

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2022

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman, Councilmember Aaron Wahl.

II. Roll Call

Councilmember Aaron Wahl, Ward II (Chairman), Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I, Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III, Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV, Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II, Councilmember Gary Budoor, Ward IV, City Attorney Chris Graville, City Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer, Attorney Ben Kloos, Captain Cheryl Funkhouser, and Chief Ray Johnson. Also in attendance were citizens (8 citizens from the subdivision of Fienup Farms, and 1 citizen from Country Lake subdivision).

III. Minutes – August 22, 2022

Councilmember Hansen motioned and Councilmember Hurt seconded to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2022 meeting. It was noted that the minutes reflected the request of Councilmember Dan Hurt to discuss the installation of a bullet proof glass safety barrier at the customer service representatives' front desk of City Hall and that item does not appear on the agenda for the meeting this evening. It was agreed that this will be discussed under the "other" category this evening. The minutes were approved 4-0.

The Committee members agreed to suspend the order of the agenda to allow City Prosecuting Attorney Tim Engelmeyer to present the status for a Special Circumstances Court.

VII. Special Circumstances Court

At the August meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee, the Public Health & Safety Committee made a request for additional information regarding the possibility of starting a Special Circumstances Court, specifically the Committee requested a budget so that this new program could be discussed at the upcoming Finance & Administration Committee meetings.

City Prosecuting Attorney distributed copies of a proposed budget and he, along with Attorney Ben Kloos who runs the St. Louis County Veterans Court, described the planned workings for this Court. He stated that St. Louis County had previously had a Mental Health Court that was a referral source for municipal courts. This program is no longer available. He stated that the Chesterfield Municipal Court currently sees many defendants that are repeat offenders, many of them juveniles, people with mental health issues, and veterans with PTSD issues. Mr. Engelmeyer voiced the opinion that with proper referral services, these defendants could benefit from the proposed Special Circumstances Court which would serve as an early intervention to stop recidivism and assist these defendants to find a better place in society as a whole.

Councilmember Hurt questioned how the costs of this program could be offset. City Prosecuting Attorney Engelmeyer responded that many of the costs currently are already in the City Budget because these defendants currently are being handled by the Municipal Court. The ability to refer these clients to other social and/or treatment programs and to then track them through these programs would be the additional costs. The first year would be a time to test out the system and only deal with those defendants in the Chesterfield Court system. If successful, the Chesterfield Special Circumstance Court could be made available to other municipalities at a cost. The Court could possibly have a "net zero" cost with fees being covered by the current court costs charged to the participant. The other fees associated with treatments are listed with options that could be "no cost" considering those defendants that are veterans and have some free services.

Councilmember Hurt motioned and Councilmember Hansen seconded to forward the proposed program to City Council with a recommendation to include the costs in the upcoming City budget planning with a clarification of the cost to the City and a forecast number of cases in the year.

Discussion continued with City Prosecuting Attorney agreeing to provide additional information on costs. Councilmember Wahl also suggested that the name of the program be "Alternative Court".

Having no further discussion, the motioned carried 4-0.

The order of the agenda then resumed.

IV. Golf Carts

The Committee members began a discussion of the use on Golf Cart type vehicles on City Streets. City Attorney Chris Graville addressed the Committee describing the different types of vehicles that could be considered. The vehicles described are Low Speed Vehicles (LSV), Golf Carts, ATV's and UTV's. There was discussion regarding which would be allowed. There was agreement that ATV's and UTV's would not be considered.

Chief Johnson confirmed that right now, no unlicensed vehicles are allowed on City streets. The City can change the ordinance but there are many details to be considered including what types of vehicles, regulations for those vehicles including required safety equipment, and which specific streets and/or subdivisions to allow the vehicles. With these considerations, then the question becomes who will inspect the vehicles and check the vehicles to make sure they are street ready. He also noted that "over regulation" will not be successful, the ordinance would have to be City-wide and the regulations be reasonable for all residential areas within the City.

City Attorney Graville agreed to continue his work on a proposed ordinance that would allow these vehicles on City roadways including a limitation on a speed limit on the streets where they would be allowed.

Citizens present expressed their support for the allowance of these vehicles. Many noted that specific subdivisions are set upon large lots and support the usage of these vehicles to access amenities. Councilmembers voiced their opinion that once golf carts are legal on City streets, they should be legal on all City streets where supported by speed limits.

Two citizens who support the legalization of golf carts, voiced safety concerns especially where children are involved.

City Attorney Graville noted that the City can regulate the roadways where these vehicles can be utilized. Specifically, he noted that it could be that they are allowable on roadways where the speed limit is 25 MPH. He also reminded those present that there are also State and County regulations for these types of vehicles.

Chief Johnson noted that the Police Department is not opposed to golf carts. The Police Department enforces laws, and right now golf carts are illegal. The Police Department will support any change in the ordinance to allow golf carts on city streets with safety regulations, if so, decided by City Council.

City Attorney Graville reminded all present that this is a "City" issue, not just a subdivision issue. Councilmember Wahl noted that there will be no vote this evening but directed City Attorney Graville to develop a draft ordinance for review by the Public Health & Safety to allow and regulate the use of golf carts on City streets. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee.

V. Traffic Control for Road Construction and Tree Removal

Councilmember Wahl noted that he has observed traffic issues caused by contractors doing tree removal and road construction. He inquired about regulations for contractors during this type of work. Chief Johnson replied that permits are issued by the Public Works Department for road work and tree removal on City streets. Contractors are required to agree to traffic control regulations as specified in the Manual On Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) when issued a permit. Problems should be reported to the Police Department and/or Public Works.

VI. Repeal of Policy Statement

Chief Johnson requested the Committee repeal a Public Health & Safety Policy #7 (Toll Roads – Street Corner Solicitations). Last revised in 2017, this policy provided directions for toll road and street corner solicitations. Recently the City of Chesterfield enacted an ordinance which bans all street corner solicitation and/or toll roads. Therefore, this policy is no longer lawful and needs to be repealed. Councilmember Hansen motioned and Councilmember Monachella seconded to recommend to full City Council repeal of Public Health & Safety Policy #7. The motion carried 4-0.

VIII. Safety Barrier at City Hall Front Desk

Councilmember Hurt requested that the Public Health & Safety Committee consider a safety barrier of Plexiglass that would be bullet-proof around the City Hall front desk area to protect the customer service representatives that work in that area. Members of the Committee want the area to remain customer friendly and any barrier constructed should

take that into consideration. Councilmember Hurt motioned and Councilmember Wahl seconded to have a cost estimated done for the purchase and installation of a barrier around the Customer Service Desk at City Hall. The motion carried 4-0.

- IX. No date was set for the next meeting.
- X. Adjourn – the meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.