

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 5, 2026

The January 5, 2026 Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Safety Committee members present were Aaron Korte and Julia Lemire. Scott Moore was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Jared Lucas, Police Chief; Mike MaGinn, Fire Chief; Fred Lord, Clemans Nelson Associates; Nick Michalek; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

Mayor McColly swore in Mr. Korte as a newly appointed member of the Safety Committee.

The election of a Chairperson was held as follows:

- Mr. Korte announced that nominations for Chairperson were open.
- Mrs. Lemire nominated Mr. Korte as Chairperson of the Safety Committee.
- A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to close the nominations for Chairperson. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The motion carried.
- Upon Roll Call, on the nomination of Mr. Korte as Chairperson, all members voted Yes. The motion carried.

The minutes of the December 1, 2025 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as amended.

The minutes of the December 15, 2025 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as received.

Discussion was held regarding the Fourth Street ADA Sidewalks and Curb Ramps Project and the alternatives presented by Mr. Bruce Brandstetter at the December 22, 2025 City Council meeting. Mayor McColly stated that he was asked to present two of the alternative recommendations for this project that he favors. Mayor McColly indicated that he prefers option 5B being no crossings on East Wyandot Avenue at this intersection, and 4A being piano key crossing markings on Fourth Street and East Wyandot Avenue and a pedestrian crossing sign with solar flashing lights on East Wyandot Avenue to warn vehicular traffic of pedestrians in the crosswalk. Chief Lucas suggested option 4A include a pedestrian crossing sign with solar flashing lights be placed in the middle of the roadway. The possibility of including a push button for the flashing lights was also discussed. It was noted that this information will be presented to City Council for their review and consideration.

Information from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for improved safety measures at the US 23/US 30 and State Route 199/North Warpole Street interchange ramp intersections was reviewed. ODOT is suggesting implementing a 3-way stop control at both ramp terminals which could take effect in the near future. Grant funding is available through ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for a potential long-term safety project but construction of a project under this funding could be five years out.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Korte, to follow the ODOT recommendation to implement a 3-way stop control at both ramp terminals of the US 23/US 30 and State Route 199/North Warpole Street interchange ramp intersections. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas introduced Mr. Nick Michalek, who currently works in the City's Street Department. Mr. Michalek explained that he has started the police academy twice and due to personal reasons has had to quit both times. Mr. Michalek indicated that the police academies are now four (4) months long at forty (40) hours per week. Previously, there was an option to attend classes for eight (8) months at twenty (20) hours per week, being four (4) hours per day with classes being from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mr. Michalek noted that with the new forty (40) hours per week schedule it makes it difficult to attend the academy and work to sustain a living. Chief Lucas suggested the possibility of the City paying for the academy up front and hiring individuals who would attend the academy and be employed as police officers following their completion of the academy as a solution to the current manpower shortage at the Police Department. Chief Lucas requested permission to have Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director, look into changing the language in the City's Administrative Code and Civil Service Rules and Regulations regarding the hiring of Police Officers. Safety Committee members agreed to have this request looked into. Mayor McColly stated that this practice could be beneficial to the Fire Department also and it should also be looked at.

Chief MaGinn reported on the activities of the Fire Department including:

- The Fire Department responded to forty-two (42) calls in December 2025 with an average of two (2) individuals responding to the calls which break down as follows:
  - o Eight (8) fires.
  - o Seven (7) accidents.
  - o Seven (7) EMS assists.
  - o Ten (10) alarms.
  - o Five (5) gas leaks/carbon monoxide.
  - o Five (5) miscellaneous.
- The annual food drive was held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 and donations were given to the St. Paul Lutheran Church's food pantry.
- The Fire Department participated in the Home for the Holidays Christmas parade held on Saturday, December 6, 2025.
- A grant application is being submitted to obtain five (5) sets of gear, helmets, life vests, and hazmat equipment. The maximum grant is \$50,000.00 and the application is due by January 10, 2026.

Discussion was held regarding the hiring of additional full-time firefighters since the passage of the City's ¾% income tax increase in the November 4, 2025 General Election. Mrs. Lemire suggested a recommendation to City Council to create three (3) new full-time firefighter positions and a full-time fire chief position. Chief MaGinn asked the Safety Committee to wait until the full committee is present to discuss this issue since he has new financial information to present. Safety Committee members agreed to wait until the full committee is present to discuss this matter further.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Korte, to enter into an executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Safety Committee reconvened into regular session.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to recommend to City Council to approve the three (3) year agreement between the International Association of Firefighters/Local 4523 (IAFF) and the City of Upper Sandusky. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

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Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

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Aaron Korte, Chairperson