

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2001
TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
FROM: Chief Ray Johnson
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Public Health & Safety Committee met on September 20, 2001. Those in attendance included Chairperson Michael Casey, Ward III, Councilmember Barry Flachsbar, Ward I, Councilmember Bruce Geiger, Ward II, Councilmember Charles Scheidt, Ward IV, City Administrator Michael Herring and Chief Ray Johnson. Also in attendance were members of the public. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairperson Casey.

1. Approval of Minutes – May 31, 2001

Councilmember Scheidt motioned and Councilmember Flachsbar seconded to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2001 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

2. FAA/Spirit Airport Issues

Chairperson Casey noted that the City Council has requested that additional information be gathered by the Committee regarding a recommendation from the Committee to hire an outside consultant with expertise in Aviation law, to advise the City relating to citizen concerns pertaining to the Spirit Airport. The Council has requested information regarding the scope of work and possible costs. City Administrator Herring reported that he had done lengthy research into attorneys who meet the qualifications and had identified three: Peter Kirsh (Denver), Joseph Nassif (St. Louis – Thompson Coburn Law Firm), and Bill Richter (St. Louis – Peper Martin Law Firm). He also reported that the costs varied dramatically from \$5,000 to \$75,000. He reviewed the scope of work that had been developed with Councilmember Scheidt.

Mr. Herring also reported that the Airport has hired a consulting firm to conduct a Part 150 Study, which was suggested by one of the consultants that he had contacted. He also reported that he had received an invitation for the Committee members to attend a meeting at the Airport on September 27th at 6:00 PM to discuss the Part 150 Study, with the consultant who has been hired to do this work.

Councilmember Casey distributed copies of a group of additional questions that had been submitted by Councilmember Scheidt.

Councilmember Casey questioned whether or not the City Attorney could undertake the airport study, rather than hiring an outside consultant. Councilmember Scheidt replied that he felt there was a need for an outside expert in this field and Councilmember Flachsbar agreed. After further discussion, Committee members agreed to interview two St. Louis based candidates as soon as possible to choose one for recommendation to City Council.

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2001
PAGE 2

Councilmember Scheidt motioned to interview both consultants and ultimately recommend that the City Council contract with a recommended consultant and to authorize spending up to \$25,000.00 for the consulting services. The motion carried 3-1 with Councilmember Casey opposed. Several dates were suggested for meeting dates to interview both consultants. Mr. Herring was to arrange the meetings, as soon as possible, on dates/times when all members of the Committee could attend.

The Committee accepted comments. Ms. Carol McTavish expressed concerns and Mr. Jeff Edwards expressed an opposing view.

3. Use of Cell Phones in City Vehicles

The Committee addressed the issue of safety regarding the use of cell phones in City vehicles, specifically police cars. Chief Johnson reviewed the history of cell phones in police vehicles noting that these phones are provided free of charge (including free airtime). These phones cannot be converted to hand-free. All other cell phones utilized by City employees have been converted for hands-free utilization within vehicles. The Committee reviewed safety concerns and noted that police officers are trained in defensive driving skills and that the phones pose no more of a safety hazard than other equipment utilized (such as radios) by police officers during their daily work. Therefore, Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Scheidt seconded to remove this item from the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

4. Review of Policy regarding Requests for Stop Signs and Yield Signs

The Committee members reviewed the current policy regarding citizen requests for Stop and/or Yield signs on City streets. The current policy allows for the placement of signage on non-through streets by request from appropriate subdivision trustees along with signatures to verify that 75% resident support for the signs. Councilmembers Casey and Flachsbart voiced the opinion that this policy has resulted in too many unwarranted stop signs.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Geiger seconded to amend the policy to require that all of the requests for stop and/or yield signs be reviewed by the Public Health & Safety Committee and also that subdivision trustees now verify that 90% of affected residents concur with the request. The motion carried 4-0 and the recommendation to change the policy will be forwarded to City Council.

5. False Alarms and Responses

The issue of administrative costs for response to false alarms within the City was discussed. The Committee noted that the original ordinance regarding false alarms calls for a charge of \$25.00 for the first alarm and \$50.00 for each subsequent alarm during a calendar year. Administratively, by policy, the first alarm fee has been waived and a warning given to notify property owners that each subsequent alarm will be \$50.00 for the remaining calendar year. False alarms continue to be a large problem with approximately 2,200 to 2,400 alarms occurring each year and two police units responding to each alarm sounding. With this in mind and citing the growing administrative expense of false alarms, Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Scheidt

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2001
PAGE 3

seconded to revise the City Ordinance and the Public Health & Safety Committee Policy to reflect new charges of \$25.00 for the first alarm, \$50.00 for the second alarm and \$100.00 for each subsequent alarm during each calendar year. The Policy to waive the first alarm charge will remain in effect. The motion carried 4-0. If approved by City Council, the new fee structure will take affect after publication of these changes in the citizen newsletter. Chief Johnson will prepare the newsletter article.

6. Ordinance Revision and Procedure of Ordinance Development

- A. Chief Johnson advised the Committee that there has been confusion regarding the designation of a “minor” relating to prosecution under the Peace Disturbance Ordinance. In order to allow for clearer interpretation, Chief Johnson requested that the ordinance be changed from “minor” to “under the age of twenty-one”. Councilmember Geiger motioned and Councilmember Scheidt seconded to recommend approval of amendment of the Ordinance dealing with Peace Disturbance be changed in Section 21-71, (a) (6) to change the word “minor” to “person under the age of twenty-one”. The motion carried 4-0. An ordinance will be prepared by Mr. Beach and forwarded directly to City Council.
- B. Chief Johnson presented a draft ordinance proposal to amend the speed limit on Edison Avenue. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Geiger seconded to recommend approval of the amendment of Ordinance #35 to reflect speed limit changes on Edison Avenue as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion carried 4-0.
- C. Also in relationship to Edison Avenue, Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Geiger seconded to recommended approval of an ordinance-amending Ordinance #35, to place “No Parking” signs along Edison Avenue as recommended by the City Engineer. The motion carried 4-0.
- D. Chief Johnson noted that State law had recently changed regarding blood alcohol content levels for drivers of vehicles. To comply with the State law for prosecution of Driving While Intoxicated violations, Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Scheidt seconded to recommend amendment of the current ordinance to comply with the State law. The motion carried 4-0. An ordinance will be prepared by Mr. Beach and forwarded directly to City Council.

7. Intersection – Lea Oak/Clarkson

The Committee reviewed information from City Engineer Mike Geisel regarding the intersection of Lea Oak and Clarkson Road. The Committee directed that this information be shared with the Condominium Association of Lea Oak. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested that trucks of a certain length be prohibited from turning onto Lea Oak. No action was taken on this suggestion. The Committee members also directed that staff contact MoDOT to ascertain whether or not the City could place signage on Clarkson to restrict truck turns. Mr. Herring reminded the Committee that Lea Oak is a private street. The Committee decided to table this issue until the next meeting when a reply from MoDOT would be available.

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2001
PAGE 4

8. Councilmember Scheidt requested additional traffic enforcement on Chesterfield Farms Drive. Chief Johnson agreed.
9. Councilmember Scheidt inquired about accident statistics at the intersection of Nooning Tree and Olive Boulevard. Chief Johnson replied that he did not have the statistics available at this time but he noted that he had not been advised that there is a problem at this time. Chief Johnson reported that officers patrolling the area have noted that turning out of Nooning Tree at this time is an inconvenience, not a traffic hazard. Councilmember Casey asked that Mr. Herring contact MoDOT to see if there is a possibility of the State adjusting the timing of electric signals at Ladue Road and at Appalachian Trail to create a gap to better allow for left turns out of the Nooning Tree subdivision. The other Committee members concurred with this request.

10. Adjourn

Councilperson Geiger motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETING 9/20/01

Terry O'Brien	434 Whitestone Farm Drive	636-728-1617
Kathy O'Brien	434 Whitestone Farm Drive	636-728-1617
Kenneth Klimes	17674 Bridgeway Circle	636-537-9622
Clare Laune	16651 Caulks Creek Ridge, 63005	636-532-0127
Karl Daubel	15022 Willow Lake Ct., 63017	636-537-2784
Ed Propop	17520 Adams Way Ct., 63005	636-537-8444
Jeff Edwards	17704 Greystone Terrace, 63005	636-532-5638
Chris Erlemann	1500 Timberlake, 63017	636-532-6076
Michael Griffin	16657 Chesterfield Manor, 63005	636-519-9692
Dan Corich	1316 Bentley Place Drive, 63005	636-532-2388
Rod Falgout	1224 Hillcrest Field Drive, 63005	636-532-1558
Phillip Horton	1837 Shadywood Ct., 63017	636-537-1259
Steve White	1041 Cambridge Way, 63017	636-532-6096
Steve Greenwood	14441 Corralin Drive, 63017	314-434-3871
Carol McTavish	17417 Country Lake, 63005	636-537-0539
Craig Decker	15518 Century Lake, 63017	636-519-1191
Kara Suter	17412 Windridge Estates Ct., 63005	636-536-9990