

CITY OF ELKHORN
Public Safety Committee
Lower Conference Room, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

April 2, 2007

Chairman Scott McClory called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Scott McClory, Charles Van Dyke, Julie Taylor

Also present: City Administrator Sam Tapson, City Clerk Nancy Jacobson, Police Captain Patrick Slattery

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ENFORCEMENT

City Administrator Tapson asked Committee for direction concerning the Property Maintenance Code enforcement. Tapson reported that the Police Department's Community Service Officers have identified properties that fall under the Property Maintenance Code violations, but how should staff proceed with enforcement. The Building Inspectors have re-evaluated what the CSOs have identified. Tapson listed different levels of violations – 1) nuisance abatement; 2) building maintenance and non-structural issues; 3) public health and safety structural issues.

Alderman McClory said he is never in favor of ordinances on the books that are not enforced. He asked that the Building Inspector and Community Service Officers work together with the CSOs being the first to observe violations and report to the Building Inspector. Enforcement should not solely be on a complaint only basis. The Building Inspector would enforce compliance.

Alderman Taylor asked that the section concerning commercial and industrial be reviewed. There seemed to be more requirements for residential code compliances. Taylor said they should have the same requirements. Tapson would review that section.

Alderman Van Dyke was in favor of enforcement of the code.

It was determined that the levels of violations be defined. Staff would prepare a model of the procedures staff should follow. Public health and safety structural issues are placed at a pro-active level and requires the necessary follow-up by the Building Inspector. Information concerning the ordinance and its enforcement will be published in the newsletter and webpage to assist the public in understanding what is necessary to comply with the code. Tapson would prepare a model to follow for the Committee.

HARVEST POINT SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE

Committee reviewed a traffic complaint which was submitted to Alderman McClory concerning the lack of no speed limit signs on Patricia Street. The complainant expressed concern over the number of vehicles that speed through Patricia Street. Consensus of the Committee and staff was that speed limit signs don't control speed. City Administrator Tapson suggested that the area be "targeted" by the Police Department. Police Captain Slattery said that the Department intends to place a traffic counter in the area. The counter not only checks on the number of vehicles going through, it registers speed and time of day. Tapson said that 8 signs were installed in Harvest Pointe subdivision recently. He asked Committee if more signs were needed. Committee was not in favor of putting up more speed limit signs. Committee was in favor of the traffic counter. The results of the counter will be shared with the complainant.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Taylor/Van Dyke) to adjourn the Public Health Committee at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried by the majority present.

Nancy B. Jacobson, City Clerk