

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**OF APRIL 13, 2020**

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion  
Zoom Video Meeting

**In Attendance:**      **Vermilion City Council:**

*Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; F. Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk.*

**Administration:**

*Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Stempowski, Fire Chief*

**Call to Order:**      Chairman Brian Holmes, RESOLVED THAT this Health & Safety Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

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**TOPIC ONE:**      **Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Hartung said if anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Director of Health's order on whether a business or individual is essential or not they should call 1-567-867-3243. He said it's important for the community to understand that the Erie County Health Department is responsible for all Vermilion residents, even if it's on the Lorain County side of the city.

He said the department will be enforcing spot corrections. Additionally, a temporary backup dispatch center has now been setup at the old Channel Two Studio to mirror existing operations. He thanked IT personnel Rich Pozywak, Sergeant Dale Reising and Tim Jonovich of the Erie County Emergency Management for helping with this transition.

He reported that his officers are equipped with gloves, protective gear, and N95 respirators and protocols have been put in place if there has been exposure from the units. Housing will be made available if a 14-day quarantine needs to be put in place. He conveyed that it's important to stay the course and to continue to observe self-quarantine orders.

He announced that a Social Distancing Pizza Party with the Police (public event) is scheduled for April 25 at 4:00 p.m. The officers have been soliciting donations. Residents can drive up to one of the three locations and received ONE FREE PIZZA through their passenger window. They will be limited to 60 pizzas per location, so they will be given out on a first come first serve basis. They ask that you please drive up with an empty passenger seat and officers will pass the pizza through your window in order to follow social distancing guidelines. The locations are as follows:

Location 1 – VOL Clubhouse – 3780 Edgewater Drive

Location 2 – Pat O'Brien Collision Center – 4534 Liberty Avenue

Location 3 – Vermilion High School – 1250 Sanford Street

He announced that the Vermilion Police Department has been selected as the April "Agency of the Month" for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police's Community Relations and Engagement's "Sharing Ohio's Best" program supported by the Law Enforcement Foundation. The project, spearheaded by Sgt. Scott Holmes with Romp's Dairy Dock, has been an excellent community project. He congratulated all those involved for their efforts.

Lastly, he conveyed that Rich Labis of the VPD will retire on July 1. He has served as a Patrol Officer, Lieutenant, Detective, and Police Dispatcher over 41 years of service. He wished him the best in his retirement.

Barb Brady asked if the city has closed the Skate Park because kids have been jumping the fence. Chief Hartung said the Skate Park has been closed and they have had people jumping the fence.

S. Herron said he's received questions from citizens asking who they should contact when they see a situation when people are not abiding with the social distancing orders. Should they contact the police department, or should they call the Department of Health. Chief Hartung said they should contact the Department of Health at the number he provided earlier in the meeting. The Health Department will triage those calls and they determine enforcement. They're the primary enforcement, but the VPD will assist if needed. S. Herron agreed they are in times when they don't need to be calling the VPD at a drop of a hat. He congratulated Rich Labis on his retirement as he has been a great asset to the department.

B. Holmes thanked the Chief and the First Responders who are essential employees and who are taking care of the citizens.

B. Holmes adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

*Next Meeting: May 11, 2020 - 7pm tentative @ location to be determined.*

*Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*