

CITY OF ELKHORN
Public Safety Committee Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 9 S. Broad St., Elkhorn, Wisconsin

June 7, 2016

Public Safety Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Alderman Lechner followed by roll call.

Roll Call

Present: Aldermen Bruce Lechner, Michael Kluck, Cathy Bensaid

Also Present: Mayor Howie Reynolds, City Clerk Cairie Virrueta, Police Chief Joel Christensen, Fire Chief Rod Smith, Ed Robers, Kellen Olshefski

N. Lincoln St. Overweight and Speeding Traffic Concerns from Resident Ed Robers

Ed Robers spoke on his concerns regarding overweight and speeding traffic on N. Lincoln St. that he has spoken to the council about previously. He feels it is getting worse and the flashing sign that was put up on N. Wisconsin Street is not helping. Alderman Lechner asked if it was worse due to the CTH NN detour; Robers said it was not. Robers presented a drawing suggesting barricades be put by Second Ave and Page Street for 4-6 weeks; the committee felt shutting off a portion of the street was not a solution and would create additional problems. Mayor Reynolds suggested starting small, such as stopping semis from going on the road and working up from there. Police Chief Christensen said the PD looks at how hazardous it is and there were three accidents there, two were backing violations and another was a wheel falling off a car. Alderman Bensaid asked if the street has more speeding than others; Chief Christensen said it does not. Alderman Lechner said the extension of Market Street will help in the future; Robers said it isn't enough. The committee discussed temporary rumble strips, but agreed that the noise would disturb neighbors. Robers felt there were only two solutions: enforcement or to block the streets. Chief Christensen said the PD will not satisfy Robers regarding enforcement. Ed Robers left the meeting. Chief Christensen said he did not support the blinking sign on N. Wisconsin and said Utility Director Murphy and the City Engineer were looking into overhead signs. Alderman Kluck asked the City Clerk to bring the overhead sign to a future MSU meeting. Chief Christensen said another option is to classify the street as an arterial.

Request by Alexander Lumber to Close Portion of E. Centralia Street for Anniversary Celebration

Alexander Lumber asked to close E. Centralia St. from S. Wisconsin St. to S. Lincoln St. on July 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chief Christensen said staff wasn't comfortable permitting this. Some of the concerns were that the closing was at a blind intersection and if other businesses were notified for delivery and truck traffic. The committee asked that Alexander Lumber get approval from area businesses to shut down the road and that it end the closure at S. Washington St., not S. Lincoln St.

Consider Prohibiting Weapons at City Elections

The City Clerk said a loaded clip was found in the parking lot at the April election. She sent an email out to the statewide clerks email list and many clerks responded that weapons are prohibited at their elections; none responded that weapons were allowed. The Government Accountability Board also recommended that weapons be prohibited. Clerk Virrueta said she was asking that weapons be prohibited so as not to be distractions at the election and as weapons are prohibited at the Armory, a federal building, to create consistency at all elections. Alderman Kluck said that elections are getting more intense and recommended it. Chief Christensen said weapons are prohibited at the police department but that is a County requirement and that weapons are not prohibited at City Hall or other City buildings. **Motion made by Alderman Kluck to prohibit weapons at City elections.** Alderman Bensaid said if weapons are allowed at City Hall they should be allowed at the Rec Center for elections. **No second; motion failed.**

Adjournment

Motion (Kluck/Bensaid) to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

Cairie L. Virrueta
City Clerk