefore, after further discussion, it was agreed this sentence stood as originally noted.

The committee reviewed the draft beach ordinance proposed by Chief Harvey. There was discussion regarding the draft most of which surrounded written warnings to offenders by all city employees and citations delivered by the police department. As the committee wants to make sure everyone has a chance to review and comment, we will place the ordinance on the agenda for the 10/22/12 meeting for discussion purposes only. There will not be a public hearing at that time or a vote of action. This will give everyone an opportunity to review and ask additional questions prior to a public hearing and readings. The goal is to be thoughtful throughout this process.

The next item was discussion regarding trailer parking on city streets. There have been several complaints to multiple officials of the parking situation South Second street. Kevin Flanagan felt the current ordinance was too restrictive and burdensome and will review and draft a new ordinance for the full council to review for Monday's meeting 10/22/12.

The final item was concerning downtown parking. Michael was approached by Evalina Butler who cleans a business several days a week from 5 - 7 a.m. She has received several tickets while parked in front of this business on the square. Unfortunately, we do not have an exception to grant for restricted parking areas. Michael will notify Evalina that we will not be able to assist in granting a permit or exception to park in this area during this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Silvers, Chair