

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

July 22, 2019

The Public Safety Committee of the Village of Mount Horeb met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the board room of the Municipal Building, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. Cathy Scott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members were present except the PSC Chair, Brenda Monroe. Village Administrator, Nic Owen, and the Village Engineer, Rob Wright, were also present.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Jason Fendrick moved; Mike McNall seconded to approve the April 29, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

CONSIDER OAK STREET CONCERNS

Seven people who live in the Oak Street/Thompson Street area were at the meeting to express their concerns. There was also one email correspondence from Nathan Tetrake-405 Oak Street regarding this concern. The following individuals approached the committee to speak: Ben McMullen-104 Thompson Street, Bill Copus-408 Oak Street, Laurie Midthun-406 Oak Street, Brian (last name unknown)-407 Oak Street, and Tim Schell-411 Oak Street.

The Village Engineer, Rob Wright, began the discussion by summarizing previous studies regarding the 400 block of Oak Street and Thompson Street areas, as well as possible solutions to the on-going issues brought before the committee.

The primary concern among the individuals that spoke was that there are safety concerns considering there are 13 kids under the age of 10 that reside in the 400 block of Oak Street. Their concerns include the fact that it is a narrow street with parking along one side of the street, the speed of the vehicles that travel on Oak and Thompson Streets, the number of vehicles that travel on Oak and Thompson Streets, especially from 7:00-9:00 a.m. and again from 4:00-6:00 p.m., and drivers not stopping at the stop signs. Many felt that since the last speed studies were done in 2014 that the problems are more significant due to an increase in the number of vehicles traveling on those two streets. They felt that there really are no disadvantages to making the 400 block of Oak Street and Thompson Street one-way streets and that is the only reasonable thing to do.

Other possible solutions that were discussed by Rob Wright were splitter islands and/or speed humps. Through discussion among the individuals present and the committee members, it was determined that these were not feasible solutions.

When asked about the pros and cons of making the 400 block of Oak Street and Thompson Street one-way streets, Rob Wright felt that the only con would be retraining the public once they become one-way streets.

Rob Wright mentioned that he will talk to Jeff Gorman, Director of Public Works, about reaching out to the highway maintenance division regarding Do Not Enter and One-Way signs because Thompson Street does intersect with a connecting highway.

After much input from the individuals present and discussion among committee members, Mike McNall moved; Jason Fendrick seconded to make the 400 block of Oak Street and Thompson Street one-way streets. Motion carried.

CONSIDER WHAT TIME TRAFFIC LIGHTS START FLASHING AT MAIN STREET AND SECOND STREET (Currently 8:00pm)

Chief Veloff read an email from Christina Kahl who was requesting that the time the traffic lights at Main Street and Second Street are set to start flashing be changed from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

At the current time, the lights are set to be in the flashing mode from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday and from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday.

After some discussion among committee members, Jason Fendrick moved to have the lights go into flashing mode from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Monday through Sunday. Steve Holum seconded the motion. Cathy Scott and Mike McNall were not in favor of the motion. The committee vote was 2-2. The motion failed for lack of majority.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next Public Safety Committee meeting has been set for Monday, August 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mt. Horeb Municipal building, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin.

The agenda will include consideration of wayfinding/parking signs for the downtown area.

ADJOURN

Mike McNall moved; Steve Holum seconded, to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Kit Witte, Mt. Horeb Police Department Administrative Assistant