

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

CITIZEN'S NIGHT MEETING

JANUARY 5, 2017

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Greg Erosenko.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time.

ROLL CALL

The following were present: Mayor Erosenko, Linda Gaydos, Ron Harvey, Paul Caliar, Steve Duncan, Tom Wilson, Tim Little, Bob Wrtcher, Paul Hugus and Joe Sedlak. Dr. Gresock and Mr. Johns were absent.

JANETTE BEIGHEL

Ms. Janette Beighel, resident, came forward as a concerned parent of University Park. She reported that the crossing guard that has been at the driveway of their school retired December 31, 2016 and they no longer have one. She explained there are approximate 10 children that walk the road that passes University Park. She stated that would be 360 times every year the child walks the streets. She was concerned because the crossing guard is not being replaced. She pointed out there are two signs on the road that state it is a school zone but there are no blinking lights or signage that states it is 15 miles per hour. She reported the easement along the road which provides an area for the children to walk between a white line and the grass area is approximately 18 inches. She stated there are no sidewalks for the five to ten year olds walking and they are not easily visible. She mentioned how this is winter time with roads being plowed where the safety zone no longer exists.

Mayor Erosenko indicated this is the first he is hearing about the issue. Mr. Duncan felt the signage can be addressed right away. Mr. Harvey inquired whether it was Noel Drive or College Park Drive and Ms. Beighel answered Noel Drive. Police Chief Doug Cole indicated there has been a rash of people retiring. He reported they had seven crossing guards in years past with two at Ramsey and two in the area of University Park. He stated they have not had any applicants and as they have been retiring there are less and less children walking. He reported there used to be 15 to 20 children walking to school. He added the only intersection that has a bus stop that is covered with a lot of traffic is Garden City Drive and Old William Penn Highway. Ms. Beighel estimated that there are approximately ten children. Further discussion ensued. Chief Cole explained they budgeted to replace them this year but there are no applicants. Mrs. Gaydos inquired whether they were no longer at Ramsey and Chief Cole answered all the children take the bus. He stated they currently do not have the walkers. He also pointed out another issue is that the hours of the crossing guards have changed. Mayor Erosenko

inquired whether a police officer could be put in place until the crossing guard is replaced. Chief Cole indicated they are discussing it with the school district and it can be done. Mr. Duncan inquired whether it was advertised and Chief Cole answered negatively. Mayor Erosenko suggested it be placed on the website. Ms. Beigel reported she was unaware that the crossing guard was retiring until it was posted on Facebook.

JENNIFER DAVIS

Ms. Jennifer Davis, a resident on Noel Drive, came forward to report two of her children are the walkers. She indicated her issue is with the cars on Noel Drive that are speeding. She reported she called the non-emergency line to complain and offered to have police officers sit in her driveway to watch people but was told it was not necessary. She again stated the cars fly on her street and she walks her children to and from school. She indicated occasionally a car will hit her arm. She felt it is not a safe environment and they need to go slower. She pointed out these are little children that are not aware of their surroundings. Mrs. Gaydos indicated a crossing guard would not help that problem and Ms. Davis agreed but felt they would help children cross the street. Mrs. Gaydos stated they would not help with the speeding vehicles or the children being unaware. Ms. Davis felt the crossing guards would help with them coming in and out of the driveway because parents are going too fast.

Mr. Harvey questioned whether the driveway is posted at 15 or 25 miles per hour and Ms. Davis stated 25. Mr. Harvey explained nothing can be done until the motorist goes over 35 miles per hour. Mayor Erosenko inquired whether that would include a school zone. Ms. Davis reported there is a little school zone sign with a big weeping tree in front of it. Mr. Hugus explained PennDOT has the jurisdiction to establish a school zone to reduce the speed limits from 25 to 15 miles per hour. He indicated a traffic and engineering study has to be done which is submitted to PennDOT for consideration. Further discussion ensued. Mrs. Gaydos suggested the tree be trimmed. Mr. Duncan inquired whether College Park Drive is included under PennDOT jurisdiction because it is a municipal road. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Wratsher questioned whether a municipal road could be done without PennDOT and Mr. Hugus answered negatively. He stated it cannot be made a 15 mile per hour zone without PennDOT approval in a school zone regardless of ownership.

Mr. Caliri inquired whether a big speed limit flashing light could be placed in the area until the tree gets trimmed and a police officer is put in place. He suggested it be reviewed to determine whether a traffic study has been done and then do an application. Chief Cole asserted it is important to have a school zone around schools and their entrances but the issue is speed enforcement is problematic for local law enforcement. He explained how people do not stop for stop signs. He stated speed enforcement in a school zone is a problem because the ten miles over does not have to be given and it does not work because the police do not have access to radar. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Duncan felt people would slow down with any type of flashing school zone light and inquired whether it has to be done with PennDOT approval and Mr. Hugus answered negatively. He stated that was only to reduce the speed limit. Mr. Duncan reported it is on Haymaker Road and on

Evergreen Drive. Mr. Hugus stated those have flashing lights with reduced speed limit areas. Further discussion ensued.

JUSTIN DAVIS

Mr. Justin Davis, a resident of Noel Drive, came forward to express his concerns. He just wanted to make sure someone would be there to watch the children. Mayor Erosenko indicated a police officer would be out there. Mr. Davis indicated it is the traffic coming in up the hill and the buses.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no one further come forward, at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little
Municipal Manager

TJL/sam