

# Minutes

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, September 15, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Police Training Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Michael Taylor, Council Member Maria Jones and Council Member Stephen Szwejbka

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rex Rater, Deputy Fire Chief Lance Hedlund, Lee Harkness, Director of Public Works Jeff Lehman

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**

Lee Harkness, Executive Director of the Downtown Jamestown Development Corporation provided a letter from the DJDC Economic Restructuring Committee requesting that additional public restrooms be placed in the downtown area. The committee feels that the ideal location would be the Spring Street Ramp. Improvements are currently planned for that facility so the committee feels that it may be possible to construct the restrooms when the improvements are made.

The second item is that the DJDC would like to erect banners from along Main Street from I-86 to the Sixth Street. Fifteen banners will be used as a guide for people coming into town. The BPU is willing to put them on their poles, the brackets have been approved, money is at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, maintenance money is also available. The Parks Department is willing to take them down for us. A copy of the design and a description of the program were provided to the members. The Planning Commission discussed this issue at the June 2007 meeting. Our goal was to get this done this summer. Everything is in place to do this.

Mr. Szwejbka asked what obstacles would have to be overcome?

Mr. Harkness said after this is completed that all of the entrances to the City of Jamestown have banners installed.

The members agreed that this is a good idea.

Mr. Harkness stated that if they are not compatible in the long run with the Urban Design Plan, they could be changed out. In the meantime the entrance to the City of Jamestown will be enhanced.

Director of Public Works Lehman stated that North Main Street is a city road. This does have to go through the Planning Commission. The BPU agrees to it. The Planning commission meets tomorrow.

The members approved the request.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Jamestown Area Soap Box Derby Rally

The members approved the request.

#### Creation of Part-Time Personal Computer Specialist position and establishment of salary schedule

Mr. Olson stated that the former Programmer/Analyst resigned recently because she received a full-time job with Chautauqua County. The PC Computer Specialist position was better suited to the current job duties. The position would be part-time from 1-5 P.M. each day and filling in when Dan Destefano is not in.

The members agreed that an ordinance amendment be prepared for the September 22, 2008 meeting.

#### Special Event Application - Aaron Tippin Concert

The members approved the request.

#### Special Event Application - Downtown Sidewalk Sales & Fall Festival

The members approved the request.

#### Special Event Application - JHS Homecoming Parade

The members approved the request contingent on approval from all departments.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Blackstone Avenue Crosswalk

Director of Public Works Lehman stated that this is not a new request as the committee reviewed this information last year. Typically the DPW does not recommend a cross walk mid-block. If that is something the committee wants to do then we will address it from there.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater provided a speed study report conducted on Blackstone Ave. Accident totals and excessive speeders are looked at to necessitate a review of Public Safety concerns in the area. No accidents have been reported in the area. Speeders are also a concern but the study does not show that it is occurring. It is a brick street and it would be difficult to speed there. 472 vehicles were reviewed over a 24 hour period and two speeders were identified. There does not seem to be an issue with speeders. Captain Swanson monitored the area and he stated that he did not see speeders in the area. From the Police Department's viewpoint the data shows that with no accidents and the lack of speeding, there is a lack of support for a pedestrian crosswalk.

Director of Public Works Lehman stated he has seen a minimal amount of traffic there; it is a long straight stretch.

Mr. Szwejbka stated that steel belted tires could be contributing to the noise and it sounding as though cars are really going faster than they are.

Director of Public Works Lehman stated that some signs were placed last year to try to slow the traffic.

Mr. Szwejbka asked if a crosswalk is expensive to put in.

Director of Public Works Lehman stated that it is not expensive for the city but a handicap ramp has to be put in and paint the crosswalk. Mr. Black wants to bring it into the front of his building so the terrace and sidewalks would have to be brought down. He would also have to put a ramp on his building. We have told him that last year.

Mr. Szwejbka asked if he was willing to do that?

Director of Public Works Lehman stated he did not know. WCA has also asked to do something similar to this but it has not been approved because the NYS DOT does not recommend it. There is a certain liability for the city regarding the installation of this.

Mr. Szwejbka asked what the cost of the flashing lights would be?

Director of Public Works Lehman stated that the problem with those is that people tend not to look at them over time.

Mr. Szwejbka said it might make the gentleman requesting this feel better.

Director of Public Works Lehman stated that signs were up for over one month before anyone noticed them there. The more signs you put up the less you pay attention to them.

Mr. Szwejbka asked if we could check with him to determine if he is willing to construct the ramp. If he is not, then the city cannot put in the crosswalk.

How many people cross in that area? If it is not utilized, is it worth the cost of construction.

Director of Public Works Lehman stated he would discuss it with him and report back at the next meeting. He stated that he doubted that all of the employees would cross in the crosswalk area.

Mrs. Jones stated that she was concerned with the installation of a crosswalk and the city's liability if people do not stop.

Mr. Szwejbka asked if people have to stop.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated the new state law requires them to do it.

#### No Parking Signs - Gustavus Ave., Margaret Street to Barr Street, (both sides)

#### 2 Hour Parking - Niagara Street and Margaret Street

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated that he and Bob Johnston went up to the area to review what was happening. There were a number of cars parked there. There were also some signs that were placed there that were not the cities. They will be taken down.

The Police Department has no problem with No Parking signs in that area. Larger vehicles cannot get through the area. It should probably be alternate parking.

Director of Public Works Lehman asked if all of the residents wanted this. The No Parking will affect all of the people. Bob Johnston 's report indicates that 2 hour parking be placed there. Enforcement will be difficult because no one will be going up there.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated he does not have a problem with it.

Director of Public Works Lehman asked if this would only shift the problem to another area.

Mr. Szwejbka asked what the illegal signs say?

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater stated they say no parking.

Mr. Szwejbka stated that he would like to see no parking on Gustavus between Margaret and Barr and two hour alternate parking on Niagara and Margaret Street.

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater asked No parking on Gustavus Ave?

Mr. Szwejbka stated yes.

The members agreed that to the parking restrictions.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Parking Ramps

Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rater provided a report rearding the issues at the Parking Ramps that were brought up last week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk