



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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**SAFETY/UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2015**

Present: Chairman Michael O'Donnell and committee members Lynda Appel and Nick Nunnari.

Also present: Mayor Dennis Clough, Council President Michael Killeen, Councilmembers Dennis Sullivan, Ken Brady, Mark Getsay, Director of Public Service Paul Quinn, Director of Purchasing Larry Surber, Police Chief Kevin Bielozer, Law Director John Wheeler, and special guest Geoff Westerfield from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the options available to the city for controlling the deer population; and take action on Ordinance 2015-35, the distribution of paper products to residents and Ordinance 2014-112, an increased speed limit on a portion of Crocker Road.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Westerfield began the meeting with an explanation of the practices the ODNR has to control deer population in the state of Ohio. Mr. Westerfield walked the committee through four methods the ODNR uses for controlling deer populations.

The first was an electric "peanut butter" wire. The purpose was to attract the deer to the wire and have them experience a mild shock and communicate by behavior this is an area to avoid. With repeated touches to the wire, the behavior would change and the deer will stay away from the area and the wire can then be removed. The second method is to construct an 8 foot high fence around areas to be protected like gardens and patios. This is to deter deer from approaching a fence they can see and not attempt a standing jump to enter a garden or protected landscape. The third method is to permit culling on private property during the regular hunting season from November to February and regulate the permitting and authorization of culling with the state and the city. The last method is to permit a culling program at the city level throughout the year and institute a deer management program for areas where deer are damaging properties and creating a problem in the community.

Mr. Westerfield said that one of the primary reasons communities have a deer population problem is because cities do not adopt the ODNR recommendations for population control. Even if communities would adopt a lethal program, it would still take a few years to have an impact in the deer population.

Questions that were raised by the committee to have a culling program in public areas and with other adjacent communities would have a faster impact to population reduction, however Mr. Westerfield said both a private and public program would have the biggest impact. Mrs. Appel inquired about a culling program and how the deer would be addressed after culling. Mr. Westerfield said communities establish their own programs to address the deer meat, often taking it to a butcher, and then having the meat donated to a community food bank. Mr. Nunnari was concerned about residential safety with culling on private property whether with bows or firearms. Mr. Westerfield was insistent that bow hunting was safe and that he would not recommend firearms for residents.

Other council members asked questions about feeding, traffic accidents and growing numbers in the metroparks that we do not control. Mr. Westerfield shared that with a deer management program, feeding would become a non-issue, and he was willing to investigate high deer vehicle accident areas and even address residential calls pertaining to the ODNR programs.

A motion was made by Mrs. Appel to recommend that the administration develop a deer management program considering the recommendations from the ODNR. Mr. Nunnari seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0.

The second item on the agenda was Ordinance 2015-35, home delivery of paper products. The committee had a brief discussion regarding the need to regulate the delivery of primarily newspapers for home delivery. After concerns about the ordinance and the use of city resources to enforce the ordinance, Mrs. Appel made a motion to recommend approval of Ordinance 2015-35, seconded by Mr. Nunnari, and the motion was defeated 3-0.

The third item on the agenda was to address Ordinance 2014-112, increase the speed limit on a portion of Crocker Road. The committee and council members discussed pros and cons for increasing the speed limit on Crocker Road, and Mayor Clough shared that Mayor Kennedy of North Olmsted was in favor of an increased speed limit. After feedback from Councilmembers Brady and Getsay, whose residents are directly affected by an increase in speed, a motion was made by Mrs. Appel and seconded by Mr. Nunnari to recommend approval of Ordinance 2014-112, and the motion was defeated 2-1.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Donnell, Chairman