

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

November 2, 2023

7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Davis, Chair • Steve Board • Eric Schmid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captain Brower • City Engineer Jaynellen Holloway • Assistant City Engineer Andrew Beyer • Stacy Winkelman • Mason Becker • Megan Dunneisen • Mark Stevens • Kristine Butteris • Steph Juhl 	<p>Laurie Hoffmann, Jerel Ballard, Diane Tuhy, Julie Janowak, Spring Reed, Mare Holiday, Linda Kauffeld Mark Kottwitz, Daun Demev, Jeff Schmidt, Andy and Sarah Schueler, Chelsea Hains, Melissa Lampe, Ronald Counsell, Monica Burkert - Brist, Randy Arbogast, Annette Bliefernicht, Roger Bliefernicht, Jan Johnston, Jill B., Diane L. John, Wanke, Julia Reitz, Karen Lanser, Lisa Larsen, Sarana Stolar Tami Cederberg, Trrent Kangas, Stacy Estudillo, Bentley Ouwneel, Pat F.</p> <p>The names of those who attended online were not recorded.</p>

2. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public at this time.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Board made a motion to approve the meeting notes from October 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Schmid and passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS

A. Review and take possible action: Address speeding on Carriage Hill Drive.

Beyer presented the options: 1)\$4500 for a solar powered fixed speeding sign (2 would be needed) or 2) Request that the interns do a speed study in the summer. Speed tables/humps are not recommended because Carriage Hill Drive is classified as a minor arterial roadway.

Public Comment: Bliefernicht, a concerned resident voiced his concern about the speed and requested a permanent solution. He has not experienced that speed signs calm traffic.

The committee discussed the various options. Board asked if there was money in the budget for 2 speed signs at \$4500 each. Winkelman said that, pending approval from the Finance Director, she believes money is available for the signs.

MOTION: Board made a motion to direct the staff to determine a final number for two speed signs and also determine definitively if there are available 2023 funds to purchase the signs. Schmid seconded the motion. Schmid clarified that this motion was not committing the city to purchase and install the signs, but only to determine final numbers. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Review and take possible action: No parking during school hours - 800 block of S. Fifth Street**
The principal of Trinity St. Luke's Lutheran School has requested the city to investigate temporary parking on the east side of the 800 block of S. Fifth Street. Signage exists which currently restricts parking during school hours. The signs date back to 1975, but there is no ordinance that supports the signage. Although the subdivision ordinance requires a width of 30' to allow parking on both sides, the pavement width at this location is 26'. However, there are streets throughout Watertown with substandard widths that allow parking on both sides of the street. The school indicates that there is no drop-off or pickup in this area. The school is requesting that the signs be removed to allow teachers to park in the location.

MOTION: Board made a motion to remove the signs. Davis seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

- C. Review and take possible action: Approve installation of traffic gates on S. Water Street between Main and Emmet Streets.** Upon request of the Committee, the Engineering department did some research to determine the prices of 2 different styles of swing gates. A triangular style (\$10,800) and a rectangular style (\$17,000). An additional approximate cost of \$5000 would be needed for the project. Davis shared Blanke's written comments indicating he would be in favor of the triangular style, but would want to know the funding source first. The committee discussed installation costs, setbacks and the possibility of individuals sitting on the end and breaking it.

Public Comment: Trent Kangas remarked that the rectangular design probably added to the stability and strength of the swing gate.

MOTION: Board made a motion to authorize the purchase and installation of swing gates at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, preferring the rectangular over the triangular. Motion was seconded by Davis and passed unanimously.

- D. Review and take possible action: Parking removal on west side of S. First Street between Wisconsin Street and Spring Street**
City staff are requesting that parking be removed on the west side of S. First Street between Wisconsin Street and Spring Street, near the northern parking area at the Watertown Senior Center, due to close calls with S. First Street traffic when exiting the lot. Schmid asked for the crash data. Captain Brower was unable to provide at the time, but said he would provide.

Schmid made a motion to table the request until traffic and crash data could be provided. Davis seconded. Board asked who made the request. Butteris stepped forward to provide additional information. She said that it has been an ongoing issue. Schmid retracted his motion.

MOTION: Schmid made a motion to remove parking from the north parking lot to the bay doors of the 7-up facility (approximately 3 spots). Board seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Review and take possible action: Special Event Permit Ordinance Draft**

- Davis explained the background of the Special Event Permit and the work that has been done so far on the ordinance draft. She explained that this is a preliminary draft and that the committee is just beginning to work through the draft. Feedback is still welcome and appreciated.
- Becker spoke to highlight some of the changes to the ordinance as highlighted in the memo that was attached in the committee packet.
- Becker generally explained extraordinary services
- Chesebro explained some situations that would not be considered “extraordinary” – such as expenses incurred by the city due to first amendment protests and demonstrations.
- Davis opened up discussion over A, B and C in the draft ordinance and the committee asked questions.

○ Davis then opened up the conversation to the general public to discuss this section:

Public Comment: The following individuals spoke to share ideas and concerns.

Trent Kangas

Sarina Stolar

Gene Schmidt

Diane Tuhy

Stacey Estuvio

Katie Vander Linder

Molly Koppline

Collin Nemeth

- Davis opened up discussion over letter D. Many suggestions were shared by the committee for changes to wording.

Public Comment:

Andy Schueler

Sarina Stolar

Trent Kangas

- Davis opened up discussion over E and F1. All committee members shared input and suggestions regarding the topics. Butteris also asked for clarification regarding the process for the Town Square.

Public Comment:

Diane Tuhy

Sarah Schueler

Monica Burkert-Brist

Gene Schmidt

Elizabeth Howell

Katie Van Der Linden

Jan Johnston

Spring Reed

Julie Janowek

Ken Stolar

David Byrne

Cassie S.

- With the late hour, the committee discussed the need to meet more frequently in order to continue the revision process and keep the ordinance moving forward.
- The committee decided that they would look into holding a meeting later in November.

MOTION: Schmid made a motion to table the motion and discuss a special Public Safety Meeting in the near future. Board seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no additional business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Schmid to adjourn and seconded by Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted - Dana Davis, Chairperson