



**CITY OF NEW BERLIN
SAFETY COMMISSION - MINUTES
Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

Regular Meeting

Public Safety Building Room #185

6:00 PM

*Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Safety Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
All votes were taken via a voice roll call vote.*

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM; PUBLIC NOTICE

Present: Steve Thompson (NBPD), Lucas Pichler (Engineering), Mitchell Lataille, Charlotte Kroupa (Alderpersion), Joe Rieder (Chairperson), Steve Brooks (Streets), Ron Retherford, and Caleb Manske

Excused: Brady Reinke, Fred Witty, and Steve Kon (NBFD).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ITEM: April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Motion to Approve the April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Motion by: Commissioner Manske
Second by: Commissioner Lataille
Motion Passed Unanimously

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM: 22-5: New Berlin Fire Department Assistant Chief Gillard requested the Safety Commission review a proposal to install an Opticom Traffic Control System at Fire Station 1, 16300 W. National Ave. Assistant Chief Gillard cited a safety concern for emergency vehicles leaving the station during rush hour traffic. Assistant Chief Gillard proposed the installation of the Opticom Traffic Control System to mitigate this traffic concern.

MOTION: Motion to remove from the agenda with no action and refer it back to the New Berlin Fire Department to handle through their budget process. There was minimal discussion on the cost of such an installation however the commission agreed the Safety Commission was not the venue to take action on such a request.

VOTE: Motion by: Chairperson Rieder
Second by: Commissioner Lataille
Motion Passed Unanimously

ITEM: 22-6: A New Berlin resident requested Deer Crossing signs to be added on Coffee Road. One at Swartz Road for eastbound traffic and one at Wehr Road for westbound traffic. The resident advised that there is a large deer population in the area crossing Coffee Road creating a safety concern for the motoring public.

Pichler presented crash data of car versus deer accidents in the area. The data revealed a considerable amount of car versus deer accidents and discussion was had on erecting Deer Crossing signs in the area.

MOTION: Motion to erect a Deer Crossing sign on westbound Coffee Road at Woelfel Road and one on eastbound Coffee Road at Schwartz Road.

VOTE: Motion by: Assistant City Engineer Pichler
Second by: Chairman Rieder
Motion Passed Unanimously

ITEM: 22-7: A New Berlin resident requested intersection improvements for Beloit Road and Calhoun Road as she cited the stop signs are frequently ignored. The resident cited the recent fatal accident at the intersection as evidence of the dangerousness. The resident also indicated that following the recent resurfacing of Saturn Drive, west of Mars Drive, the double yellow lines that were present at the curve, were never repainted. She said this curve is dangerous and needs to have yellow painted lines to improve the safety of the area. The resident also made a complaint that vehicles turning left (north) onto Mars Drive from Saturn Drive, routinely fail to stop for the stop sign at the intersection creating a safety concern for both the motoring and pedestrian traffic.

Pichler presented crash data and a map of the Beloit Road/ Calhoun Road intersection and there was discussion on possible solutions to make the intersection safer. New Berlin can only make action suggestions to the Calhoun Road portion of the intersection as Beloit Road is a county highway (CTH I). Pichler made a motion to apply reflective tape to the stop signs posts on Calhoun Road to make them more visible. Rieder seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor.

Pichler presented a map of the Saturn Drive area and there was discussion on the curved roadway and stop sign issue of this complaint. Captain Thompson made a motion to repaint the roadway at the curve per request of the resident. Lataille seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor.

Brooks made a motion to investigate the condition of the stop sign at Mars Drive and Saturn Drive and to replace or repair if needed to gain better compliance. Pichler seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor.

MOTION: **Motion to apply reflective tape to the stop sign posts on Calhoun Road to make them more visible**

VOTE: Motion by: Assistant City Engineer Picher
Second by: Chairman Rieder
Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: Motion to repaint the roadway at the curve on Saturn Drive per request of resident

VOTE: Motion by: Captain Thompson
Second by: Commissioner Lataille
Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: Motion to investigate the condition of the stop sign at Mars Drive and Saturn Drive and to replace or repair if needed to gain better compliance.

VOTE: Motion by: Streets Manager Brooks
Seconded by: Assistant City Engineer Pichler
Motion Passed Unanimously

ITEM: **22-8:** A New Berlin resident requested the Safety Commission review the city's plan on widening the connecting walking trail at the dead end of Rosemary Drive into Hales Corners. The resident raised the concern that the additional widening of the trail will create more motoring traffic on the wooded "S" curve of Rosemary Drive.

Assistant City Engineer Pichler presented a map of the area, crash data and the proposed plan to widen the path at the dead end of Rosemary Drive. Pichler advised that Hales Corners has agreed to assist in building the widened path. New Berlin resident Stephanie Brown of 5860 S. Hope Street was in attendance and spoke regarding the issue. Stephanie advised that the current path already has problems with increased traffic and she cited the "S" curve in the area as a potential traffic safety hazard for pedestrians. Stephanie advised she was in objection to the path widening plan. New Berlin resident Mary Correa of 5843 S. Hope Street spoke reference this issue. Correa advised that the dead end is already too busy due to vehicles illegally using the path. Correa said motorcycles are using the walking path as a cut through creating a dangerous situation for those walking on the path. Correa said she fears that widening the path will create even more illegal motorcycle traffic through the area. New Berlin resident Judy Golombowski of 5859 S. Frances Avenue spoke on this issue. Golombowski said she also has a concern on how the current path is being used. Golombowski advised that the path is a straight cut through which allows unauthorized vehicles to travel fast through it. Golombowski provided a plan for a path that had curves to enhance the safety of the walkers on the path. New Berlin resident Russ Lepak of 5840 S. Hope Street spoke about the proposed path widening plan and advised that he too was against widening the path for safety concerns. New Berlin resident Mike Cascio of 5661 S. Kurtz Road was in attendance and advised that he was against any alteration of the walking path. New Berlin resident Annabel Briquet of 12500 W. Rosemary Avenue was in attendance and spoke on the issue. Briquet said the current walking path is natural to the area and the residents want to keep it that way. Briquet further questioned who would maintain the path if it was widened as she was concerned about snow and ice creating an unsafe travel area. Briquet advised she was opposed to widening the path in any way and requested it be left alone. New Berlin resident Joseph Brown of 5860 S. Hope Street was in attendance and he too said he was opposed to the widening of the walking path. Joseph further stated he was concerned with the unauthorized access of vehicles entering the path and advised the current barriers are inadequate as they are easily moved. Pichler mentioned that there was a meeting scheduled with the mayor and New Berlin residents reference this path

widening plan set for 05/12/2022. Rieder advised that all concerned residents should attend that meeting first before any action is taken by the Safety Commission.

MOTION: Motion to table until a meeting with the mayor can be discussed

VOTE: Motion by: Assistant City Engineer Pichler
Second by: Streets Manager Brooks
Motion Passed Unanimously

TABLED ITEMS

ITEM: 21-9: To address recent citizen complaints, the New Berlin Police Department has increased enforcement on the "No Engine Braking" ordinance. To help mitigate this issue, the police department has requested "No Engine Braking" signs be placed at the borders of the city to warn drivers of the "No Engine Braking" ordinance. (Tabled for a map study and further discussion.)

Not Discussed

ITEM: 22-2: Alderman Harenda has received concerns from residents of cut through traffic through the Karrington Woods and Conservancy subdivisions near College Avenue and Janesville Road. Alderman Harenda requested the Safety Commission review this issue and look for possible solutions. (Tabled for a traffic study to be completed).

Not Discussed

ITEM: 22-3: Alderman Garrigues requested the Safety Commission look at a parking concern on 147th Street north from National Avenue to Janice Place and on Janice Place in the area of 146th Street. Alderman Garrigues said vehicles are parking on both sides of the street in these areas causing a potential safety hazard due to the congestion. (Tabled and referred to the city code compliance department for review).

Not Discussed

SET MEETING DATE – Wednesday, June 8, 2022

ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn at 7:23PM by Assistant City Engineer Pichler, Seconded by Commissioner Lataille.
Motion Passed Unanimously

*Respectfully Submitted,
Captain Steve Thompson
Safety Commission Secretary*