MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 25, 2017
Council Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers O'Malley, Litten, and Bullock

Also Present: Fire Chief Gilman, City Prosecutor Pam Roessner, Councilmembers Anderson and Marx, one member of the public

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 29-17 - Amending Section 549.01, Definitions, of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Lakewood in order to provide clarity for the regulation of weapons offenses within the Criminal Code.

Ms. Roessner explained that the ordinance proposes to amend the section of the Code which defines weapons to mirror the Ohio Revised Code. Currently our Code deviates from the State Code in a way that is similar to Cleveland. A recent Court decision ruled Cleveland's definitions unconstitutional. The Law Department recommends amending the Lakewood Code to avoid a similar court challenge.

It was pointed out that one of the changes removes the ban on semi-automatic weapons.

Ms. Roessner explained that the ordinance stemmed from a recent weapons case that had to be dismissed due to the City Code not matching the State Code.

A motion was made to recommend adoption of Ordinance 29-17. Motion was seconded. All members voted in favor.
Motion Passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 33-17 – Amending Section 333.01, Driving or Physical Control while under the Influence, as contained in the Traffic Code

Ms. Roessner explained that this ordinance proposes to update the Lakewood Codified Ordinances to match the State Code regarding OVI. The State recently changed its look back period for OVI from six to ten years. Also, Lakewood provides a slight variation in its sentencing for first time OVI, which this ordinance codifies. The State Code requires that first time offenders spend three nights in jail or participate in a Driver Intervention Program. Because Driver Intervention Programs are up to $500 Judge Carol provides an option where a first time offender can perform community service and attend MADD meetings.

Judge Carol approved and recommended this ordinance change to match existing practice.

A motion was made to recommend adoption of Ordinance 33-17. Motion was seconded. All members voted in favor.

Motion Passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 8950-17 – Adopting the Cuyahoga County 2017-2022 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the City of Lakewood.

Chief Gilman explained that the All-Hazards Plan was developed by the County under the direction of FEMA. All communities must adopt the plan in order to qualify for FEMA funds. By adopting it, Lakewood maintains its eligibility to receive FEMA reimbursements in a disaster scenario. This plan addresses how the County can assist municipalities with public works support and funding in case of a disaster.

The City has more tailored and specific incident action plans on its website.

Chief Gilman discussed the active shooter drills the City has performed over the past three years. He spoke about specific areas of the City which are more vulnerable to threats. Clifton Lagoon is more prone to flooding and the gold coast is more vulnerable to high winds and erosion.

Chief Gilman discussed Storm Sandy, which was the last time the City received FEMA funds. Communication systems across west shore responders have been significantly improved. There will be county-wide inter-operability by the end of the year.

Chief Gilman answered additional Council questions and discussed past events which required emergency responses, how that was executed and who was responsible.

It was clarified that Council passed Resolution 8950-17 on September 5th so no action is required at this time. The All-Hazards Plan is available on the County's website.

Councilmember Bullock remarked on a ride-along he did with EMS which illuminated the intricate training involved in disaster preparation.

Chief Gilman invited all councilmembers to participate in a ride-along.

Councilmembers congratulated Chief Gilman on earning the Ohio Fire Officer of the Year Award.

Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m.