

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 – 5:50 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, and Alderman Smith. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Bob Bell, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Andreano called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman George, who was excused.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, April 16, 2019)

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

Alderman Witte explained that she read the recent article about the Cattaraugus County Catnippers, and asked for an update.

Mayor Aiello explained that he had previously sent an email to the Council detailing the Catnippers plan, and he would also like to do a press release. He explained that they will be working in Ward 5, and when a street is chosen, they will notify the surrounding area of what they are doing. He noted that Ms. McElfresh, his secretary, is working on a door tag to notify surrounding residents. He explained that they will have approximately twenty appointments, and will trap and then have twenty cats spayed or neutered, their ears cut to designate that they have been spayed or neutered, and then they will be returned to the same area in which they were trapped. He noted that they will also check to see if a cat has been fixed prior to taking it to the vet.

Alderman Crawford explained that if someone allows their cat to roam off of their property, that they are perceived to be a stray. If a cat is trapped and has already been fixed, their ears should be clipped to aid workers in determining if the cat has been fixed if it is trapped again.

Mayor Aiello explained that an area will be chosen, and one block North, South, East and West of the area is where traps will be set.

Alderman Witte asked if North Twelfth Street could be chosen, and Mayor Aiello explained that the thought was to start in Ward 5 because Alderman Crawford has worked to bring this program to the City. He noted that he has received notice that the SPCA may be handling cats in Olean as well.

Alderman Smith explained that there are people who do not support the program, including a resident in his ward who believes that their cat was “kidnapped” by the Catnippers.

#### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

##### a. Discussion – Front Street Traffic Study

Alderman Witte explained that Chief Rowley performed the study from April 3, 2019 to April 10, 2019, and that she is amazed at how much traffic the street gets.

Chief Rowley explained that in one week there was just under 70,000 vehicles in the area of the study. He noted that, because this is a route commonly used to access the hospital, that some of the speeding vehicles could be emergency response vehicles such as ambulances. He explained that the study has aided in finding days and times when speeding is more common, so that targeted enforcement can be done. He is surprised to see that overall, the percentage of those speeding is very low.

Alderman Andreano asked where the device was set up, and Mayor Aiello responded that it was set up between Prospect and Paragon.

Chief Rowley explained that, per the report, there is not a speeding issue on this roadway.

Alderman Andreano asked if the conclusion could be made that the road is getting worse because of the traffic, and Mr. Ring responded that it is actually probably because of the river that the street runs along.

Alderman Witte explained that she feels that semis still use this route since the North Union Street project, which would have an effect on the road. Chief Rowley responded that there is not a large number of heavy trucks on the road, according to the report. Alderman Crawford asked if having a heavy truck off of the truck route is a ticketable offense, and Chief Rowley replied that it is. He noted that, in fact, sometimes officers will be on that roadway for enforcement of that since they sometimes get calls from residents; however, there are not many violations.

##### b. Discussion – Crossing at Olean General Hospital

Alderman Andreano explained that she knows that a traffic study was done previously; however, on a recent day, a local doctor was almost hit by what he calls a speeding vehicle.

Chief Rowley responded that the study done has indicated that there is not a speeding problem on this road, and that there have been eight accidents since 2016 which were all due to failure to yield to right of way, not due to speeding. He feels that the crosswalks are poorly located.

Alderman Andreano asked if all accidents called into dispatch end up in reports, and Chief Rowley responded that an officer has to go to the scene to do a report, and then it is in the system. The only times there are not reports are if the caller calls back and requests no response, or if there is an accident and the police are not called at all.

Alderman Witte explained that she, as well as the Mayor and other City officials, met with the hospital, and discussed changing crosswalks. This will cost a lot of money and will require a study. She explained that people cross where they want to cross, not necessarily in a crosswalk. She explained that you can't legislate common sense.

Alderman Dougherty asked if most of these pedestrians are crossing the street to smoke, and Alderman Witte responded that pedestrians also cross to go to the ambulatory surgery center. Alderman Dougherty noted that some of the issues could be solved if the hospital provided a small place on campus for the smokers.

#### 5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

#### 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.