

## **Kelley Snider**

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**From:** Ryan Woodruff  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 6:10 PM  
**To:** Kelley Snider  
**Subject:** SRL Minutes from 11/27/23

Safety, Rules & Laws Committee met in Council Chambers at Village Hall on November 27, 2023, at 4:30pm.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Woodruff with the following members present:

Councilman Richard Feldkamp  
Police Chief Eric Williams  
Fire & EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

and the following guests present:

Councilman Dennis Dalton  
Kurtis Boggs

Chairman Woodruff opened discussions on a proposed Vacant Property Ordinance that the Planning Commission has been looking at. He referenced several communities in Ohio who have implemented similar legislation to help curb nuisance properties as well as encourage economic prosperity in their communities. A sample piece of legislation that had been produced by American Legal Publishing was viewed online. Several communities have adopted this format for their ordinance. Fire & EMS Chief Feldkamp asked if this would be effective since we are already understaffed to handle the general Zoning Rules in the village now. There was some discussion to his point, and it was resolved that it may be better to get the foundation layer first and then we can bolster our enforcement activities. This item was tabled for further research and to check with the Solicitor on specifics for implementation in our dual zoned properties such as Front Street business district.

Next item of discussion was the Sidewalk Repair requirements for property owners. There was discussion on who should be responsible for sidewalk maintenance. The ORC states it does fall on the responsibility of the property owners. It was discussed that we may look to do an education campaign on the state of the sidewalks in the town and see what property owners would be interested if we provided a bulk price reduction. This item will be referred to general discussion at council for guidance.

The third item discussed was the differences in ordinance as it pertained to "on street parking" The ordinance reads that it is to be on paved surfaces, however most of the village is using gravel with no specific requirement. Police Chief Williams would like some clarity for enforcement since there is a contradiction. He would like to have something fair and measured across the board. This item presents several issues that may involve multiple committees, this item will be discussed at general council and asked to be reviewed by all who feel they stake in it.

A discussion on re-grouping and planning took place for the possibility of a future Police levy. This will be discussed in more detail at Personnel & Finance, but some ideas were brainstormed as well as discussion on different staffing accommodations. Chief Williams stated he had Joel Gilpin looking at some numbers for what better options we could pursue for levy consideration. There was also additional discussion on average pay in our area with similar sized communities. It was noted that when council increased wages for the safety service departments we met the pay that other communities had been doing for several years already. Since then, those other communities have increased wages to remain competitive for retention and attraction. We are now below grade again on the Police side and our Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedics are close but still slightly under the local average. It was discussed that maybe council investigate changing benefits to make up for lower wages for retention and attraction. This will be forwarded to Personnel & Finance Committee for future discussion.

Fire Chief Tim Feldkamp mentioned as a reminder that the departments portable radios are due to be replaced this year as they will no longer be compatible with the County once the statewide update is complete. Chief Feldkamp did apply for a MARCS Grant that would cover these needed upgrades, but he has not heard if that has been awarded yet. He has numbers available on the cost to replace these radios should the grant not be awarded. He will share these at the council meeting.

The final item for discussion was a brief recommendation for council to place a time frame on Skippers Restaurant for vacancy of the riverfront. Their license termination letter was vague. Since the license contract will expire at the end of this year based on their request and councils' approval, it feels only appropriate to establish a final day of occupation. This recommendation will be made at the council meeting and with the guidance of the Solicitor.

With no other business being brought forth the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Ryan M. Woodruff  
Councilman  
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