

City of Crestview Hills Safety Committee Minutes July 21st, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Vice-Chairman David Kramer. Members present were, Bill Rowekamp, J Zang, Ken Palmer, and Charlotte Volpenhein. City Administrator Tim Williams and LSP/CVH Police Chief Chris Schutte also attended the meeting. Colleen Collins-Bright and Brian Baumgardner were absent. Chairman Bill Dorsey entered the meeting at approximately 7:20 pm.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Ms. Jan Sapp and Ms. Jenny Boles attended the meeting on behalf of Lookout Farm's Safety Committee.

Minutes from the April 30th, 2015 meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Zang noted a spelling error to change "where" to "were" in two locations. Motion to approve the minutes by Bill Rowekamp, seconded by Ken Palmer. All in favor of the motion.

Vice-Chairman Kramer opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. After introductions, Mr. Williams apologized to members for the error in the agenda that was sent out last week, noting that he used the document from the last meeting and failed to change the day and time of the meeting on the agenda, creating confusion for the members.

Discussion of Intersection of Springside Drive and Shinkle Road

Mr. Kramer noted that this issue has been discussed numerous times over the last three years. He asked Mr. Williams to give the Committee background on the issue. Mr. Williams explained that the Committee had looked at the issue a few years ago, after concerns were expressed by a resident regarding safety for pedestrians and vehicles due to limited sight distances. The Committee discussed the issue over several meetings, and initiated a traffic study of the intersection. The traffic study recommended the intersection should be changed to a four-way stop due to the abrupt curves in the road approaching the intersection. The Safety Committee ultimately decided to recommend the four way stop to the City Council. At the Council meeting, several residents in the subdivision appeared before the City Council and expressed opposition to the four way stop at the intersection. Mr. Palmer as Chairman of the Committee made the motion at the meeting to install the four way stop, but it failed to gain a second and was not adopted. Mr. Williams also noted that following that meeting the Mayor indicated the City would relocate the sidewalk along Shinkle Road in that area to prevent pedestrians having to cross at the Springside Drive intersection. This project is still in the works as Duke Energy has worked on moving their facilities out of the right of way for nearly two years.

Mr. Williams stated that the Lookout Farm Homeowners Association has recently discussed this issue and made a recommendation for the City to revisit the safety of the intersection.

Ms. Boles expressed concerns about the sight distances and noted that she has difficulty pulling out into the intersection from Springside Drive. Ms. Sapp echoed her comments and stated that

the HOA Board would like for the City to again review this intersection. She suggested that if the City did not install the four way stop, perhaps they could consider rumble strips.

Mr. Rowekamp noted that the pedestrian crossings in Bellevue along Fairfield Avenue were well marked at the intersections with signs and painted crosswalks and that this is something the City could utilize in this area. He further stated that the City should install "Pedestrian Crosswalk Ahead" signs approaching the intersection.

Ms. Sapp expressed concerns about the new residential development on Shinkle Road and whether any new installation should wait until the construction of homes is completed. Mayor Meier noted that the new subdivision should have little impact on the traffic near Springside Drive.

Dave Kramer stated that he was on the fence on the issue. He understands the safety concerns, yet some of the residents in the area opposed the four way stop in 2013.

Tim Williams reviewed the report from the traffic study and the eight recommendations. Those recommendations included not only the installation of a four-way stop, but also stop ahead signs, painted stop bars, removal of vegetation impeding sight distances, and moving the location of the pedestrian crossing.

Chairman Dorsey stated that he visited the location and spent time looking at it from all four directions. He also stated that he had a great deal of experience in traffic issues from his days in Covington and as Kenton County Police Chief. He indicated he felt as though there were overgrown vegetation issues creating sight problems. He also stated that he read the full traffic report and believes that the experts should be considered when considering this intersection.

Mr. Palmer stated that he made the motion to install the four way stop previously as Safety Committee Chairman, and still supports the recommendation of the traffic engineers.

Mr. Palmer made the motion for the Safety Committee to recommend adopting the traffic engineer's recommendations for the intersection of Springside Drive and Shinkle Road. Mr. Zang seconded the motion. All members present were in favor of the motion.

The item will be placed on the Council Agenda for reconsideration.

Following the vote, Mayor Meier gave the Committee a brief update on the status of relocating a portion of the sidewalk on Shinkle Road. He indicated the City has funds allocated for the project but is still waiting on Duke to remove their facilities.

Discussion of Police Authority Funding

Mr. Joe Roesel, and members of the City Council and Chairman of the Finance Committee had asked at the last Council meeting if the Safety Committee would be willing to take up this issue. Mr. Roesel explained that he thought the current formula used to determine costs for Crestview Hills and Lakeside Park might need to be revised. The current formula seems to be over-complicated and parses out a number of esoteric business types. He also stated that it appears the police calls need more clarification.

Mayor Meier explained that the Police Authority has been in place with Lakeside Park since the late 1960's. At first Lakeside Park paid a majority of the cost, but as Crestview Hills grew the costs fell more on our City. Mayor Meier further explained how the current formula was put together by an ad-hoc Committee appointed by the two cities mayors in the early 1990's. The current formula was developed to best reflect the differences in police coverage needed by both communities.

Ken Palmer asked whether the formula has been updated since that time. Mr. Williams stated that the numbers are revised every year, but there have not been changes to the formula since it was developed.

Mayor Meier noted that the calls portion of the formula seems to have changed since the early years, as many more call types are now noted. He requested that Chief Schutte amend this portion of the formula to reflect only the calls noted in the original formula. J. Zang asked whether the cities could abandon the current formula and base the costs on calls only.

Mr. Kramer expressed concern about the cost distribution and growth in Crestview Hill's costs over the last ten years. He further stated that he had questioned why the Authority was known as "Lakeside Park" first although Crestview Hills was paying nearly three-fourths of the cost. Finally, he stated that based on the current funding, he was not sure why Lakeside Park got to chair the Police Authority every other year. However, Mr. Kramer also stated that he was concerned that if Lakeside Park did not agree with suggested changes in the formula, they could contract with another agency and leave Crestview Hills with the full cost of Police services.

Ken Palmer suggested that the Finance Committee might be able to study the current formula and make recommendations. Mr. Zang stated that it appeared the City was getting a bargain based on the volume of calls.

Mr. Rowekamp asked why Lakeside Park's call volume has dropped so much over the past few years. Chief Schutte explained that the large apartment complex in Lakeside Park has changed owners and the new owners have done a good job of cleaning up the complex and ridding it of crime.

Mr. Dorsey made a motion to request the Finance Committee study the formula and come back with recommendations.

Kentucky ABC STAR Server Program

Mr. Williams, who serves as the City's Alcoholic Beverage Control Administrator (ABC) suggested that he thought it would be a good idea for the City to join with most of the 'wet' communities in the State and require local alcohol servers to complete the State sponsored training program. Mr. Williams stated that he had attended the class several years ago and thought it was a good way to establish basic rules for responsibly serving alcohol. He also noted that the cost was nominal, courses were taught regularly in the area, and the State is also now offering the course on-line.

Mr. Dorsey stated that he served as the ABC Board Administrator while working at Covington P.D. He thought it was a very good program and something worth considering for Crestview Hills. He also noted that the only reason it was not already required in Covington was due to the tremendous turnover of servers in that City. Mr. Zang, who owns several restaurants in the region, stated that he thought it was a good program but would be a little concerned about the costs to business owners.

After further discussion, Mr. Kramer made the motion for City Staff to send out letters to restaurant owners in Crestview Hills to let them know the City is considering mandating the server training and soliciting their comments. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rowekamp. All in favor of the motion.

Other Business

Mr. Zang inquired about a running club that was using the streets in Old Crestview on weekend mornings and causing some traffic concerns. Mr. Williams stated that he would look into this once he identified the running shop that was coordinating the group.

Motion by Dave Kramer at 8:13 pm to adjourn, seconded by Charlotte Volpenheim. All in favor of the motion.