

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

June 5, 2024

5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
- Dana Davis, Chair - Brad Blanke - Steve Board	- Andrew Beyer - Chief David Brower - Brian Zirbes - Alder Jonathan Lampe	John, Kleinstuber, Pat Kleinstuber, John Deale, Gary and Sharon Boley, Josh Rupnow, Mark Seelman, Eric Kletsch, Barb Ames, Tom Ames, Shelley & Dennis Roth, Brian Svatos, Brian Bohn, Todd & Delores Griep, Erik S., Ryan Stalker, Hailey Stalker, Ryan Albertz, Wilbur Miller, Duane Meyers, Nikki & Col Stratmen, Michael Christian, Tracy McArthur, Randy Schultz, Ryan Jones, John Rupnow, Nathan Fried, Shawn Magsam

2. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Public Safety minutes from May 1, 2024

- [Public Safety Meeting Notes 5.1.24.pdf](#) (0.02 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Blanke, seconded by Board and unanimously approved

B. Public Safety minutes from May 21, 2024

- [Public Safety Meeting Notes 5.21.24.pdf](#) (0.02 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Board, seconded by Blanke and unanimously approved

4. BUSINESS

1. A. Informational Item: 1015 Meadow Street Raze Order

- [1015 Meadow St Memo 5-29-2024.pdf](#) (0.13 MB)
- [RAZE ORDER for service - 1015 Meadow Street 2024.pdf](#) (0.09 MB)
- [Letter 1015 Meadow Street - Dell December 2023 follow up.pdf](#) (0.12 MB)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zirbes explained the background on this property that has led to the raze order. He said that when a property is razed, the costs will be assessed to the property, if the property taxes aren't paid, at some point the property will be taken by the county. Blanke asked how the residents could stay informed about the status of the property. There is concern because it is zoned R-8, but everything on that side of the street is single-family. Zirbes said that the process would move along and that it's possible that the city could acquire the property.

NO ACTION TAKEN

2. Review and take Action: Special Event-American Legion 4th of July Celebration

- [Memo re PSW -4th of July.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- [2024-19 4th of July Application.pdf](#) (0.21 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Blanke, seconded by Board and unanimously approved

3. C.Review and take action: Special Event-Moose Lodge Car Show

- [Memo re PSW -Moose Lodge.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- [2024-17 Application Redacted.pdf](#) (1.59 MB)
- [2024-17 Map.pdf](#) (0.08 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Blanke, seconded by Board and unanimously approved

4. D.Review and take action: Special Event Koine Concert-St. Lukes Church

- [Memo re PSW -Koine Concert.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- [2024-12 Application Redacted.pdf](#) (0.49 MB)
- [2024-12 Map.pdf](#) (0.14 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Blanke, seconded by Board and unanimously approved

5. E.Review and take action: Special Event-Fiesta at the Park

- [Memo to PSW including charges.pdf](#) (0.22 MB)
- [2024-14 Application Redacted.pdf](#) (0.51 MB)
- [2024-14 Map.pdf](#) (0.07 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Board, seconded by Blanke and unanimously approved

6. F.Review and take action: Special Event-Craft Beer Walk

- [Memo re PSW Craft Beer Walk.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- [2024-16 Map.pdf](#) (0.04 MB)
- [2024-16 Craft Beer Walk Redacted.pdf](#) (0.37 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Davis, seconded by Blanke, Board abstained. Passed by Davis and Blanke.

7. G.Review and take action: Special Event- Donut Dash

- [Memo re PSW -Donut Dash.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- [2024-13 Donut Dash.pdf](#) (0.19 MB)
- [2024-13 Map.pdf](#) (0.11 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Board, seconded by Blanke and unanimously approved

8. H.Review and take action: Allowing utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) on select city streets

- [Lampe - ATV Ordinance Email.pdf](#) (1.22 MB)
- [LAMPE UTV Draft Ordinance\(5\).pdf](#) (0.02 MB)
- [UTV memo PubSafetyWelfare 053024.pdf](#) (0.18 MB)
- [UTV 2023 Off Highway Vehicle Fatal Crash Summary.pdf](#) (1.82 MB)
- [UTV2 2023 WI Vehicle Safety & Educ. Report.pdf](#) (1.15 MB)
- [2024.0529 AMB ATV UTV.pdf](#) (0.08 MB)
- [Memo LT comments re UTV 05302024.pdf](#) (0.08 MB)
- [DNR ATV Route Guidelines and Suggestions - A Community Official's Handbook.pdf](#) (3.90 MB)
- [Watertown WI 2024.05.28 - Consumer Federation of America.pdf](#) (0.23 MB)
- [2023-all-vehicles-report.pdf](#) (0.20 MB)
- [DNR 2023 Annual Safety Report for Recreational Vehicles.pdf](#) (4.69 MB)
- [DNR 2023 Offi-Highway Vehicle Fatal Crash Summary.pdf](#) (0.83 MB)

DISCUSSION:

- Alder Jonathan Lampe is proposing an ordinance that would allow residents to drive ATVs/UTVs on all city streets in Watertown. Lampe says that many residents have been making this request and he and others worked together on the proposed ordinance. Rationale for the ordinance includes:
 - Watertown is one of the last HWY 26 cities to not allow ATVs/UTVs in the city
 - The Chamber of Commerce is in favor.
 - An unofficial FB poll from 2019 indicated there was strong support.
 - ATVs/UTVs are fuel efficient.
 - There are new safety features on vehicles.
- Chief Brower shared that the Police Department is strongly opposed to ATV/UTV use on city streets. He asked for feedback from his administrative team and no one on his team is supportive of ATV/UTV on city streets. He said that they do not have the necessary personnel to enforce ATV/UTV ordinance regulations. The team is concerned that individuals will use the new ordinance as an opportunity to drive intoxicated. They are concerned about the data that suggests that alcohol and speed are main reasons for accidents and fatalities. They are concerned that accidents and fatalities are growing each year. The Chief says that our city is too large to allow UTVs/ATVs on city roads.
- Andrew Beyer, City Engineer, is also strongly opposed for four main reasons 1) Vehicle Design and Compatibility – UTVs are designed for off-road use with structural designs, higher centers of gravity and lower stability that make them unsuitable for city roads 2) Traffic Flow Disruption, 3) Safety Standards – UTVs don't include airbags, crumple zones, turn signals and advanced braking systems 4) Pedestrian Safety – Could pose additional risks to pedestrians.
- The following residents spoke out in favor of an ordinance that would allow ATV/UTVs on city roads. Their reasons included: ATVs/UTVs are safe, quiet, other communities have passed ordinances and there have been no issues, responsible drivers are careful to follow rules. Residents also explained that it would be convenient, and it would impact the city positively economically.
 - John Drake
 - Jacob Maas
 - Rick Krueger
 - Ryan Jones
 - Shirley Wolf
 - Shane Magsamem
 - Ray Beebe
 - Tom Ames
 - John Rupnow
 - Ryan Stalker
 - Nate Friedlel
 - Bryan Svatos
 - Dave K.
- Davis spoke in opposition for the following reasons:
 - The percentage of ATV On-Road Fatal Accidents has been increasing steadily over the last 10 years.
 - Over 67% of fatal ATV accidents nationally occur on-roads. In WI, last year 51% of the ATV accidents happened on-road. There have already been 13 fatal

accidents in WI so far this year; 7 in the month of May. 4 of the fatal accidents that happened in the month of May happened on-road.

- US Product Safety Commission, a federal agency, is strongly opposed to ATV/UTV on-roads, has created PSAs and Infographics to inform riders to stay off-roads.
- DNR advises City Official to exercise caution and use great consideration before permitting ATV/UTV on-roads
- Our city Police Chief and City Engineer are strongly opposed
- The data shows that on-road fatalities are disproportionately higher than off-road.
- Consumer Protection Groups like the Consumer Federation of America are strongly opposed to ATV/UTV on roads (letter in packet)
- Trade Organizations that represent Manufactures are strongly opposed to on-road use. Specialty Vehicles Institute of America promotes safe and responsible use of ATVs and educates riders to stay off-road.
- Manufacturers – The manuals for ATVs and UTVs all say “do not operated on paved roads”. See Yamaha Raptor manual for example
- Training Courses – The WI DNR recommend the Offroad-ed safety course which says in the training course “The following are leading causes of injury and fatal accidents: 1) Driving an ATV on a paved surface. ATVS are designed for off-road use and handle poorly on pavement”
- Blanke – Spoke to the fact that our freedoms are limited within a city with specific rules (ie. Driver’s license required). He said that he recognizes that responsible adults with expensive machines will drive responsibly. However, there are individuals who are not going to drive safely. There was some discussion about the ages of driving. He spoke to the fact that moving violations do not put points on a driver’s license. The ordinance in the packet did not speak to the age of drivers and has the hours of driving until 2 a.m.
- Board is concerned about the drivers that are less responsible and younger than the residents represented at the meeting. He said he could maybe be convinced to move forward on an ATV/UTV ordinance, but not the ordinance in our packet.
- Davis spoke to the fact that adding increased responsibilities to the Police Department may result in increased property taxes as citizens may have to pay for additional personnel.

MOTION: Blanke made a motion to table the matter. Failing to receive a 2nd, Blanke withdrew his motion. Davis made a motion to deny allowing ATVs and UTVS on city streets in Watertown. Motion seconded by Blanke. Motion passed 2 to 1 (Board)

9. Review and take action: Vehicle parking on front lawn
- [Lampe - Front Lawn Parking.pdf](#) (1.26 MB)

MOTION: Board made a motion to pursue changing the city code to limit vehicle parking on front lawns and to request Brian Zirbes to present a potential ordinance to the committee at a future meeting. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed 2 to 1 (Blanke)

4.ADJOURN

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