

Council Public Safety Committee

August 25, 2016

MINUTES

Members:

Councilmember Kathy Coffey (chair)
Councilmember Dulce Gutierrez
Councilmember Bill Lover (alt.)

Staff:

City Manager Cliff Moore
Chief Dominic Rizzi, Police
Chief Bob Stewart, Fire
Scott Schafer, Public Works
Sara Watkins, Legal
Joe Rosenlund, Public Works
Brett Sheffield, Engineering
Rob Peterson, Airport
Terri Croft, Police

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

- Approval of minutes

It was MOVED by Gutierrez and SECONDED by Lover to approve the minutes of June 30, 2016 and July 28, 2016 as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

- Licensing of Ride Share Drivers

Watkins gave a presentation on the licensing requirement for taxi drivers. Under the current code, ride share drivers (also known as Uber drivers) would fall under the definition of taxi drivers. Some of the regulations would potentially be prohibitive to ride share drivers. She presented several other Washington cities' ordinances on the issue, as well as Uber's screening requirements.

Gutierrez inquired if the restrictions were necessary for ride share drivers, since many of the requirements were met through the Uber app. She thought they would only need to obtain the required business licenses. She expressed concern that Uber and other ride share services would not be successful in Yakima if the restrictions were maintained.

Hazel Arvisu of Yakima spoke in favor of ride share drivers needing to meet the same requirements as taxi drivers.

Coffey requested that Watkins draft legislation for the full council to review, requesting that licensing requirements for ride share drivers be drafted, addressing safety concerns while still making this a viable option for the community.

- Collisions at 40th Avenue/Chestnut

Sheffield reported there have been 32 collisions at 40th Avenue/Chestnut over the past 5 years. This is a significant number of collisions for any intersection, especially in Yakima. Options to abate are to install a traffic signal, which would require purchasing several surrounding properties in order to flatten the roadway, or to install a median curb which would restrict traffic to right in/right out only.

Gutierrez asked how many other intersections have high collision rates. That information is not known. Coffey requested about 4 other intersections be selected for a comparison and the result be presented to the full council.

Moore suggested that a public meeting be held if traffic calming measures were being considered.

An updated report with comparisons will be brought to the next Public Safety Committee meeting and will be copied to Councilmember Cousens.

- Airport exterior camera status

Peterson reported to the committee on some of the security measures at the Yakima Air Terminal in light of a recent auto theft at that location. There is a functioning CCTV system and airport staff continue to look into HSI funding for additional security measures. Unfortunately, the Yakima Air Terminal is low on the priority list for funding.

Gutierrez inquired as to the frequency of incidents. She was advised these types of incidents are not frequent at the airport.

- GFI Budget Information

Moore advised he has been conducting an analysis of the GFI contracts and deliverables. He would like to continue discussion with the council on the impacts of the programs after he has a chance to review the information. Coffey requested the discussion begin with the Public Safety Committee before going before the full council.

- Good of the order

Gutierrez thanked Chief Stewart and the firefighters for their work over the past several days.

Moore thanked both Chief Stewart and Chief Rizzi for their work preparing for the Macklemore concert.

It was MOVED by Gutierrez and SECONDED by Lover to adjourn to the September 22, 2016 meeting. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Approved:

Carmen Méndez