

MINUTES
City Council Public Safety Committee

Monday, May 23, 2022 – 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member (arrived at 3:41 pm)
Maurice Jones, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Steve Harrell, Interim City Manager
Tom Jordan, Police Chief
Bobby Cooper, Fire Chief

City Staff: Phil Harris, Public Safety Director
Paul Ray, Planning Director (arrived at 3:50 pm)
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guest: Emma Zanetti, Douglas Miller and Carole Stone, Caldwell St. Residents
Linda Gallo, Resident

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Vice-Chair Maurice Jones called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Chief Cooper, seconded by Chief Jordan to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Reduction of Speed Limit on South Caldwell Street from 35 mph to 30 mph

Mr. Harrell explained that this matter goes back to May, 2020 when Mr. Douglas Miller contacted NCDOT to request that the speed limit on South Caldwell Street, south of Oakdale Street be reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph. However, the City had never received a concurrence request from NCDOT. Mr. Harrell contacted NCDOT Traffic Engineer Steve Buchanan to follow up on the matter. Mr. Buchanan informed Mr. Harrell that NCDOT would agree to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph, but not the requested 25 mph. Mr. Buchanan sent a “Certification of Municipal Declaration to Enact Speed Limits and Request for Concurrence” for consideration b City Council.

Motion by Chief Jordan, seconded by Chief Cooper to forward a recommendation to City Council to approve the “Certification of Municipal Declaration to Enact Speed

Limits and Request for Concurrence” to reduce the speed limit on Caldwell Street south of Oakdale Street from 35 mph to 30 mph. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Prohibition of Overnight Parking in City Parking Lots

Mr. Harrell explained that there have been cases of vehicles remaining overnight, or longer in downtown municipal parking lots. Currently, the Code of Ordinances addresses overtime parking in the downtown district, which is defined as the area bounded by Probart, Johnson, Jordan and England Streets. However, the Code does not address overnight parking. Mr. Harrell presented a draft amendment to the Code which adds a section prohibiting overnight parking, or longer, in the downtown municipal parking lots. The amendment also redefined the downtown district as the area bounded by Probart, Rice, Morgan and England Streets to encompass all city-owned parking lots in downtown, and to align with the Downtown Development Overlay District.

During discussion, it was noted that the proposed amendment did not include city-owned parking lots outside of downtown, such as the Depot, Sports Complex, Tannery Skate Park or the new Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. There was also discussion that city-owned vehicles and city-permitted employee vehicles should be exempt from the overnight parking prohibition. Motion by Chief Jordan, seconded by Chief Cooper to amend the language to “all city-owned parking lots, with the exception of city government vehicles and city-permitted employee vehicles” and to forward the amendment to City Council with a recommendation to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Set Date for Next Meeting

It was decided that the Committee would meet again when needed.

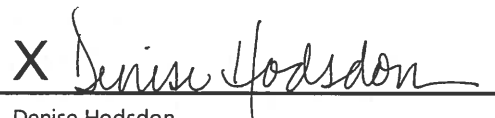
G. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Minutes Approved: August 8, 2022



Mac Morrow,
Chair, Council Member



Denise Hodsdon,
Executive Assistant