

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 8, 2022

In Attendance:

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

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

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

TOPIC ONE: Fire Chief's Report

Chief Brown reported the total incidents for July was 17, which brings their total to 141 for the year. He said about a third of these calls have been medical calls.

He said they have scheduled service for technicians to be onsite in the coming months to do annual service on each of the fire trucks, which is performed in the station by certified emergency vehicle technicians. They will perform fluid samples, changing fluids, brake system maintenance, as well as many other items.

He said his days are spent in the office writing and re-writing policies. Currently, over the last two weeks he has been working on their technical rescue policies. He also has been working on BWC related policies, such as blood-borne pathogens and hearing conservation. They continue to train every Monday night and last month they focused on rope rescue. He said a gentleman offered an abandoned house for their training and hopefully within the next week they will be able to do some structure fire type training without actually burning the house down. To burn the house down there is a lot of regulations that must be followed, and he isn't sure this person is willing to do this right now because it can be costly.

He met with the Brownhelm Township Trustees to introduce himself since the city services them. He also wanted to go to Vermilion Township and meet their trustees, but he didn't want to do this until he met with Chief Triana, which is happening tomorrow.

G. Drew mentioned the Chief sent council an email on his thoughts regarding transient rentals and asked if he could offer input during the legislative committee. Chief Brown said he would.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung reported on the executed search warrant on the Triple Seven, which went to the grand jury and the owner was indicted on 10 counts including one count in engaging in corrupt activity which is a first-degree felony; three counts of money laundering, three counts of

gambling violations for cash payouts, which were fifth degree felonies; three counts of operating an illegal gambling house, which is a first-degree misdemeanor. Also, they executed a search warrant on Jo Jo's a couple weeks ago that will probably be presented this week and he anticipates a similar outcome. There is legislation to be considered on this, so hopefully council will give it favorable consideration.

He said last week there was a demonstration in town and a group of fellows were advocating for white power. They setup shop on the corner of Liberty and Main and whether they were out there to get a social media snap or whether they were doing a constitutional audit, he wasn't sure of the motive. The department received a lot of calls, but offensive speech is still free speech. He said it is the First Amendment of the Constitution and they have the right to be there. There were some issues with people, but Sergeant Kopniske did an admirable job of stepping in and the group finally decided they did not want to hang around anymore and then vacated the town.

He said he was contacted by Statewide as apparently Ford hasn't even thought about building the department's cruisers yet – they may cancel the city's order and request them to order next year, so he should have an answer by the end of the month. B. Brady asked if they would hold their price. Chief Hartung said this is where they are getting sketchy because Ford is saying their prices are going to bump up, so they may have to resubmit at a higher price. He said this is an ongoing discussion they are having with Ford.

P. Stein said she noticed the police has been much more visible in the parking lot area behind where the museum used to be, and it has really helped. Chief Hartung said the officers try every hour to make an appearance there and they also have a camera installed and dispatch can watch the area.

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

Next Meeting: September 19, 2022 @ 7 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Court Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio.