
City of Carthage



Public Safety Committee – Minutes

Meeting Date: October 21, 2019

Meeting Location: City Hall

Call to Order: Chairman Harrison

Time Called to Order: 5:30pm

Attendance:

Chairman Harrison
Councilman Collier
Councilman Snow
Chief Williams
Chief Dagnan

Citizen/Other: Morgan Housh, Ceri Otero, Abi Almandinger, Mark Sponaugle, Chanti Beckham, Ann Stocker

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilman Collier made the motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written. Motion passed.
2. Chief Dagnan updated the committee on the School Zones at Fairview School. Dr. Mark Baker, R9 Superintendent of Schools spoke with Chief Dagnan about adding a school zone in front of Fairview Schools. This was brought to the Public Safety Committee last month. The committee agreed that a school zone needed added. They suggested that Dagnan speak with Street Department to get numbers and a plan. The Police Chief and Streets Department met and discussed the plan and agreed that a school zone was warranted. There was some concern over the transition for traffic coming into town heading west who are traveling 55MPH and if a safe transition could be accomplished. It was determined that there would be a "School Zone Ahead" sign placed in the right of way in front of the Evangel Assembly of God Church. It is recommended by the Police Department that a school zone be placed in front of Fairview Elementary School, following recommended placement of the signs outlined in the attached diagram. Further, the school zone would begin at the East of the school, just to the west of Fairview and Allison and to the west of the school just to the west of Fairview and Pear. In addition, since there is highway traffic entering into this school zone that solar flashing lights be placed on the school zone signs. Finally, once the signs are located the ordinance will need to be changed so that it is matching the current wording.
3. Chief Dagnan updated the committee on the proposed crosswalk at 2nd and Grant. This was brought to the Public Safety committee last month. Pastor Francisco Bonilla, from the Cristiana Hispanoamericana Church spoke with the committee how the church had purchased a building across the street from the current church building. He stated that church members cross Grant Street on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings to get back and forth from the main Church. Pastor Bonilla felt that this was dangerous for the members of the Church. He asked the Public Safety committee to consider putting up signs. Dagnan informed the committee that signs could not be added without a crosswalk which would have to be ADA approved and a study done to determine the number of pedestrians who crossed. Dagnan met with the Streets Department and Public Works Department to review the issue. It was readily apparent that the sidewalks in front of both the current church building and the new building were severely damaged and not sufficient of an ADA crosswalk. It is the recommendation of the PD that Pastor Bonilla be sent a letter

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stating that the city will place an ADA crosswalk, crossing Grant at 2nd however this will be done only after the Church repairs the sidewalks in front of the properties that they own. The City does have a “sidewalk match” program that the city would match 50% of the expense of the repair of the sidewalk, or up to \$3,000.00.

4. Chief Dagnan updated the committee on the stop sign at 15th and James. On behalf of Margaret Stills, Chief Dagnan brought this to the Public Safety meeting last month. Mrs. Stills is concerned about the vehicle speeds and childrens’ safety at this location. During last month, Public Safety meeting it was agreed on that the PD do a street study there. The PD put the police radar trailer at the 1400 block of James and monitored southbound traffic from October 14th to the 18th. In summary, only 3% of the 472 cars that were tracked were in violation of the 30 MPH limit. The Police Department does not feel that a stop sign at this intersection is warranted.
5. Chief Dagnan spoke with the committee on the Butterball crosswalk that was discussed last month at the Public Safety meeting. Todd Ericson and Matt Duvall spoke with the committee last month on the need to change the crosswalks in from of the Butterball plant. They have had multiple injuries at this location and would like to solve the problem by removing the existing crosswalks and put one in a more centralized location, add pedestrian crossing sign in the middle of the road, add a speed gun to display speeds, and also add speed humps on both sides of the centralized crosswalk to slow down traffic entering and leaving the parking lot. Chief Dagnan spoke with Public Works Department and the Streets Department on their thoughts to see if a more visible crosswalk could be engineered with no negative impact on drainage or traffic. These three departments and Butterball agreed on a 5-foot wide crosswalk, vinyl speed humps, and a MUTC approved speed sign. All initial costs will be paid by the city and Butterball will reimburse the city for all expenses related to this project.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Chanti Beckham discussed the 2019 Run Through the Lights. The runners will be running through the CRM lights on Tuesday December 17 at around 6:00pm to 6:30pm. Runners will be starting at the Church of Nazarene just to the south of the lights (CRM), cross the street and run through the light display. Some runners will continue on the Square and back making it a 5K run. The light display is normally closed on Tuesdays but the Fathers will turn on the display just for the runners. Beckham would like a patrol car to block traffic while runners cross Fairview for traffic control. This is the same as previous years. Councilman Collier made the motion to approve the 2019 Run Through the Lights event on Tuesday December 17th with officer assistance to cross Fairview and the closure of Grand Street from Highland to Fairview. Motion passed.
2. Mark Sponaugle spoke with the committee about the 47th Annual Christmas Parade, “Christmas through the Decades”. The parade will be held on December 2, 2019 at 7:00pm. As in years past, the parade originates at the corner of Chestnut and Main Streets, proceeds North on Main Street, circling the Square, then back South on Grant, ending at Chestnut and Grant. He is requesting street closures of Chestnut, 9th, 10th, 11th, and Main Street from 5:00pm to around 8:00pm as in years past. He would also like to vacate the parking spots on the inside corners of the Square for the semi-trucks to be able to turn. Councilman Snow made a motion to approve the 47th Annual Christmas Parade with street closures same as past years with the vacation of the inside of the Square, and allow vehicles backwards parking on the outside of the Square. Motion passed.
3. Ann Stocker spoke with the committee on her concerns with the parking issues on the SE corner of Sophia and Budlong. She is concerned with the people who are parking on the south side of Budlong making it difficult for the houses on the north side of the street to back out of their drives and the school busses who are trying to turn onto Budlong. The school busses can not make that turn when there are cars parked there. The street itself is fairly narrow and when there are cars parked on the side of the street it makes it more difficult. Stocker is proposing that the committee make it only parking on the north side of Budlong, no parking at all on Budlong, or no parking on the corners of the streets so the busses can get through. Chief Dagnan and his department had been out to look at the problems prior to the meeting. He agrees that the street is narrow and makes it difficult for cars to pass. The problem with this street is that there is no curbing on this street. This makes where there could not be any no parking signs based on

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ordinances. Dagnan will speak with the Streets Department on options to help the problem. No motion was needed.

4. Abi Almandiner spoke with the committee on her concerns with the parking ordinance regarding the amount of time a vehicle can park on a lot whether it is operable or inoperable. The current ordinance states: "No person, being the owner thereof or having in his care or custody any motor vehicle, shall abandon the same on any street, alley, public parking lot, or public place within the city, for a period longer than forty-eight (48) hours. Abandoned vehicle as used in this section shall mean: any vehicle which is disabled or cannot be driven on the city street or highways of the state for whatever reason.

Abi made the suggestion to change to "No person, being the owner thereof or having in his care or custody any motor vehicle, operable or inoperable, shall abandon the same...

Second option was: Abandoned vehicle as used in this section shall mean: any vehicle, operable or inoperable, which is disabled or cannot be driven on the city street or highways of the state for whatever reason.

Abi spoke with Dagnan prior to this meeting the length of time that they would allow these vehicles to park on the lots. Dagnan suggests nothing less than 10 days up to 14 days. There would have to be signage added to the lots to make the motorists aware. The committee discussed the pros and cons of making changes to the ordinance. Dagnan told the committee that he would be ok with this and would still follow the current procedures that the Police Department has with towing vehicles. Dagnan will be speaking with the Streets Department on this issue and the City Attorney to look over the ordinance wording then bring back to the committee. No motion was needed.

5. Abi Almandiner also informed the committee on a few statistic on monetizing the benefit of beautification. Vision Carthage team is currently looking at beautifying two parking lots. One lot is at the corner of 6th and Main and the other is at 5th and Grant. Abi is currently working with Zeb and his team at the Public Works Department on some estimated costs of how to make these two lots more beautiful and benefit the business of Carthage, increase tourist, tax rates, and the overall look. No motion was needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Staff reports
 - a. Police
 - i. Chief Dagnan gave a short update on feral cats. There has been one "problem area" and the issues have been taken care of.
 - ii. Chief Dagnan spoke with the committee shortly about the CPD how the department is losing employees and a retention proposal that he is working with Tom Short on.
 - iii. Chief Dagnan mentioned the street closures for Halloween. These streets will be closed each year without having to be brought to council. The Square will be closed from end of school to the end of business hours, and Grand Street will be closed from Macon to Centennial from about 4:00pm to around 9:00pm.
 - b. Fire
 - i. Chief Williams spoke with the committee of an acceptance of a donation from Connie Haffner on behalf of the Haffner Family to the Fire Department in the amount of \$2,000 to be used to purchase 511 pullovers for the department. Councilman Collier made a motion to accept the donation. Motion passed.
 - ii. Chief Williams spoke with the committee briefly on Station 2. The station is operating a 24 hour staff. Engine 621 is stationed at the station along with a brush truck. He provided the committee call stats. In a 30 day period from 9/21 to 10/21 133 calls were ran from Station 1 and 54 calls were ran from Station 2. He will be meeting with ISO on Friday to go over ISO ratings.
 - iii. Chief Williams received closed bids on PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and he is reviewing them now. He will be receiving Breathing Air bids this week and also working on getting locker proposals.

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- iv. The HVAC unit at Station 1 is needing replaced and working with Tom Short on possibly including this unit with the unit that is needing replaced at City Hall.
- v. The Storm siren on Marigold is needing some repairs and waiting on some warranty work on it. All batteries in all the sirens have been replaced by the Carthage Fire Department.
- vi. The CFD had their annual Pancake Feed on Saturday October 19th and was a success
- vii. Chief Williams informed the committee that Deputy Chief Myers will be retiring on December 20th. He has been a member for the CFD for 25 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Snow made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date: November 18, 2019

Next Meeting Location: Carthage City Hall – Upstairs Conference Room

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