

CITY OF WARRENVILLE

PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE/
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Minutes of Regular Meeting Held on Monday,
February 8, 2010, at City Hall**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman, Alderman Fred Bevier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor David Brummel, Aldermen Stuart Aschauer, Clare Barry, Fred Bevier, Christopher Halley, Dan Leonard, Dave Schultz, and Bill Weidner

Absent: Alderman Matt Wiesbrock

Also Present: City Administrator John Coakley, Police Chief Ray Turano, Deputy Chief Dave Schar, Assistant City Administrator Jennifer McMahan, City Clerk Emily Larson, and Deputy City Clerk Ana Vainisi

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bob Siebert, Albright Court, urged the City Council to keep track of the requests for EAV reductions from vacant businesses in Cantera, since, according to him, the Navistar building received a \$2 million reduction for their Warrenville property in 2007 and has already requested and received property tax reductions for their new property in Lisle.

E. OFFICIALS AND STAFF COMMENTS

State of the City Address

Mayor Brummel announced he will give his State of the City address at the Courtyard Banquets on Thursday, February 11, at noon. The speech will be televised and re-played on Channel 10 and the City's website.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mayor Brummel invited anyone interested in volunteering for the City to apply for the vacancy in the Bicyclists and Pedestrian Advisory Commission or as coordinator for the poetry reading program.

Tobacco Sting

Mayor Brummel congratulated the 14 businesses that passed the recent tobacco check. Chief Turano named each of the businesses: Both Walgreens, Family Foods, One Stop Tobacco, Speedway Gas Station, Shell Gas Station, 7-11, Stop 24 Liquors, Hometown Pantry, Holy Smokes Pantry, Gas City, Phillips 66, Mobil Gas Station, and BP Amoco.

Home Invasions

Mayor Brummel cautioned residents that from recent media stories, they should be aware of an increase in home invasions in our community and to take care of family and possessions.

F. BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. Post Prom Event Sponsorship

JoLynn Brown, Operation Safe Celebration Committee Chair, urged the City Council to sponsor this year's event with the usual \$500 contribution. Ms. Brown stated this would be the 16th year this program is in existence and took pride in their success at keeping youth safe during prom night.

Alderman Leonard asked whether the program was open to all District 200 students, even those from St. Francis High School. Ms. Brown stated that the program is open to juniors and seniors from Wheaton Warrenville South High School and Wheaton North High Schools only. St. Francis holds its own post-prom party.

Alderman Weidner asked whether the organizers had a plan to keep the students from leaving early. Ms. Brown stated that they keep the student's interest with periodic raffle prizes, with the grand prize being \$1,000 cash drawn at 2:30 a.m. If a student signs up and does not show up, the parents are notified. Parents are also informed when a student wishes to leave the party early.

Alderman Halley stated that in his experience, the prizes are worth staying. He praised the organizers' dedication and discipline.

Mayor Brummel thanked Ms. Brown for her ten years of volunteering to his cause.

ALDERMAN WEIDNER MOVED, second by Alderman Halley, to recommend the City Council approve a \$500 sponsorship of the 2010 Operation Safe Celebration.

MOTION ADOPTED VIA VOICE VOTE

2. Disposition of City-Owned Vehicles

Police Chief Turano reported that the City owns ten vehicles seized as a result of arrests made by the Police Department for various criminal activities. Past practice for disposal of City-owned vehicles no longer needed by the City has been to sell it at auction. The Police Department has previously utilized Obenauf Auction Services, Inc. for online auctions to dispose of such surplus City property and found their services to be professional and well run. Proceeds from the auction will be returned to the City, minus a 6% service fee assessed by Obenauf Auction Services, Inc. The City will receive 94% of the value from the auctioned property.

ALDERMAN SCHULTZ MOVED, second by Alderman Leonard, to recommend the City Council approve an ordinance authorizing the disposal of City-owned property through an auction conducted by Obenauf Auction Services Inc.

MOTION ADOPTED VIA VOICE VOTE

3. Six-Month Update on Red Light Video Enforcement

Deputy Chief Dave Schar gave a Power Point presentation showing a comparison in the number of violations captured on video by RedSpeed cameras and the number of approved violations at all photo enforcement intersections that occurred in the City of Warrenville for the months of August 2009 through January 2010. In general, the number of violations seem to be lessening from month to month, giving a positive sign that the program is working in educating the public on road safety. Deputy Chief Schar stated that only four complaints were logged in the past six months, and traffic accident data shows the program is successful in reducing the number of accidents as well.

He noted that two State House Bills may have impact on the Red Light Camera System have been discussed by the Vehicles and Safety Committee in Springfield. HB 4686 would reduce the fine amount to \$50; and HB 4692 would prohibit enforcement of right hand turn on red. Both Bills are now tabled with no future action pending.

Mayor Brummel recalled that as the program's success was established at one intersection, the cameras could be moved to other sites of frequent violations. Deputy Chief Schar stated that RedSpeed reviews the position of the cameras periodically and he has been reviewing accident records and data for the Route 59 and Batavia Road intersection, as a possible new location for the cameras.

Alderman Bevier asked whether the cameras would be removed as soon as the Route 56 expansion project begins. Deputy Chief Schar stated that as long as the lights are functioning, the cameras will remain active, but once work begins on the traffic lights, the cameras will be removed for the duration.

Alderman Aschauer asked whether the County has changed its mind about allowing the cities to install cameras on its roads, since he felt Cantera could benefit from this action. Deputy Chief Schar stated that the County has no current plans and he does not anticipate a change in their position in the near future.

4. Update on Galusha Road Traffic Study

Deputy Chief Schar reported that when Hubble Middle School opened in June of 2009, it was anticipated that the school opening would have an impact on foot and vehicle traffic, both before and after school hours. Schar gave a summary of traffic counts along Galusha Road obtained in October 2009 and projections for 2014, and recommended a more comprehensive study be conducted in April 2010.

5. No Parking Zones on Eastside Streets Near Warrenville Road

Deputy Chief Schar reported on a concern with vehicles parking in the areas of Elizabeth Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and Lorraine Avenue where they intersect with Warrenville Road. Vehicles turning off Warrenville Road onto the intersecting streets may be forced to remain partially on Warrenville Road if a vehicle is parked on the eastbound side of the street in close proximity to the intersection, while another vehicle is at or approaching from the westbound direction at the same time.

Deputy Chief Schar recommended that the first speed limit sign north of Warrentville Road on the east side of Elizabeth, Virginia, and Lorraine avenues should be moved closer to the intersection and a “No Parking from Here to Corner” sign placed on the same pole. This will reduce installation costs as well as assist in limiting the number of sign poles in the area, while still allowing area residents to park near their homes.

Alderman Weidner preferred the signs be placed on the north side of the driveway aprons. Chief Turano agreed and planned to meet with the homeowners to negotiate the best placement for the signs in order to allow the resident a portion of their frontage for parking.

ALDERMAN WIEDNER MOVED, second by Alderman Leonard, to recommend the City Council authorize the posting of “no parking here to corner” signs in combination with the speed limit signs at least 20’ from Warrentville Road on Lorraine Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and Elizabeth Street.

MOTION ADOPTED VIA VOICE VOTE

G. MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Turano reviewed the commendations received by members of the Police Department in the past two months.

With the snow storm being predicted for tomorrow, Alderman Schultz cautioned motorists not to park on streets after a 2” snowfall.

H. CLOSED SESSION

None

I. ADJOURN

ALDERMAN SCHULTZ MOVED, second by Alderman Leonard, to adjourn.

MOTION ADOPTED VIA VOICE VOTE

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Approved: _____

Ana Vainisi, Deputy City Clerk