

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present

Paul Skrede, Police Chief Cory Johnson, John Menzel, Jeff Kask, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Teresa Pendleton

Reviewed Proposed Ordinance Allowing Special Use Vehicles on City Streets

The Committee reviewed the proposed Special Use Vehicle Ordinance that would allow certain vehicles to drive on city streets. Dana Young stated that the proposed ordinance was modified from a League of Minnesota Cities model ordinance and several current ordinances adopted by other municipalities.

Matt Carle, 20400 Lakeview Avenue, was also in attendance.

Paul Skrede asked Matt if he would be willing to trade up to a Low Speed Vehicle instead of his golf cart since the use of Low Speed Vehicles on city streets are already permitted by the State of Minnesota.

Matt Carle stated that he wouldn't be that interested in going with a Low Speed Vehicle and would probably sell his golf cart if the proposed ordinance wasn't adopted.

The Committee recommended removing all other references to other special vehicles in the proposed ordinance, such as utility task vehicles, All-Terrain Vehicles, and mini-trucks, and just limit the ordinance to the regulation of golf carts. Chief Johnson recommended adding a section on violations. He stated that he has read the golf cart ordinance from the City of Red Wing and would provide some information on violations from their ordinance.

Paul Skrede suggested that he would bring this discussion on a proposed golf cart ordinance to the attention of the City Council on August 19th to get their feedback on whether they had an interest in permitting golf carts on city streets.

Matt Carle stated his concern that the Council may not get the full picture on the benefits of operating a golf cart on city streets, much like Police Chief Johnson's initial reluctance to allow golf carts on city streets.

Chief Johnson stated that while he still has some hesitation in allowing golf carts on city streets, he is certainly less reluctant than he was when he first heard the idea.

Update Installation of Speed Limit Signs

Chief Johnson and John Menzel stated that they intended to install a significant number of new 25 mph speed limit signs starting next week.

Other

Dana Young stated that Tony Jewett wasn't able to attend today's Public Works Committee meeting but he wanted to pass along the following comments and/or complaints he's received in the past few weeks:

1. *Deephaven Beach weed/chemical treatment: A resident wanted "better" notice (i.e. website vs. small orange sign) before treating the swimming area. Even though the DNR deems it safe, others don't want their kids in the lake right after treatment. Also, could we get a bid for using scuba divers to pull weeds next year?* Dana Young stated that it would quite easy to obtain bids from scuba divers to remove the weeds from the beach area for next year if that's what the Council would prefer.
2. *Thorpe Park Rink: The fencing on the south side of the rink should be bigger. Parents have commented to me about watching pucks ricochet off a goal post and head right for the building, narrowly missing the glass. I'm guessing I will start hearing these comments again beginning in December.* John Menzel stated that he would enlarge the fence this fall.
3. *Public Safety: I'm hearing Northome Blvd residents are going to get active about asking for the speed limit to be lowered to 25mph. I'm in favor of as low as the chief is willing to go.* Chief Johnson stated that he was looking forward to that discussion.

Motion by Dana Young to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Chief Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss Landscaping Obstructions within the Street Right-of-Way

John Menzel stated that he would like to see all landscaping structures moved back off the street right-of-way.

Jeff Kask noted that this would be a massive undertaking as he estimated that there may be as many as several hundred landscaping obstructions located along the street throughout the city.

Paul Skrede suggested posting a notice asking residents to voluntarily move these obstructions off of the right-of-way.

Dana Young stated that he will try to get a count on how many residents have these obstructions in the right-of-way so that we have a better idea on the extent of the problem.

Update Minnetonka Blvd Project / Other Street Projects

Dana Young stated that Northwest Asphalt will be finishing up the restoration work on Highland & Parkway by tomorrow. He added that the preconstruction meeting for the Northern & Easton Project will be held tomorrow.

Paul Skrede noted that CenterPoint Energy is finally doing the restoration work on behalf of their many gas projects throughout the city. John Menzel added that he saw their contractor starting the restoration work last week.

Paul Skrede provided the following update on the Minnetonka Blvd Project:

- The contractor has completed the first lift from Chowen's Corner to the northern city limits.
- The second phase of the project will be from Highland to Park Avenue, where the contractor is currently reclaiming the asphalt.
- The third phase will be from Park Avenue to the Vine Hill Bridge.
- The fourth phase will be Carsonwood Avenue.
- The contractor intends to complete the first lift along the entire route prior to Labor Day.

Further discussion was held on traffic control issues.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety & Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.