

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CAUCUS ROOM & VIA ZOOM**

Present: Chairperson Tom Narduzzi
Vice Mayor Dave Grendel
Councilperson Dale Veverka

Others Present: Councilperson John DiGeronimo
Councilperson Anthony Togliatti
Councilperson Jim Trakas
Councilperson Chris Walchanowicz
Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Finance Director Vern Blaze
Police Chief Robert Butler
Fire Chief Steve Rega (left at 5:05 p.m.)

Chairperson Tom Narduzzi called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Chairperson Narduzzi said thanks for coming everybody. It's a light agenda, but we are on a timeframe. We had a couple of other things on the agenda and removed them for a different time because we have to be done by 5:15 p.m. because the Planning Commission is tonight and Debi needs a couple of minutes before that starts. So, with all due respect, I will turn it over to Chief Butler, and we will go through the agenda.

Police Chief Butler said I will go real quick. First and foremost, golf carts. As you can see up there, I found a nice golf cart background. It's very nice and classy. We have had some residents come and speak on golf carts and us being able to inspect them as a Police Department so that they may obtain a license plate for that which is covered in the ORC. The ORC already allows golf carts to operate on certain streets that are under 25 miles an hour, as long as they have a license plate. This form, which was approved by Greg O'Brien, would allow me to check a resident's golf cart. Resident is all we are looking to do. There's a \$20 fee for somebody who is not a resident, but we are not going to be allowing that in the ordinance that Greg O'Brien will be getting together and having voted on in March.

Once it's voted on in March, this will be the form. A resident can come and make sure it meets all safety standards. They take this form and they buy their own license plate from the BMV so that it is a certified vehicle per the ORCs standards.

Councilperson Trakas said I'm not sure exactly what you mean by this, you say there's going to be something in March. Is there an ordinance to allow inspections, or an ordinance to allow driving?

Police Chief Butler said it would be an ordinance to allow inspections. So, the ORC already permits driving. This ordinance would allow us to inspect the golf cart so that they could get a license plate.

Does anybody have any questions on this?

Councilperson Veverka said question along that line. So, then what will the approach be for someone that is driving a golf cart that doesn't have a license plate on it?

Police Chief Butler said it would be an illegal vehicle. We would stop them and perhaps educate them. Tell them that they need to get a license plate and how to obtain one. If they are a persistent problem where they are driving in such a reckless fashion, then they would receive citations. Every circumstance is different. I think luckily we have very intelligent officers here that can provide a level head to make sure that each situation is either a citation or a conversation. I don't think everyone knows this, that you need a license plate for this type of item; so teaching them is sometimes the best.

Councilperson Veverka asked do you anticipate them putting information in the City newsletter, the Post?

Police Chief Butler said we could add this one once it's allowed, and we do make mention of things like this on our Facebook page. So, before the season hits, we would make a mention of hey by the way, if you do want it inspected, any golf carts do need license plates, something of that nature.

Councilperson Veverka said well the timing is perfect because it will be spring.

Police Chief Butler said well it's spring right now Dale. Look outside, it's gorgeous.

Councilperson Veverka said ask me about that in another day and a half.

Chairperson Narduzzi said getting back to the season thing you just mentioned. Are we going to have any kind of legislation that's going to make this seasonal?

Police Chief Butler said that would be up to you guys if you want to add anything further in the ordinance. The ORC does not break this down any further, except it allows it as long as they have a license plate.

Councilperson Trakas asked do we have to determine whether we want to have people, and what streets. I could see on some streets, but certainly not on State routes.

Chairperson Narduzzi said to my knowledge listening to you guys speak, if it's 35 or under, you can't prohibit them from driving a golf cart on it.

Police Chief Butler said you can prohibit them if we made an ordinance doing so; but the ORC does not prohibit them. So, if you made a change, and you made it an ordinance, the City ordinance would take the effect over the ORC for that. So, it's up to you later if you would be interested in doing that. The biggest thing was this form, and allowing people to get licensed and recognizing that a licensed golf cart could operate. That's what one of our citizens who has come to our meetings has stated in the past, and we made sure that we tackled that head on.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so I wouldn't want to see them on Brecksville Road, Rockside, Pleasant Valley and Hillside.

Chairperson Narduzzi said so there's issues about getting from Sprague Road, Brookside Road to the park if you can't go on 21.

Mayor Kurtz said if you had to go on to get to another side street, crossing. If you were on Sprague, and you wanted to get to Hillside, Pleasant Valley, before you get back to the side roads.

Finance Director Blaze said then you can't get from Pleasant Valley to Hillside.

Several people began speaking at once.

Councilperson Veverka said that segment between Midland and Pleasant Valley.

Chairperson Narduzzi said it's going to be tough.

Police Chief Butler said we have not had any problems. I have only been here a year and a couple of months, so I would also caution that until we see maybe an increase on that or a danger, you want to get ahead of it; I understand, but we have not had any issues. Typically, they just stay within this area.

Chairperson Narduzzi said it's not an issue, but there's a half a dozen people doing it. I think it could turn out to be an issue.

Mayor Kurtz said a couple of things you would have to do, turn your lights on, stuff like that. If you are on 21 you would have to have your lights on all the time. It's not a big issue having your lights on all the time.

A resident said in a previous meeting, we discussed the limitations that were in other communities, such as whether it's day or night, no matter what road you were on, the lights have to be on. We talked about the limitation in the winter time, maybe like November 1st to March 31st to not be on; you could make it to not be on 21. You could make it to not be on 21, Pleasant Valley, Hillside, Chestnut. To drive a golf cart where I'm at on Eastview, seven houses down in the winter time, I don't think it's that big of a deal. As we discussed, it does make sense to limit the winter time stuff because as soon as people shut their brains off looking for motorcycles and

stuff like that, and we are out there. That's why we don't go on 21 in the wintertime. We don't go cruising in the wintertime. We don't do that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I agree with Brad. It's just seasonal, maybe start April 1st through October 31st maybe. You just need one accident, one catastrophe to happen on the main roads especially.

Finance Director Blaze said well it's nice this Saturday, and we want to go to church, and we got a golf cart, take me on the golf cart, but it's February. Oh, we can't because the City said we can't do this until May 1st or something.

Councilperson Trakas said let's get the ordinance introduced and see what we want to do.

Brad said that's why I think it would be a great idea like in the wintertime, you could stop 21. Even if you wanted to put off (inaudible). We don't drive the golf carts on Rockside Road, but you have a great point. We do, when it becomes 50 degrees because we live in Cleveland in the winter, we will go up and down Eastview, go to Midland. We will go on the golf carts, but I don't go down Sprague or anything like that.

Chairperson Narduzzi said so before we do this, I think we need to sit and come up with a plan. I am hearing all kind of different crazy things. So, before we go ahead and do this, and people come to get their plates, I think Council has to come up with a plan, a safety plan. That's just my personal opinion.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I would do the same thing you do as with campers and boats and stuff like that. You are docked from what, May 1st to October 31st with your boat? I have a golf cart, and I'm not going to be driving it in the middle of wintertime. You can't trust the road conditions. Hills are huge because some vehicles can't pull the 21 hill. There is no way a golf cart can pull that hill, no matter how much power it has.

Chairperson Narduzzi said this has become a big thing. I was at the boat show, and they were selling these carts for \$12,000. They are crazy. The guy said he had 10,000 of them, and he had none left. He's not even going to the next show. So, golf carts are going to become a big thing, and I think that we need to seriously look at how far we want it to go.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked the resident, Brad, now is your golf cart, is it gas or is it the new lithium?

Brad answered - mine is gas.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said so these new lithium ones, they are supposed to last forever. The battery life is really long. With gas prices the way they are, we are going to start driving these more often than they do their own cars, so there's going to have to be some restrictions.

Several people began speaking at once.

Police Chief Butler said so the next meeting you want streets and when to operate.

Chairperson Narduzzi said well it's not going to be this meeting. We need to sit down and come up with a plan.

Police Chief Butler said as I said, the ORC still allows them, and tomorrow they could be driving on the streets. This is just more of an effort to make sure we are trying to get people licensed.

Chairperson Narduzzi said they could drive on the street, but they need a license.

Police Chief Butler said they do, this is just more of, getting this would be more of an educational thing.

Several people began speaking at once again.

The Clerk said there's a question from an attendee. Do you need to address driving on the sidewalk?

Chairperson Narduzzi said I don't think we are going to let them drive on the sidewalk.

Police Chief Butler said no.

Chairperson Narduzzi said I would say no, we are not going to let them.

The Clerk said thank you.

Police Chief Butler said this is for licensed vehicles that are driving on the street. They are getting the license plate through the BMV. So, now again they can temporarily have them, they can cut over on there to get to the parking lot or something.

Chairperson Narduzzi said if on 21 and Pleasant Valley we let them ride on the sidewalks.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said you could have a two hour meeting just for that.

Chairperson Narduzzi said to me it's safety thing, I don't care where they go,

Vice Mayor Grendel said in your research, do other communities have regulations; we are talking about coming up with regulations for the operation of the golf carts on the street. Do other communities regulate that?

Chairperson Narduzzi said yes, Cuyahoga Heights regulates it.

Police Chief Butler said I brought that up in the last meeting, and I had at the last meeting the months, but we kind of pushed that off. So, we had this outline the last time. The last time I want to say it was November to March or something like that. We had the ordinances broken down,

but I think we said no, like if it's not broke, don't fix it, something to that effect. Then we said we just wanted to get the license plate so that it could be inspected. I have no problem bringing that back up. We did write it up. I will send it to you guys again what we had written the last time.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I remember you saying that.

Chairperson Narduzzi said so I would like Council to vote on that before we start this.

Police Chief Butler said it won't be a problem.

Vice Mayor Grendel said but we should have something in the next month or two because of the season.

Councilperson Veverka said then the other question becomes do we have a need to have the legislation or do we make the legislation anticipating what the need is?

Police Chief Butler said I will send you everything that I have from the last meeting, and then we could discuss further as you see fit. You will have it before the end of the week.

Chairperson Narduzzi said we will have a meeting next month, and that will be on there, and we could discuss it.

Police Chief Butler said that might be a good idea. Golf carts seem to be a lengthy discussion.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Police Chief Butler said I did give everyone a letter here to the Department of Wildlife, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. So, we had an individual reach out to us about requesting controlled hunt status for the City of Independence. I did research. I looked into North Royalton, I looked into Mentor, all of who have controlled hunt status. What this does is it ups the harvest count from three to six. This is still only those that are permitted to hunt, those bowhunting within the City that have been given a license to do so on property that has been designated by the property owner to allow them to do this. We have seen a usefulness in this program, the herd program. It has maintained herd health, safety of the motorists. I really can't think of many times where we have had any deer-related incidents while I have been here; and it does promote biological diversity in our natural areas. This is something that is embraced by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other places.

If anybody has any questions, I am happy to answer them, and I do have one of our hunters here, actually two of our hunters, Tim also hunts.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked so can Council get a list of all the addresses or areas of where these hunts are.

Police Chief Butler said we can get addresses, it's public record. We can get that.

Councilperson Trakas asked do we have to take action to do that?

Police Chief Butler said this is the official letter that I will be sending to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. I have to send it every year in order for this to be permitted. As I said, I have gotten information from Mentor and from North Royalton. They have seen success in the program by culling some of the excess deer in their areas.

Councilperson Trakas asked what would the number be of the deer killed due to this program?

Police Chief Butler said it would be double. I don't have the numbers for this year because they are not due until next week. So, this week I only have a little bit, so I until I find out, I don't know exactly how many deer were herded.

Mayor Kurtz said this wouldn't take effect until next season.

Police Chief Butler said correct, until next season.

Resident Tim Lesh said you know I think it's a good idea. I don't take any excess deer. I don't take three, I only take what I can eat and that. That's all I plan to, and I know that this may increase the number a little bit; and it is a good idea because there's a lot of deer out there. This year the hunters have taken about 200,000 in Ohio alone. So, you still see them on the road and everything like that. If someone wants to take up to six deer, I have no problem with that. You might have someone (inaudible).

Chairperson Narduzzi said so we track where these deer are shot at, specific places.

Police Chief Butler said the locations are tracked.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked where do you see most of those being killed?

Police Chief Butler said I would have to pull that data from, our Secretary has that. I have how many hunters we have. I have how many have been reported for this year, but the numbers don't make any sense because I don't have all that many. We only have 30 that have been reported that have killed this year, 30 deer; but we do have 100 permits that were granted to hunters.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked now people who pull the permits, are they given tags or how are they showing proof of how many deer they are actually killing?

Police Chief Butler said they call in how many deer that they have killed.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said so the honor system.

Police Chief Butler said for the most part.

Chairperson Narduzzi said they have to do it just like they were hunting on public property.

Police Chief Butler said we aren't out there with them when they are doing it. We check their stands. We check their deer stands. We check stuff like that. If we get a report, or we get somebody saying hey he has done this, this or this; we can follow up on that and check. We could do trail cams. We can do stuff like that to make sure people are doing the proper thing. We have never had any reports that people aren't. Everyone's property is voluntary, so the homeowners that own this property are giving permission. We make sure it's far enough away from populated areas. We make sure it's safe for businesses.

Mayor Kurtz said we check every location.

Police Chief Butler said our detective goes out, Detective Smagola goes out to them and inspects their property.

Councilperson Veverka asked did you say it was 100 hunters?

Police Chief Butler said yes, I would have to imagine.

Chairperson Narduzzi said some people share stands.

Councilperson Veverka said well that's what I was wondering, how many stands out of those hundred hunters.

A resident said some hunters have multiple stands.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said there's a resident on Eastview who his neighbor to the north that bow hunts his backyard because he has the property, and he's constantly finding areas in his backyard, misses obviously. So, what kind of safety is there with this? I could have been in my backyard, and I get hit by a stray arrow.

Police Chief Butler said we haven't had any incidents of anyone being hit with an arrow, but call us. If an arrow is in somebody else's property, we can go back and speak with that hunter and see if their skills are correct. If they are leaving items behind, it could also be seen as littering.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Police Chief Butler said or it hits a deer, and the deer runs off and an arrow flies out the side of it or something. We can follow up.

A resident said a deer may run 25 yards.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I just asked because they have asked me to ask these questions.

Police Chief Butler said have them call us, we will happily address it with any of the residents and the hunter that shot the arrow.

Moving on, department breakdown, this is just our Police update real fast. The goal that we set when I came here in 2021 was 28 patrolmen, 28 on the road. That's seven per shift. We are at 28. That means that we have seven per shift. That is the first time we are hitting these numbers in over ten years. We have the most officers on the road. We are going to make an announcement on that soon in the coming months, once they are out of FTO, the three that we hired just to the public to let them know that we do have more officers on the road than we have had in ten years. So, this is really good.

This year we are expecting one to two retirements out of patrol. Special operations, the goal was seven, and we are currently at six, but we have announced a new hire test. The new hire test would put a new person on patrol, and somebody from patrol would go to special operations. We are expecting one retirement this year in special operations in September.

Admin, that's me, the goal is two, eventually a Chief and a Deputy Chief. We currently have me, that's just me. So, that's where we are at. We are looking really good. I really just want to thank Council and the Mayor for their support to the department. I think the residents are noticing it. Our officers are extremely proactive. They are doing good work. I have a few things that I want to point out to you guys that have occurred recently, but the seven officers per shift, I am extremely proud that we have more officers on the road now than we have had in over ten years. This is really good, and we need it. The City is benefiting from it, no doubt. Our residents are feeling it and seeing it.

Mayor Kurtz said you can define in data stops. That is important, why we are doing what we are doing.

Police Chief Butler said and I wish today, I know today we are rushed on time, and typically I do bring somebody with me to speak a little bit just from their own perspective. It's sometimes better to hear from the officers and stuff like that, just the overall impact of the officers and the supervisors, and the response has been very positive. Morale is very high due to Council and the Mayor's support of us.

Mayor Kurtz said too bad you couldn't show that one video.

Police Chief Butler said the reverse of traffic. I just didn't want to take up too much time today.

Mayor Kurtz asked how did we find, how did we catch him?

Police Chief Butler said our officers do proactive looks in the residential areas. They are looking for suspicious vehicles. A lot of times what we have seen is criminals will come in a stolen car. So, they are stealing a car in another community, and they show up in the stolen car so they can commit a crime and get away free and clear of our Flock system for the most part because we can't track who owns the car when they are in a stolen car. So, we are looking for anything that

is out of the ordinary. At 2:00 a.m. in the morning an officer sees a vehicle. It has a broken-out driver's side window. It looks suspicious. He gets behind it, he's doing a little bit more. The guy is trying to do eluding moves. He's on to something, the guy tries to light them up, the guy goes reverse of traffic. Our officer was brave enough to try to, his gut reaction was try to take him out as in pit maneuver, hopefully to take him out in the safest way possible. With a pit maneuver, he would be taking out his back tires to crash him into a wall so that it didn't go head-on into an innocent motorist. He couldn't catch up to him. The car eventually did crash. No major injuries, and we got the person. He had several felonies. He was wanted in four or five other, don't quote me on that, it was about four or five other cities. Cleveland Heights was one, the County, Avon and I believe somewhere else, Lakewood. He's a career criminal, and our guys being proactive looking for those things, having the officers on the road because we are staffing the shifts led to that. That's what led to that, and I feel in this day and age other cities are like oh my gosh we can't get people. We are creating an environment where people want to work here, and we are getting the best of the best. They are meeting the standards that we expect.

Councilperson Trakas asked were there criminal tools in the vehicle?

Police Chief Butler said criminal tools, he could be one of those guys that just goes door-to-door and tries to, who left their car door unlocked in one of our neighborhoods which is a favorite pastime for many. Who left their items in the car unprotected? So, we got him before he did anything, and that car was stolen. Unfortunately, it was completely totaled. So, when the owner came up and asked how's my car, you didn't watch the news did you.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked of the 35 in the department, about how many live in the City you think?

Police Chief Butler said I can get you that number later on. A lot of them also have deep connections to the City. So, I can give you an example. Scott Sedlock went to high school. His parents still live here. He doesn't live in the City currently, but you can count on him. I mean those are the things that we want to look at here. A lot of them also, the new hires we got from surrounding communities. So, one went to Garfield Heights high school. They are very familiar with the community. One was a Valley View Policeman. So, I think the roots are very strong here. A lot of them, and I can be frank with you, looked at houses here. The problem is it's very hard to buy a house in this community. They are either very expensive, and they are outside of their price range, or they are major fixer-uppers. Our officers are even trying to move into the City; so if anybody has any tips, or information, I know guys are looking. So, they are big parts of the community, or they get their Rec memberships. Our jailer lives in Brunswick, and he and his wife come up here to the Rec Center every weekend. So, I think we are definitely, once you are here, you can't stay away. My wife and I come up to the Rec.

So, body cameras, we received a grant for \$59,107.00 from the State. We are looking for Getac body cameras; those are the body cameras right there. Body cameras would connect with our in-car dash cam video system. We are slowly transitioning to Getac dash cameras. We have two installed. We have six in our sally port. We are just trying to wait on a few more pieces. You know how it is with shipping of all of our parts and pieces. These are top of the line. The

accessibility to the company has been flawless. Motorola has had a lot of issues with helping people with problems. They have a lot of support problems. This company is spot on with everything. They are very communicative. They help us out with everything.

The \$59,000 will cover the cost of every body camera that we are looking to purchase and cloud storage for two years. We are looking to move into current technology. Our old technology, you had a thumb drive inside of our cruisers, and you had to go out and manually remove it. You had to put it in. It could be destroyed. It was not a good system. Now when a car pulls in, it immediately downloads the video. We have faster video. We can get it for the media. We can look at video immediately. We don't have only one person that could pull video out of a car. This is going to bring us forward. The body cameras will also allow us to have a live look, which would mean if there's a serious incident and the body cameras are on, a commanding officer can tune in to the video while it's live and see what are the officers doing. Where is the threat, where are these people without having to worry about the radio traffic, they can actually see this. It's one of the only cameras that has this technology currently in place. You guys did speak to this company. They did come to one of the City Council meetings last year, and that's how we started doing the dash cameras.

The City will have to put the money up front to buy the body cameras. Once the State has green-lit the funds, I will be looking for Council to approve the purchase of the body cameras and the cloud for the \$59,000. Once they are purchased, and we can show the receipts that they are here, the State will reimburse us fully for that amount of money.

Councilperson Trakas said a couple of things on this impressive presentation. What does it cost to maintain? I know what it costs to buy it, but what does it cost to maintain it?

Police Chief Butler said these have a five year warranty; so we don't have to buy pieces or parts.

Councilperson Trakas asked what about software? Do you have to pay a maintenance fee or something over the years?

Police Chief Butler said the cloud storage for all of our tapes is going to be between \$22,000 and \$25,000 a year.

Councilperson Trakas asked for the whole thing?

Police Chief Butler said for the whole thing. It's \$35.00 per camera per month.

Councilperson Trakas said okay. The second part of it is, where is the cloud stored? Is it in a server in Ohio? Do we know where that is?

Police Chief Butler said it's not in Ohio. It is multiple layers on top of layers. So, if one goes down, there's backup layers and technology. The big problem with having a server by yourself and having it within your station, as we all remember. If we get hacked, that's it. That's the only place that has it. So, if all of our videos are gone, we are breaking the retention schedule. If they

lose our videos, that's their problem. The person that says we lost our videos would have to go to Getac and look to that problem.

Councilperson Trakas asked and it's all within the United States.

Police Chief Butler said it's all in the United States. Getac is a United States company, and that's one of the things, with them being around and having local representatives, that was very attractive to us. When you look at bigger companies, sometimes you don't know. They get very shady about it especially when you call them and you aren't really confident that you are speaking to people that are around.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked it's not going to be a mandatory piece of equipment?

Police Chief Butler said it will. Every officer will have a body cam. The officers want the body cams. They came to me early on, and they were like this is something we really want, would you be willing to look at it. They are respectful about it. They get it, and I am like of course. I worked in two communities. I remember in Cleveland Heights when we got them, I was the first officer upstairs in the Chief's office, like hey I will be your guinea pig, give me a body camera sir. He asked why do you want this? It protects me. It protects me in court. It shows that I am doing my job. I can play it. Here you go, do you want to see the drunk person, and play the tape, and I will just sit back and let the video speak for itself. It defends our officers and stops frivolous complaints, and I am not saying that some complaints aren't founded, and we would look into those; but I can tell you personally, I have been here. People come up to the window, and they will just make something up. Sometimes it's scrambled, and we have to be like it didn't happen. Now we have the body camera. If you want to make a frivolous complaint, and it's untrue, you could be charged criminally for making that complaint; and we have the proof in the pudding here on camera.

We hold our officers to a high standard, but we do need to protect from those complaints for their own peace of mind. So, body cameras are incoming. My goal is before July of this. That is the goal.

Equipment, every officer in this department is outfitted with one of the brand-new vests that we all talked about. Thank you again for your support on that. They are lightweight. Their backs feel good, and they fit nicely. They look professional. All K9 units have a bulletproof vest. Thanks to an approval by the Mayor, we have ordered two new lasers. We are trying to, remember when I first started I showed you the old ones that we had that were like giant bricks. We are trying to get the newer ones. They are lightweight. They are better technology. They work in rain. They work in snow. They are less likely to have errors when they are looking for speeders. We have had a few companies come out, and we found one that was really good.

I want to introduce our brand-new baseball hats. The first time we all have matching baseball hats in our Police Department. You can also notice that this is the new bell that we have on there. All of the officers have been issued those. They are flex fit, form fitting hats. The officers love them, and they are very popular already.

Councilperson Trakas asked these are the duty hats?

Police Chief Butler said these are the duty hats. These are not Class A hats. These are just wearing on the road. Class A is still the eight-point hat.

Coats is something else that we really never replaced here. That is the only last big purchase this year for uniforms, and we will be caught up. This type of me buying all this stuff is not going to be an ongoing thing. I am just catching up from years of it not happening. Every coat is different. Guys look mismatched. The thing is we should be looking professional. The public sees us. They see us first. We need to look how they expect us to in the right way.

Vehicles, Dennis and I are doing everything we can to get our cruisers. We have reached out to two different dealerships. They haven't started production.

Blue light camera update, I know this is a shorter meeting; we can talk about this in the future. We did not get the grant for the blue light cameras. We are looking into alternatives and other grants to try to get that program off of the ground.

Chairperson Narduzzi said the cost of it is not astronomical.

Police Chief Butler said it's not astronomical.

Chairperson Narduzzi said I think it's something we should look at.

Police Chief Butler said I am sure for the future.

Chairperson Narduzzi said with or without the grant.

Police Chief Butler said we are still going to look for any grant that we can.

I want to announce that we have officially have a date for our Teen Safe Driver Program, April 20th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have a 16, 17, 18 or 19 year-old; and it says residents aged 16 to 19, or if you have a child, even if they don't live here that's between the ages of 16 and 19. As long as you are a resident, and they have a valid driver's license, they can come to this class. We are going to do mock traffic stops. We are going to teach them how to change a tire, a battery. What happens during a road rage incident. What happens if you were in an accident. What information do you have to provide to the person that hit you or vice versa. People don't ever get to learn these things. We are limiting it to 30, and we are going to see how it goes. We are going to put people through OVI field sobriety tests. Everything you can think of, it's going to be a four hour class; and I think it's free for our residents. We are very proud of this. Kevin Repicky put this together for me.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked would there be anything for adults?

Police Chief Butler said unfortunately up to 19. If you try to sneak in Dave, we are going to know.

Training, I want to thank Steve Rega and the Fire Department. They have been instrumental in helping us on two major training aspects. Narcan, all of our officers now carry Narcan in their cruisers. This is the element that can save somebody that is overdosing through fentanyl, not just user put Policemen. Let us remember that if we are searching a car, and an officer becomes across it, this is something on hand that we can save an officer's life. Steve and his team trained our officers in this. I gave you guys all a copy of a report. I am happy to say that in the month of January, after one month of training, we already are attributed to saving an individual's life by using Narcan. One of our officers utilized Narcan after their training with the Fire Department, and this is one of the success stories of it. We had two overdoes in January, one of which the person did not survive three days later. We did use the Narcan, but it's out there; we are using it, and it's a great tool that we have.

Further, Steve and his team are putting us through a CPR and first aid, a four hour block, much more in detail than the lunchtime ones that they are doing for the City. We are getting a higher level to make sure that if we are first on scene, we want to be able to stabilize so we are a good partner to the Fire Department who helps us out so much. We just want to make sure we are bridging that gap. Seconds matter.

Mayor Kurtz said Steve to your team kudos. They are great guys. The guys who came over here, they are experienced, and their expertise with the City Hall staff, it's invaluable. They explained well. They gave real life examples, and they are just phenomenal ambassadors for the department as well as the safety they shared and educated us all about.

Fire Chief Rega said thank you.

Police Chief Butler said we are still doing CIT training. In fact, I have an officer going through it right now.

Councilperson Trakas said without compromising tactics, and if does, don't answer the question, but do we routinely take the drug-sniffing dogs down to the hotels to see if there's anything going on?

Police Chief Butler said we do the cars, but again we don't let the dogs inside the cars anymore because people literally have drugs on the floorboards. It's everywhere. It's wild. If you want to Google, just recently OSP had a stop where people had two pounds of meth on the back floorboard. They had to scoop it with an ice brush. It's crazy.

So, we are still focused on training. Training's not going to stop this year. We want to make sure our guys get the best training, and they can train each other. We have two people going through BJJ, that's Brazilian jujitsu through Gracie. They are going to become instructors. We are going to be teaching jujitsu to our officers so they know how to handle themselves if they are in a hand-to-hand combat situation. Nowadays it seems more and more officers are reliant on their

tools. Tools fail, tasers don't always work, people panic. We want to make sure they can handle themselves in a ground situation. So, just by doing this, one of the guys already joined Brazilian jujitsu school, and we already have four guys off-duty they go together. So, it's kind of catching on. We are definitely fostering an environment where people want to train and learn and move on.

We had a pepper ball and taser instructor classes coming up. We have four guys going to that, two and two; and we have an officer going to physical fitness instructor. We are going to use him internally to help come up with some workout plans for our officers and also they can put any new hires through the push-ups, sit-ups; and they will be State certified to do it. He also has a degree in exercise science, and he's going to come up with some stretching routines for some of our officers, peer-to-peer, help them out to make sure to prevent injuries.

In the month of January we seized eight guns. This is proactive. We really want to thank you guys for the extra officers. We are out there. We got eight guns in January, and that's with the new law that allows people to be carrying guns without permits. That's eight guns seized. This is one of the guns that was recovered from a drug deal out of the Red Roof. This was in their backseat. It's a 22 assault rifle that is currently in our evidence. This allowing to have more guys on the road encourages proactive policing. They look for suspicious behavior before it gets to our residents, before it turns bad. This was an example of doing that. If you checked on our social media, we had great success with our Task Force. We were one of the members of the fentanyl seizure, over two kilos. That was 88 pounds I believe of fentanyl taken off the street, worth \$5.2 million dollars. Giving us the resources that you guys have given us has led to a lot of success, and I thank you for that.

Chairperson Narduzzi said I have a couple of questions. Do the Police carry epi-pens?

Police Chief Butler said no. We do not have epi-pens. We are training our school resource officers to utilize epi-pens so that they could utilize the ones that are in school.

Mr. Lesh said I have a question. The weapon that you showed was a 22 (inaudible) fire correct?

Police Chief Butler said I know that it's a 22. I am the worst person for you to ask me gun questions.

Mr. Lesh said it's a 22 long rifle. There's a big difference between an AR-15 caliber (inaudible). The ARs they can change the uppers and lowers except (inaudible). Actually, a 9 mm is more dangerous than a 22. I personally have a problem with calling them an assault weapon because if I went and assaulted someone and killed someone with a rock, that could be an assault weapon. If I use that rock as an assault weapon. You can say the same thing about a knife. You can say the same thing about the hammer that Paul Pelosi was attacked with.

Police Chief Butler said I think we can agree that a drug dealer with that weapon is bad, no matter what weapon it is.

Mr. Lesh said I agree with that.

Police Chief Butler said so I think we can settle on that, whatever it was called. A drug dealer that is operating with drugs in his vehicle, which he also had cocaine and fentanyl shouldn't be having that weapon and is a danger to society, regardless of what he has.

Mayor Kurtz said you mentioned that you are training the SROs for epi-pens.

Police Chief Butler said to be able to utilize an epi-pen. So, the schools have access to it. I have spoken to Assistant Fire Chief Wheeler and the Fire Department that while we are training our officers in first aid and CPR, the two SROs will be going through a higher level of that just again to be a good intermediary if they are the first ones that are on scene. So, if they have to do an epi-pen, if they have to do something else of that nature, they are confident.

Mayor Kurtz said so they are working in concert with the schools. Tell me about the SROs, where are they stationed?

Police Chief Butler said we have one SRO in the high school. We have one SRO in the elementary school. They are both full-time officers that are there every day. They both share responsibilities in the middle school. As you know, and I am just saying this for the record, not to be condescending, we all know that the high school is walkable from the middle school; so he does walk back and forth; but our elementary school SRO also goes there. They develop programming, so currently, and I don't want to spoil too much because I would rather be done; but our SRO in the high school is coming up with a conditioning program. He's going to help with some early morning workouts for kids. He's going to be there with them to do that, and we are working on one other program. I forgot about it, but they are working on programs with the schools with the kids.

Mayor Kurtz said and ALICE training, everybody in terms of, everyone that's in our department is trained?

Police Chief Butler said everyone that's in the schools. Let me correct that. All of our officers are ALICE trained. We want ALICE instructors. So, the two SROs are going to be ALICE instructors. So, that means that they can teach the schools. Kevin Repicky is an ALICE instructor, so he's still doing that for us, but the goal is to eventually that both SROs will be the instructors. Everyone is trained.

Mayor Kurtz asked and these SROs will be in the schools for how many years, these two guys?

Police Chief Butler said as long as they are needed.

Mayor Kurtz said so we have two SROs continuously in the schools.

Police Chief Butler said currently the City is fully funding two SROs to the schools.

Mayor Kurtz said thank you.

Councilperson Trakas said just so you know Mayor and Chief, the Governor proposed in his budget, should it pass, that the State of Ohio pay for those SROs.

Police Chief Butler said that would be great.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked with our two SROs, are we bringing two full-time patrolmen back in?

Police Chief Butler said no, the 37 is with the two SROs. So, if it ever happens in the State, or somebody picks up any of the costs, we could eventually look at adding a 38th member to our department, and there are usages that we could use with them community based for sure that we would want to expand upon.

They are both highly trained. They are going to a training, I am spoiling a lot of things, sorry – tune into our Facebook page. They are going to training on Friday at Flock to show how Flock can help the schools. So, they are going to be utilizing our cameras to make sure again, if there's a threat to our schools, how do we use the Flock cameras? How to put information into our Flock cameras. So, we are using our resources. Having the two officers there full-time is great. It's a great gateway.

Mayor Kurtz said so you are saying we will be able to track with our cameras, with our Flock system, if in fact there's an incident; and then get into a vehicle, we would be able to track them.

Police Chief Butler said yes, or let's say there's a dangerous person on the loose, and we know that, we can enter their license plate and we would know where they hit well before they get to the school. That's where eventually the blue light cameras are, where we want to put one at Selig and Brecksville in case they miss the other ones, we get them well before they get in.

Mayor Kurtz said in kind of a catastrophic situation, what is the SROs protocol in terms of if there's someone in the school.

Police Chief Butler said they take out the threat immediately. So, having them, they are the first line. They are not waiting outside. We have done trainings already with that. Last year we did a school shooting scenario with all of our officers, every officer; and it was you just take out the threat. We used paint rounds. They hurt, if you get shot, it doesn't feel good; but we were shooting each other. Then we also do further training with the Fire Department on working collaboratively to help victims during a school shooting. We are doing another school shooting scenario this year, we are not going to stop doing that. So, it's take out the threat. They are the first line of defense, and they are not going to wait.

Both of our SROs too, and I think we have spoken on this, have 20 years within this department. They have deep connections. I think if I say the word Jim Green, everyone is going to smile in some capacity because everyone has a story with Jim Green.

Troy Keegan is very well-respected. He knows a lot of the stuff. He has two high school daughters himself, and we are going to use them a little bit differently than we have used them in the past. So, for Home Days they are expected to be, Troy will be at the rides, that's where high school students are. You know the high school kids. You are there. We now have a connection. Now they know my name, he knows the kids by name; so we are developing relationships that are very important to our department.

Finance Director Blaze said we will talk between now and Home Days, I don't think the high school kids are down by the ride area, maybe the middle school kids.

Police Chief Butler said Green's there too.

Fire Chief Rega said I don't have a ton of stuff, but I have some legislation coming up for next week, and I am giving you the opportunity if you have any questions on it. One of the things is our annual City of Cleveland water fees which there isn't anything surprising there. I send them the number of hydrants we have, and we pay the bill on that.

The other thing is our annual COG dues for the Southwest Council of Governments. That's our CERT fee which is our technical rescue, and then also SEB which is the Police side. The only thing significant there is the Police are paying a one-time fee, an increase of \$5,500 for a building that they are erecting to store some of their vehicles. So, that was the change there.

The other thing that I had which is probably of more interest is that I am looking to change the Charter to increase our maximum number of Lieutenants from five to seven, and then to decrease the number of firefighters from 23 down to 21. From there we look to propose promoting two more firefighters to Lieutenant, and then we will have two Lieutenants on each operational shift. So, in the absence of one Lieutenant there will be the other one there. We will only have one off at a time. That is what we are striving for, and then we will have more oversight on each shift. Currently, we use an OIC or Acting Officer which is okay, but they just don't have the same, when you are in that officer's position, you have more authority. It's continuous. You have greater responsibilities, and that's the other component, we are trying to get more people up to speed for when we have the actual administrative turnover in January of 2027. So, it's less than four years, so the opportunity to get more people in that administrative position.

Does anybody have any questions on that?

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked are you going somewhere?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas asked can you describe your chain of command, how does it work?

Fire Chief Rega said we have three 40 hour administrative staff, that's myself, my Assistant Chief, and we have a 40 hour Lieutenant who does nothing but fire prevention. So, then operationally on our three shifts that we have, we are there for 24 hours, and 48 hours off. We

will have two officers for six firefighters. So, with people off that might seem like a lot, but when one officer is off, you can have as many as five to six firefighters that need supervising. There would be times when there are two firefighters off, and more officers there, and in most cases of an active fire and stuff like that, we started to have more officers on scene to oversee those positions. Ultimately, it gives better coverage for the community in terms of having administrative staff running those incidents.

Councilperson Trakas said thank you.

Fire Chief Rega said I didn't know if there were any other questions about that.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked that's on legislation?

Fire Chief Rega said yes it is. I didn't know if there was any huge discussions that needed to be had.

Councilperson Trakas asked would it eliminate the other positions?

Fire Chief Rega said well we are not really eliminating them. We were able to hire more than we were operationally staffed just in case, like we have two guys that are going to be retiring, let's hire two in preparation for that. So, we go a little bit higher, and then we reduce down. I felt that by adding the two officers, we need to reduce the number of firefighters. Actually, once we promote the two, we would only have 18 operational firefighters, and then we will have the six officers that are on shift. So, we are still allowing up to 21. When we start to go, we can hire people ahead of time. So, if there is a gap there, it takes a good year for somebody to get up to speed and know that position. So, that's why I kind of corresponded, and we made the adjustment.

Councilperson Trakas said I just didn't want to handcuff you if you needed it.

Fire Chief Rega said right.

As far as things we are doing, the Fire Department has changed over its patient reporting system. We kind of had to do this. Things were phasing out with the current system that we were using. So, basically it's our electronic system that we use to track patients and enter all that information. Eventually, our fire system will go to this new program as well because our current system was bought out, and it will transition to that. So, we kind of went ahead and transitioned on the EMS side to this new company, and eventually we will move the Fire to that too as well. It went really smoothly. There were no hiccups there. It's still something we are learning, but it's looking like it's going to be a good fit.

I am looking into an EFG grant right now. I have to get it in by the end of the week. I have it almost done. I am looking at trying to get some funding for medical tests for our firefighters. Cancer is a huge issue in the fire service, so we are looking at doing some cancer screening. There are some exams out there that can help identify early on to get early treatment and keep

the employee on the job longer. So, we do have some programs, and we go for these grants with our budgets and things like that. I am trying to see if we can get it, but we will see where that goes.

We are also having a safety kids' day that's being put on by our Northeast Ohio Fire Prevention Association, and also our Northeast Ohio CP Educators' Association. What this is, in Summit County they did it for the kids that were homeschooled, and they don't get the advantage of the firefighters that come in, and the Police Officers that come in and educate the students in the schools. At home they don't get that, so they had a safety day that was put on by the State Fire Marshal, and what they do is try to bring all those people into the county there to get that education on one particular day. It's about a six hour day. Everybody shares with their educators to help educate the kids. So, this year we are doing it in Cuyahoga County. We are going to host it here at the Community Services Center, and outside there. It looks like it will be a pretty good day for all kids in Cuyahoga County. Again, we are getting help from all the other communities to put that on. It should be a pretty well-attended event and a pretty good social media event as well.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked when is that?

Fire Chief Rega said that's going to be on May 31st. We will have more to follow on that, but that's probably one of the bigger things we have coming up.

Outside of that, we have a couple of part-time candidates in the processing system right now that we are looking at. So, maybe another month or so we will be looking to swear them in. Right now we only have two part-time candidates, or part-time employees, and one of them is going to be retiring I believe in March. He's been here for about 20 years. He's ready to move on. That's Jim Loparo. He's done a great job over the years, and he has been a resident for a very long time. So, we are sorry to see him go, but we are looking for some replacements there.

Councilperson Veverka asked what level of firefighting certification do the part-timers need?

Fire Chief Rega said they have to have the same qualifications as the full-timers. We feel that our part-time firefighters are going out to our residents, and they have to have the same capabilities, the same knowledge and training; and that's how we approach that.

Fire Chief Rega said our aerial truck is going to be going in for some repairs. It's almost 20 years old, a little over 20 years old actually; so our waterway needs the seals replaced. So, that will be coming up. I don't have it scheduled yet, but it will take about a week. So, that's probably one of the bigger repairs coming up.

Then we are still looking at an all-terrain vehicle. They are starting to open up custom builds now where before you just got what you got, what was available, just like the Police cars. It seems like all of these vehicles are hard to get nowadays. So, we are still working on that.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked Chief could you give some background, a few weeks back there was that hotel on Rockside that didn't have adequate sprinklers working. Was that a random?

Fire Chief Rega said well no, the State does come up and go through our hotels. That hotel was not in compliance with some of their corrective actions that they were told to correct. At that point, they viewed it as an imminent danger; so they basically shut them down until that was corrected. It did get corrected rather quickly.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked it wasn't just a stop in.

Fire Chief Rega said no, they schedule appointments. It's kind of rare. We will stop in if there's a complaint of some type that way. Those are scheduled inspections by the State Fire Marshal.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how many people stay at that hotel? It doesn't seem like if you look at the parking lot that there are that many cars there at all.

Finance Director Blaze said I wouldn't know that. The occupancy tax that it pays is probably the lowest of all the hotels the City has.

Mr. Lesh said I would like to comment about the article on the Sycamore Hills Rifle Club. Since August I have spoken several times about the safety and environmental issues (inaudible). In an article in the Independence magazine in February 2023, the President of the Club, Ray Kling, is quoted as saying "the club creates a safety plan and complies with the standards of the NRA." Mr. Kling is further quoted as saying "it is nearly impossible to reach the homes and nearly impossible for ammunition to leave the range." Rule Number 2 of the NRA Safety Standards no one is behind your target and always make sure a stray shot will be safely stopped. Mr. Kling's statement makes it clear that it is impossible for ammunition to leave the range and reach homes and vehicles traveling on Hillside. Sycamore Hills Rifle Club is not compliant with Rule Number 2 of the NRA.

Mr. Kling also stated that they keep firearms pointed at the earth when not in use and use chamber indicators when not in use. However, chamber indicators are not used when chambering ammunition. When clearing a chamber of ammunition (inaudible). As stated by Mr. Kling, the rifles are pointed at the ground. However, the picture provided by Ms. Bednar is proof that a misfire when chambering ammunition or clearing the chamber of ammunition, it is extremely dangerous because of the (inaudible) the water.

While I hope that the SHR's members wouldn't intentionally shoot at any of the hard surfaces or the water pictured in the magazine, it is a fact that a shot may be fired inadvertently because of a (inaudible) distraction of ammunition due to a misfire.

NRA Rule Number 3 states every shooter at a hard surface can ricochet and injure someone. 39 rounds of a 30 caliber bullet with the rate of (inaudible) 113 miles of a 5.6 caliber bullet with a weight of 62 transfers is one pound of lead. The fact that the SHRC shoots along a creek bed,

and have not proven that any of the lead that they deposited in the ground or that has leached into the water system for the last 94 years has been extracted raises concerns that this site may be contaminated with lead.

NRA Rule Number 4 stated never damage the environment. Another picture in the magazine shows two rounds of ammunition. One is what appears to be 33 caliber, and the other a 22 caliber 5.56. The size of the ammunition pictured is irrelevant since the 5.56 ammunition travels at an average speed of 800 feet per second past it in most 30 caliber ammunitions. The additional speed of 5.56 ammo makes it extremely dangerous and has proven to be effective (inaudible) and is one of the reasons that it is used by our military personnel. The Independence Today Magazine states that the Sycamore Hills Rifle Club defends it's 94 year history within the City. How can such a statement be made? To defend any position requires opposition. There was no opposition in the magazine article. My quotes in the magazine are inaccurate. Ms. Bednar never approached me for an interview, and I never posted anything related to the extensive documentation that I (inaudible).

As I have stated previously, the landscape of the area has changed significantly. Most, if not all the homes within the line of fire, (inaudible) were not there 94 years ago, including the homes in the Twin Creeks development. Hillside Road may not have been there 94 years ago, but if so, traffic has significantly increased over the last 94 years.

The rifles that the SHRC primarily uses is the AR-15. The AR-15 did not exist 94 years ago. Sidewalks along Hillside Road were put in two years ago. They did not exist.

The safety and the environmental issues related to the operations of the SHRC should be set forth in a public forum with a notice to all residents. There is no justifiable reason for anyone to discharge a high-powered rifle within City limits. It is not safe.

As our elected officials, I leave you with one question. Is it worth the risk of serious injury or death to our residents and guests so that Ray Kling and his friends can entertain themselves with modified military weapons?

Thank you.

Mr. Lesh said I don't know if any of you understand how modified these rifles can be. They can be completely built by (inaudible). The safety features that these rifles come from the factory, they can take the barrel, change the barrel, change the sight and change the entire triggers, and they do change the triggers to shoot CMP matches so that the second stage pull is extremely sensitive which makes these guns, they do not operate to safety standards of the manufacturers.

So, this is a dangerous situation. It really is. I wouldn't be pushing this if it wasn't, if I didn't truly believe that it was.

Thank you.

Vice Mayor Grendel said they were originally on the agenda, and just because of the time.

Chairperson Narduzzi said yes, it's ten minutes after 5:00 p.m. already. It would have been a longer meeting.

Councilperson Veverka asked can we put that on the next meeting then?

Chairperson Narduzzi said well I think the next meeting is going to be golf carts.

Councilperson Veverka said well I know, but I am saying, after this.

Councilperson Trakas said guns and golf carts.

Councilperson Veverka said because in the ensuing time I had two individual residents contact me. One that previously shot at the range and said he is no longer shooting at the range. He goes to Camp Perry or someplace else because he was concerned about that. I spent a lot of time listening to his concerns related to the range and its location.

The second person is a person that lived on Bramley Drive, and his comment related to the fact that also to brand times when there is discharge at the range, I would assume because of the shape of the valley along there and straight across from Rio Niro that they are hearing the discharges at all sorts of different times. So, that was a concern that he expressed to me. So, I pass those along to the rest of the committee.

Chairperson Narduzzi said I can hear them at my house.

Police Chief Butler said anything from ODNR was that if the range did not adhere to the general accepted standards, then the range owner may be liable in civil court from whoever is making the complaint. They could seek civil action. So, I spoke to ODNR, did my due diligence every which way. I have a ton of email correspondence between us. They did not agree to come to speak. I asked them to come to speak. They originally said they would speak at this meeting, and then they did not. He said he would forward my request to speak at this meeting to the Law Department, and they never responded back. I did ask if this was enforceable by the Police Department and us, and he said no. I have that email on that from them. The standards are under ODNR Division of Wildlife, but this is handled civilly. This is what he stated, and this was from the Outdoor Education Supervisor who I was directed to from the Chief of ODNR, Kendra Walker. She did tell me, and trust me it took me forever to get ahold of somebody. Nobody was calling me back, and I was just asking would somebody please call me. Eventually, the Chief called me and said okay this guy will call you, and he did. That is as far as we got.

Mr. Lesh said there is one more thing.

Chairperson Narduzzi said I have to stop because we have to move forward. Vern needs to talk, and we need to move forward because there's a Planning Commission after.

Mr. Lesh said it clearly does (inaudible).

Finance Director Blaze said thank you Mr. Chairman. I just passed out a one page sheet. In December Council passed the final amendment to the 2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance 2022-165, and in January Maggie and I were going through the final numbers in preparation for closing, and our internal documents had, there are a lot of numbers backing up these numbers because there are a lot of sub-accounts in these departments. Our documents internally add up to the same numbers on here. We realized though that in the December amendment, just in the Recreation Department only, we asked you to appropriate \$1,963,000 for wages, salaries and benefits, and \$485,000 for all other expenses, totaling that \$2,448,000 there. We needed to be the numbers at the bottom, still totaling the same \$2,448,000 so no change in the Recreation Department budget, no change in the General Fund, no change in the total appropriations. It's just a mixture between the two categories. It's kind of like if we asked you to appropriate a dollar last December and said we need six dimes in one category and we need eight in the other. We realize now we needed kind of eight dimes and four nickels in the other. It still totals a dollar, we just needed to change the allocation within the department. So, I have a proposed motion at the bottom there. If anybody has any questions or that, but again it's no change to the Recreation Department appropriation, no change to the General Fund appropriation, no change to the total appropriation. It's just the mixture between those two categories within the Recreation Department. We are asking for the bottom numbers to be approved.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked so what does all the other Recreation Department?

Finance Director Blaze said it would be their chlorine, their concessions, anything else other than their payroll, their medical insurance, and retirement are the big three.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked we are going to have enough to cover all of those expenses?

Finance Director Blaze said yes. This is more of an internal housekeeping issue. We just want to be square with the auditors, and say hey we are just dotting the i's and crossing the t's.

Someone asked so it's more?

Finance Director Blaze said yes.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said we haven't gotten together since our January Council meeting. The Saturday meeting got canceled, and we haven't had any meetings I don't think. I am just asking if Council would make the motion.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked so do we have to fix this at the next Council meeting?

Finance Director Blaze said I'm just saying we could do it by a motion today.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked we could do it today right Vern?

Finance Director Blaze said yes, he said that any time that Council gets together, and there is a majority there, and you have a meeting and Minutes are taken, you can take any action you want.

Moved by Walchanowicz, seconded by Grendel, to approve the amendment to Ordinance 2022-165 mainly on the Recreation line of the General Fund appropriating \$2,220,500 for wages, salaries and fringe benefits, instead of \$1,963,000 and appropriating \$227,800 for all other Recreation Department expenses instead of \$485,300. Roll Call: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Finance Director Blaze said thank you everybody.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said it's 5:15 p.m. on the dot.

Chairperson Narduzzi asked does anybody have anything else?

There was no other business.

Moved by Grendel seconded by Veverka to adjourn the Safety Committee Meeting of February 7, 2023. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Safety Committee Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.