

**Public Safety Committee  
February 23, 2016  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Aldermen Hawkins, Leszczynski and Pukaite; Police Chief Graff, Fire Chief Bialk, Executive Assistant Kowalchuk, press and interested public

**Others Present:** Diane Anderson, resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**1. Approve meeting minutes of December 14, 2015**

Moved by Alderman Leszczynski, seconded by Alderman Hawkins to approve the meeting minutes of December 14, 2015. The motion passed by voice acclamation.

**2. Annual report of the Fire Department**

Chief Bialk summarized highlights from the Fire Department report for committee members noting that calls increased 11% from last year.

Committee members extended their gratitude and complimented the staff on their professionalism, commitment, and innovative approaches towards department cost efficiencies. The chairman stated she will draft a letter, which all members expressed a desire to sign, to acknowledge on record the department's accomplishments.

In response to questions raised, Chief Bialk additionally updated the committee on station improvements and the availability of Narcan to counteract heroin overdoses on ambulances.

**3. Intersection Review: Crestline Road at Haven Avenue**

A complaint from resident Diane Anderson was received regarding trees in the public right away that are obstructing intersection visibility at Crestline Road at Haven Avenue. The property owner adjacent to the trees requested that the intersection be evaluated for a four way stop prior to tree removal. Diane Anderson was present at the meeting, however despite emails and home delivery of the meeting and item analysis information, and telephone contacts, the adjacent property owner failed to respond or attend.

Upon inspection of the intersection, city staff determined that visibility is impaired by the trees as they are within the clear site triangle of the intersection. The intersection was also evaluated and determined not to have the crash history or traffic volumes that would warrant a four way stop as per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Because the trees create a public safety hazard and are in the public right of way, the city is obligated and responsible for removing said hazard to provide clear line of sight.

Committee members discussed additional options such as allowing the adjacent property owner to move the existing trees, or having staff explore the idea of offering said property owner like replacement trees from the city's nursery (only if available). Diane Anderson

stated that if replacement trees were offered by the city, said plantings should be much farther back into the private property and kept low, which the committee confirmed would be required.

Further discussion revealed that moving the trees would be problematic due to a nearby fire hydrant (water main), and replacement offers need careful precedent setting consideration.

Alderman Hawkins moved to table this item for further study on utility lines and research of the discussed options, however with no second received, the motion failed.

Moved by Alderman Leszczynski, seconded by Alderman Pukaite to remove the trees per staff recommendation. The motion passed by majority voice vote with one opposed.

The committee additionally suggested that for this current circumstance, the city notify the adjacent property owner of the scheduled removal of these trees via letter and if there is an opportunity to offer “like trees from the city’s nursery,” share that as well.

It was also suggested for the future that the city explore whether resources would allow them to alert alderman via email of addresses within their district that will be subject to removal of right of way plantings. This would provide opportunity for aldermen to inform their constituents of such city action in advance.

**4. Ordinance 2016-1470 – Amending Chapter 46, Article IV, Division 2 of the Mequon Municipal Code as it relates to hunting and the discharge of certain weapons within the city.**

This amendment is proposed for committee consideration as a result of bringing the city’s existing hunting and weapons ordinance into compliance with current state law which allows much wider bow and arrow, or crossbow use anywhere in the state if you are more than 300 feet from an inhabitable building.

Alderman Leszczynski commented that this new state law seems to imply that a municipality cannot be any more restrictive, asking then if Mequon can still require a weapons discharge permit?

Chief Graff will follow up with the city attorney, who had previously stated that while the city cannot be more restrictive, it is still allowed to charge a fee. He will additionally get clarification on whether the city’s weapons discharge permit is required for hunting on one’s own property.

Moved by Alderman Hawkins, seconded by Alderman Leszczynski to approve the proposed amended ordinance. The motion passed by voice acclamation.

**5. Adjourn**

Moved by Alderman Hawkins, seconded by Alderman Leszczynski to adjourn at 7:20 pm. The motion passed by voice acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Diane Kowalchuk*  
*Executive Assistant*  
*Committee approved: 04/26/16*