

SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 2, 2026

The February 2, 2026 Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Safety Committee members present were Aaron Korte, Julia Lemire, and Scott Moore.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Jared Lucas, Police Chief; Mike MaGinn, Fire Chief; Stephanie Hessey, Human Resource Coordinator; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

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

The summary of bills totaling \$8,921.71 was presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$8,921.71. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the January 5, 2026 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Safety Committee member, were approved as amended.

Mayor McColly provided an update regarding a meeting he recently attended at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) office in Lima, Ohio regarding the US 23/US 30 and State Route 199/North Warpole Street interchange ramp intersections. Mayor McColly indicated that a turn lane was discussed and in the future he would like to see a roundabout constructed. Mayor McColly indicated that ODOT has agreed to partner with the City on improvements to this intersection and to apply for safety grants for these improvements. Mrs. Lemire and Chief Lucas also attended this meeting via zoom. Mrs. Lemire stated that increased traffic as a result of future developments, including the Louis Dreyfus soybean processing facility being constructed and an expansion of Kalmbach, are being looked at and considered as part of improvements to this interchange. Chief Lucas added that State funding may be used to address safety improvements to this area and there may not have to be any funding from the City included. It was noted that the 3-way stop controls at both ramp terminals will be implemented when the weather permits.

Mayor McColly also reported that he recently attended a West Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (WORPO) meeting and funds could be accessed through this agency to assist with the US 23/US 30 and State Route 199/North Warpole Street interchange ramp intersections project.

Safety Committee members discussed the hiring of additional full-time personnel at the Fire Department. Chief MaGinn reviewed a NewsForce247.com article entitled, "Shortage Raises Fire Risk and Slows 911 Response Time", and comparisons he gathered from Kenton, Delphos, and Bucyrus Fire Departments regarding their manpower, population, area of coverage, and number of annual runs. Chief MaGinn indicated that he is pushing for the City to have three (3) – three (3) man crews and he shared information provided by Mrs. Nickie Coppler, City Auditor, showing that \$128,000.00 would be the highest cost per firefighter with this amount based on the current highest paid full-time firefighter. The possibility of pursuing a SAFER grant was also discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to recommend to City Council to approve the addition of three (3) full-time firefighters and one (1) full-time fire chief. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Safety Committee members reviewed a notice from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control, for new C-1 liquor permit for Wal-Mart Stores East LP, 1855 E Wyandot Av, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351-1391.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, to not request a hearing on this liquor permit. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas presented the Upper Sandusky Police Department Statistics for 2025 report with statistics from 2022-2024 added for comparison.

Chief Lucas shared a letter of resignation from part-time Police Dispatcher Kassi Fagan effective January 21, 2026.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Korte, to accept the resignation of part-time Police Dispatcher Kassi Fagan effective January 21, 2026. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Chief Lucas reported that during the recent snow storm a deer was hit by one of the police cruisers which caused \$6,500.00 in damage.

Chief Lucas stated that with the City's payroll restructuring, which began in this year, that his first paycheck, which included an \$80.00 savings on health insurance, reflected a 32¢ increase in his pay for a two week pay period.

Mayor McColly reported that he attended a WIN-911 meeting recently and Wyandot County Sheriff Todd Frey has recommended that all 911 calls go to the Sheriff's Office and then those calls will be transferred to the respective safety departments.

Chief MaGinn reported that the Fire Department responded to thirty-four (34) calls in January 2026 as follows: six (6) EMS assists, three (3) RV/vehicle fires, six (6) vehicle crashes, four (4) carbon monoxide/gas leaks, four (4) fires, and eleven (11) false alarms.

Chief MaGinn shared the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data summary for the Fire Department from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Chief MaGinn also reported that during the recent cold temperatures one of the fire trucks froze up while on a call.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. 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.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Aaron Korte, Chairperson