

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 14, 2022

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:** *Monica Stark, President of Council; Steve Herron, Council At Large, Pat Stein, Ward One; Teresa Mayle, Ward Two; Greg Drew, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five.*

Administration: *Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Susan Anderson, Law Director*

Call to Order: Pat Stein, Vice Chairwoman, RESOLVED THAT this Health & Safety Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

TOPIC ONE: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung reported the Range Fire Training has been scheduled for the week of May 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northern Ohio Tactical Training Center on Cooper Foster. He invited members of council. M. Stark said if any council members are interested they need to make sure there is no quorum. Only three members can attend, but it's possible they can stagger their times. She asked council to keep the clerk advised if they are planning to attend, so she can keep track.

Chief Hartung said he was able to get delivery of the hybrid squad cars that council approved at the last meeting. The cutoff was that Friday, but they will not receive the vehicles probably until August or September and it is usually 30 -60 days after that, so hopefully they will see them by November.

He said last week they assisted agents from the Ohio Casino Control Commission in executing a search warrant at the 777 Café at Crystal Shores Plaza. It's an ongoing investigation and Ohio Casino Control is the head of it, so any prosecution decisions will come out of the Erie County Prosecutor's Office. He said he will keep council updated as it unfolds.

He said his department is focusing on training and continuing education as required by the state. He said they are waiting on the final results of the Sergeant's Promotional Exam. G. Fisher said she hopes to have a meeting scheduled with Civil Service by the end of the week.

TOPIC TWO:Fire Chief's Report

Mayor Forthofer extended Chief Stempowski's regrets in being unable to attend and reported that he spoke to the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association as they have four ads running in four different media outlets and the response has been very good and what they have expected. They have one more e-blast they are going to do.

P. Stein asked if there is a possibility that Chief Stempowski will not be chosen. Mayor Forthofer said that Chief Stempowski was offered the job initially, but he had too much on his plate with

his job, so he chose to forgo the position, but totally endorses the idea of a full-time Chief. They hope that Chief Stempowski will stay on in some capacity to help through the transition and continue to contribute. He said over the last 15 years, the chief has done an amazing job to professionalize the department. G. Drew asked if there was room for an assistant chief. B. Holmes said they already have one.

P. Stein adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

*Next Meeting: Work Session for Transient Rentals followed by Committee Meetings – March 14, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Court Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio.
-Transcribed by: Gwen Fisher, CMC*