Safety Committee Meeting of Council  
City of Richmond Heights  
September 17, 2019

Chairman Lentine called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Roll Call:  
Present:  Alexander, Lentine, Lewis, Ursu  
Other Council present:  Henry, Kumin, Hurst

Approval of minutes from August 27, 2019 – motion by Lewis, seconded by Ursu; passed 4-0

Reports:  

Mayor David Roche/Safety Director:  Comment as we go along.  

Fire Chief, Neumann:  Comment as we go along.  

Police Chief, Tom Wetzel:  Comment as we go along. 

City Engineer, Lee Courtney:  -Excused-

Special Guest, City Prosecutor:  Mike Cicero:  He was present to discuss the Ordinance 87-2019 (amending ordinance Chapter 303.99 of the Codified Ordinances) and answer questions.  
-  Cicero said he had some logistical issues in Lyndhurst Court.  
-  Explained the process of getting a traffic ticket and the wait time for the court. Have 30 days for a minor misdemeanor to bring to court. No one is going to jail for a speeding ticket or minor traffic offense. Fines have not gone up much, but court costs have.  
-  The only reason for request is to give them 90 days to complete request, as time is an issue with 6 cities using the court.  
-  Hunt asked about the current traffic code penalties. Does the city have to change all of these penalties? Cicero said everything with no penalty—asked to change the entire minor to first misdemeanor. Not an official criminal conviction and $150 max penalty. Hunt said the ordinance needs to be revised/updated to reflect these changes to the code.  
-  Mayor Roche asked for clarification on differences of misdemeanors of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.  
-  Minor misdemeanors are the least significant in terms of penalty, carrying a maximum fine of $150 and no possible jail sentence.  
-  Fourth-degree misdemeanors are the next least significant in terms of fines and penalties. If you are charged with a fourth-degree misdemeanor, you face up to 30 days in jail and up to $250 in fines.  
-  A third-degree misdemeanor still carries penalties if you are convicted. The penalties for third-degree misdemeanors include up to 60 days in jail, and a maximum $500 fine.  
-  Second-degree misdemeanors are a more significant charge, with increased jail time and fines. Penalties for a second-degree misdemeanor increase as follows-up to 90 days in jail and a maximum $750 fine.  
-  A first-degree misdemeanor is the most serious a crime can be without being a felony. In the state of Ohio, first-degree misdemeanors are punishable by the following: up to 180 days in jail and a maximum $1,000 fine.
• He added that Judge Coletta is not a difficult jurist. These are all traffic offenses written under city code.
• Lentine said a revised Res. 87-2019 will include all the offenses covered.

AUDIENCE:

Robert Dodson, 505 Karl Drive: represent the neighborhood, with Denise Brennan (live together) Incident with a dog in their neighborhood. Resident with a pit bull. She took Chihuahua outside and pit bull chased her in house and bit her. This happened about 3 weeks ago. Looked at ordinance on vicious dogs in city and wants it updated. He wants to outlaw pit bulls in the city and strengthen the ordinance. Brought the Akron code to look at in the city. Added that the neighbor put up a 6ft fence (on 3 sides) and 4 ft. on 4th side—may not have gotten an ordinance. She did not press charges due to the fact the young woman who was watching the dog (it was her brother’s dog) was as upset as she was. They would like the dog deemed vicious, and make sure he is neutered and identified to the citizens, to make sure people know where this dog is and to avoid going near him. However, they are not pressing charges against the woman who was in charge of watching the dog. Chief Wetzel said a report was made and owners of the dog recognize this dog needs special care and attention, but added that they can not really do anything if no charges are being pressed against them.

Bob Chinchar, 501 Karl—worried about kids on street
Scott Bennet, 510 Karl Drive---in support of them, worried about children and elderly.

Todd Hunt discussed the city of Lakewood and the city of Parma—who both had the pit bull ban. Lakewood—no longer Parma—still has ban, writing detailed code on this. State of Ohio did away with the breed specific ban, so how can a municipality have one? Parma will get sued once it is amended, as the state of Ohio does not have a breed ban.

Mayor Roche said the city will follow up on this and do what they can to enforce the most we can with this code that we have right now.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grants Updates:
• Chief Neumann said the Fire Dept. awarded $49K grant—for funding extra patient equipment. Value of $47K with $2K (city pays)…used for car accidents, removing people. Next step is to accept the grant from FEMA. Grant is drafted and resolution at next Council meeting. Need to go out on a bid process in Oct/Nov.

Police Cars: Mayor Roche signed the order this week

Awning in front of Fire Dept: Chief Neumann said PO generated and will be here in 6-8 weeks. Should get it 20% less than projected.

K-9 Initiative: Chief Wetzel said raised a company gave them a $1,483 check…just shy of $12,000. PetSmart agreed to give food for life of dog.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gear Room Exhaust Fan: Chief Neumann said another few weeks on this.
Lieutenant Promotion (Bernie Schweter): Chief Neumann said on September 24th is the award ceremony for him, and he will be promoted in a ceremony at Council.

Sound the Alarm/Red Cross: Chief Neumann said it is Fire Prevention Week in October. Will be partnering with the city on smoke detector walk on Sat Oct 12th.

Ordinance 303.99, Michael Cicero, 87-2019---as discussed

Safety Training with Police—there will be active shooter training with the staff at City Hall. Will let Council know when this will happen.

Fall Hike with a Cop—hike in Greenwood Farm area, planning to happen.

Senior Citizen Police Academy—ages 50 and older, resident or employees in city. Class dates are Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 8, Jan 22, Feb 12, Feb 26, March 11, and March 25. Cost is free.

UH Ventures, Emergency Medical Services Care Network—For improved patient care. Working under a medical director and program –community paramedicine. Paramedics go to home with frequent customers. Revenue enhancement program. Agreement is non-binding. Other local cities participating as well. Mayor will be signing agreement on this.

Chairman Lentine adjourned this meeting at 8:40 pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council