Safety Committee Meeting of Council  
City of Richmond Heights  
November 19, 2019

Chairman Lentine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Roll Call:**  
Present: Alexander, Lentine, Lewis, Ursu

Other Council present: Kumin, Hurst, Henry

Approval of minutes from October 15, 2019 – motion by Ursu, seconded by Lewis; passed 3-0; Alexander out of room. Lentine will notify Betsy of one small spelling error in the minutes.

**Reports:**

**Mayor David Roche/Safety Director:**
- Fire Chief Neumann will be bringing information about expansion of the Heights Hillcrest Regional Fire Inspection Unit.
- Police Department will be participating in this year’s Coats For Kids drive

- **Fire Chief, Neumann:** The Fire Department will be seeing an addition to the Heights Hillcrest Regional Fire Inspection Unit. Three additional cities will be joining the already 13 city unit. Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and University Heights will be joining. This will cut overtime hours as regular hour firemen will be able to perform arson inspections. No additional cost to the City. Chief will check with the Law Director to see if we need legislation to confirm the expansion.

**Police Chief, Tom Wetzel:**

- The K9 fundraising is up to $21,753 The City did not receive the Roethlisberger grant. Kumin reported the grant went to the City of Cleveland this year. Costs associated with K9 program slightly higher as additional costs associated with outfitting the K9 vehicle had not be included in previous estimates. Other fund raising efforts, including a reverse raffle at the Policeman’s ball and potentially a partnership with Thirsty Dog brewing were still pending. Ursu and Alexander approve of the continued efforts. Others agreed. Chief requested that the City move forward at this time, even without meeting the original $30K goal so that the City can participate in the spring training courses. Alexander stated that we should get the vehicle on order. It would replace a vehicle we would normally be ordering in 2020 anyway. Kumin stated that he appreciates the efforts put forth by the Police in the fundraising effort, but that the purchase of the K9 vehicle and animal should not be dependent on fundraising. He felt the police had done enough. Lewis agreed.

- **MOTION--**Mark Alexander motioned to move a request to finance for the purchase of the K9 unit vehicle. Juanita Lewis seconded. Passed 4-0.

- Chief is requesting that the City allow the police department to name a chaplain. Chief stated many local cities have them and he proposes to copy Mayfield Heights’ policy. The Mayor concurs. The feeling was that a resolution was not needed and that, perhaps Reverend Moreno
would serve as chaplain. It is an unpaid, volunteer position. It is largely supportive and not a front line position. Chief will confer with Law Department to determine if legislation is needed.

- Cop Scouts is a new program that is a cross between cub scouts and explorers run by officers from the department. For children 9 – 12. They will meet every couple of weeks starting in 2020. Meet at the station or Kiwanis for activities and raise awareness of what officers do. Yet another outreach avenue.

- County jail in Euclid is closing on December 31st. Additionally, daily fees for holding at downtown location to increase. Chief Wetzel has talked with Lyndhurst and Highland Heights about housing our prisoners on a rotating basis. County would serve as a 3rd resort. There is much to discuss and Chief will be discussing with Law Director and police in those cities to get details. Possible MOU.

- Lentine asked if the County understands the burden and position they have placed cities in. It is completely unfair. Mayor suggested Sunny Simon is trying to help before end of year comes.

- City is participating in the Coats for Kids program. There will be a bin at the police station and they will coordinate with the school for possible recipients.

- Police are participating in a “Fill the Cruiser” event at the Span Church on Trebisky Road on December 7th. The goal is to fill the cruisers with donated goods and gifts. They will promote on Facebook, the City sign and at events.

- Tentative Coffee with a Cop at the Faith United Church on December 11th from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

- Coffee with a Cop at University Hospitals Richmond on March 11, 2020. Might have Irish Dancers.

- Chief Wetzel reported that the city had received the AAA Bronze Award for Community Traffic Safety

**City Engineer, Lee Courtney:** Comment as we go along.

**AUDIENCE:** -none-

**GUEST**

Shay Hawkins, Co-founder and CEO of The Opportunity Funds Association

Mr. Shay discussed the origins and value of the Opportunity Zone to investors and to the City. He explained how capital gains are parked in these funds and that these funds can be used to invest in areas identified as Opportunity Zones by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The goal is to use these funds to spur investment in the area from the airport going north and, including the apartment complexes along Chardon Road. The takeaway is that we should develop our pitch of incentives for investors and then Brian will continue conversations with the Mayor and Mr. Shay to see if we can partner with investors or, incent the reinvestment by current business/property owners to improve their properties.
OLD BUSINESS:

Grants Updates: ODNR Grant awarded. Potential for $5K in matching funds for K9 unit at Policeman’s Ball reverse raffle.

Police Cars: Delayed due to GM strike. Waiting for an update

Awning for Fire Dept: Installation this week.

Street Lights: Hold on for more discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Safety training: Ongoing.

Watch guard camera systems are on order

Lexipol Training and policy resources. On hold for further discussion

Part Time Officer Clothing Cost Recovery if officer leaves before a full year of service. Lentine believes we should withhold pro-rated refund from final check. Already drafted Resolution 112-2019 on First Reading. Lentine Motion to return to Council for Passage. Lewis second. Passed 4-0

K-9 Initiative: Moving forward with ordering the K9 vehicle. Motioned to finance by Alexander. Second by Lewis. Passed 4-0.

Audience/Residents:

Chairman Lentine adjourned this meeting at 8:30 pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Jeremy Kumin, Council Ward 3