

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 – 5:35 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

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

1. Roll Call

Alderman Andreano called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman Smith, who was excused.

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

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

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Parking Issues – 800 Block of Bishop Street

Alderman Andreano explained that she received a call from a constituent regarding parking on the 800 block of Bishop Street, which is the first block when you turn onto the roadway, taking a left off of King Street. She explained that the resident is having difficulty pulling out of their driveway due to parking on the roadway, as well as curbing along the driveway.

Meme Yanetsko, a resident on the street, explained that her husband needed an ambulance in June, and the parking on the roadway made it difficult for the ambulance and fire truck to come. She suggested changing parking from the north side to the south side of the street to help eliminate some of these public safety issues.

Alderman Andreano explained that this is a very narrow two way street, like many in the City. She explained that it is impossible to get vehicles down the road both ways when there are cars parked on the street.

Alderman Witte explained that if there seems to be a public safety issue, and Chief Bell and Chief Rowley should take a look at the situation and see if something should be done to allow

for access for emergency vehicles. Alderman Witte explained that in addition, when she put her driveway in at her house, she was told she could not have a curb cut of more than 14 feet. It appears that the resident's curb cut is less than that, and she recommended possibly looking into an additional length of curb cut to make it easier to exit the driveway. Mayor Aiello explained that he agrees with the curb cut idea, but noted that if the parking was switched on his block of Bishop Street, he would not be able to get out of his driveway.

Alderman Dougherty asked if making the street one way could alleviate issues, and Mayor Aiello explained that it would have to be one way the entire length of the street to Front Street.

Alderman Crawford asked if this has been an ongoing issue or a new development, and Alderman Andreano responded that she believes that it has gotten worse because of a house on the street that has people coming and going all hours of the day and night. She noted that this has been brought to the attention of the proper authorities. She explained that she has also spoken with Chief Rowley, who has explained that there has been an increase in traffic on the roadway and as a result, an increase in traffic accidents. Alderman Andreano explained that this is different from other streets in that there are mostly single family homes (although while some are owner occupied, some are rented). She explained that there are not a lot of apartment houses like other areas of the City.

Alderman Witte explained that she would like Chief Bell and Chief Rowley to take a look in order to get a handle on the situation.

Alderman Andreano noted that there were a few "No Parking" signs up that were faded, and have since been replaced.

Ms. Yanetsko noted that if parking is switched from one side to the other, that the residents on the opposite side of the street will have issues.

Alderman Andreano explained that the Council can consider passing legislation that would prevent parking so far from someone's driveway, and Alderman Dougherty responded that this would eliminate a lot of the on street parking in the City.

Alderman Andreano will speak with Mr. Ring, Chief Bell and Chief Rowley regarding their thoughts on the matter.

b. Discussion of Request Received – Restriction of Smoking in Areas of Forness Park

Alderman Andreano explained that in the past two weeks she has received a lot of calls regarding this. She explained that family members, parents and coaches involved with the Youth Football Program have called with concerns regarding smoking in areas of the park where youth sports are played, She explained that there are signs that say "Young Lungs at Play" in the

playgrounds, but that smoking is not banned in parks. She noted that there is not an issue in Bradner Stadium since there is no smoking permitted in the stadium.

A cheerleading coach with the program explained that there are several girls with asthma who have to walk through clouds of smoke to get to practice. She noted that smoking doesn't need to be banned altogether necessarily, and that the City can perhaps consider a designated smoking area. She explained that she has heard complaints from other coaches and parents as well.

Alderman Andreano explained that there were issues over the weekend when a game was being played. She explained that she has spoken with the league, and it is announced that smoking is not permitted at the practices and games. In addition, it is in their bylaws that parents will not partake in tobacco use while children are playing the sport.

Mayor Aiello explained that there were issues at the City Cup due to the use of tobacco products. He explained that he feels that all tobacco use, as well as vaping, should be banned in City parks and on City property. He noted that he has also received complaints regarding smoking in Lincoln Park during concerts. Alderman Andreano explained that some families have left the games due to the smoking.

Alderman Crawford asked where people currently smoke at City facilities, and Mayor Aiello responded that they go outside and smoke on the steps. Alderman Crawford explained that a lot of places now have tobacco free campuses. Mayor Aiello explained that smoking is prohibited in City vehicles, and explained that maybe the time has come to make all City property smoke free.

Alderman Andreano noted that she believes that Reality Check offered to help pay for the signs in the parks indicating "No Smoking". She explained that this will need further discussion, and Alderman Crawford added that the City can look into what other municipalities do. Alderman Andreano added that if the Council considers banning smoking in parks, that banning smoking in all City facilities should be considered as well.

Alderman Witte asked if there could be issues with the employee's union regarding this, and Mayor Aiello responded that he doesn't believe that there would be. He noted that when the Health Department banned smoking in public facilities and then bars, that everyone acted like it was the end of the world, but it wasn't. Bars and restaurants didn't close and the public has become accustomed to dining without smoking.

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 6:00 p.m.