

MINUTES OF THE HANOVER BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
March 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Lockard convened the meeting of the Hanover Borough Council Public Safety Committee at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 1, 2022 in the Hanover Municipal Building, 44 Frederick Street, Hanover, PA.

Attendance: Present were Committee Members Funk, C. Greenholt, and Lockard; Council Members Hegberg, Roland, Rupp and Mayor Whitman; Staff Members Fire Chief Clouser, Manager Dunford, Public Works Director Grimm, Police Chief Martin and Solicitor Shultis.

Public Comment: Dr. Thomas Konder, 120 Broadway, stated he is still experiencing a noise level of 85 decibels in his house from 4:00 AM to 5:45 PM. Mayor Whitman reported that the problem at the Lucky Spot was identified by Code Enforcement Officer Miller, and parts for the fan causing the noise are still on order but not delivered due to supply issues. Mrs. Funk asked that Code Enforcement Officer Miller stay completely on top of situation. Manager Dunford stated that Mr. Miller will remain in contact with Dr. Konder.

Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Mrs. Funk, seconded by Mrs. Greenholt to approve the minutes of February 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Street Performers: Mr. Hegberg recommended that to promote entertainment in a downtown district, the Borough should adopt an ordinance allowing and regulating outdoor performances. Mr. Hegberg will provide a sample ordinance for staff and legal review, and return for Committee review.

Motorized Scooters and Skateboards: Mr. Roland requested regulation of self-propelled, unlicensed vehicles operated off of private property such as electric skateboards and scooters, noting he is concerned about hitting children on the vehicles when he backs his car up, when a motorized device goes by at high speed. Chief Martin noted that while such devices are illegal on public property in PA, bicycles are allowed outside of the business district on the sidewalk. Chief Martin also noted persons on electric wheelchairs are treated legally like pedestrians. Mr. Roland requested that the Police Department notify parents that these powered vehicles cannot be operated on public property through Borough and school newsletters and other avenues for parental education such as Code Red. Police Chief Martin has not had complaints, but the police will respond if called and their department will prepare news articles.

Noise Ordinance: The Solicitor provided and reviewed a memorandum regarding the advantages and disadvantages of approaches to addressing noise problems through a Noise Ordinance. The Committee considered the alternative approaches to regulating noise, and agreed that traffic noise was the highest priority, and that a careful review of each type of noise issue and the creation of an effective enforcement response for each type of noise taking into account time, place, and manner is the next step. Although enforcement and graduated fines are important, the Ordinance would provide a framework for public education, including signage, to change behavior over time. Certain types of noise, such as from approved public events, and noise resulting from required activities such as lawn mowing would be subject to some level of exception under the ordinance. It was advised by the Solicitor that reliance of the Police to measure the decibel level of noise is not usually the best approach to addressing noise problems. Solicitor Shultis will provide an updated draft Ordinance for review by the Public Safety Committee.

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks: Mayor Whitman reviewed a draft letter opposing legislation to increase the size of trucks on Pennsylvania roads. The Committee agreed to support that position through one or more letters from public officials.

Fire Chief Report: Fire Chief Clouser commented on the proposed Fireworks contract, advertisement for a Fire Commission Business Manager and the reduction of EMS call volume and hospital wait times.

Adjournment: It was moved by Mayor Whitman , seconded by Mrs. Funk to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nan Dunford
Borough Manager