

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

Grimes City Hall – council chambers
101 NE Harvey St. Grimes, Iowa 50111

Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2022,

The regular meeting of the Grimes Public Health and Safety Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Grove at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at the Grimes City Hall.

Roll Call – Present: Chair Michael Grove, Kathy Leinenkugel, Ryan Larson
Polk County Sheriff’s Office: Lt. Todd Galetich
Fire Department: Chief Jim Clark
Council Liaison: Laurie DePhillips (by zoom)
City of Grimes Public Works: Dave Guthrie

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Leinenkugel and seconded by Clark to approve the agenda. Motion passes.

Approval of minutes: Corrections to the minutes were made. Motion was made by Clark and seconded by Grove to approve the corrected minutes for the June 2022 meeting. Motion passes.

Discussion Items:

Fire Department Report:

A report for June was submitted by the Chief Clark and is attached. Calls in June were up at 329.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	300	269	308	303	323	329						

There was a drowning at Saylorville Lake on June 18 – Ankeny was the primary responder. Fireworks were not a major issue for the FD, although there was a dumpster fire. Patrols were made over the July 4th weekend and reminders were made that private individuals can not shoot off fireworks in public spaces (without a permit/permission). There were some reports of pallets of fireworks being set off in streets. No injuries related to fireworks have been reported to date for 2022.

Sheriff’s Report:

Polk County Sheriff’s Office representative Lt. Todd Galetich reported. Under the current call reporting system, the number of calls reported for Grimes were down at 783 calls for June.

PCSO had roughly 23 calls related to fireworks from July 2-4, some for time of use violations. A deputy did see a pallet of fireworks in a neighborhood street and told the person to put it out. Some products used may be illegal in Iowa – very loud and powerful that were capable of shaking windows in the neighborhoods. There have been inquiries regarding the number of locations allowed to sell fireworks, especially along Highway 141, but commercial or industrial sales cannot be banned or restricted under state law. A Grimes resident in attendance stated that an increase in illegal use could be related to the removal from the City ordinances of increased step penalties for repeat offenses.

Galetich stated that they have been receiving complaints about people swimming in area retention ponds. Ponds owned by the City are posted that swimming is not allowed.

Radar trailer/sign data update

Chair Grove summarized the radar data available for monitoring on Gateway Dr. The traffic speeds of 88% of northbound vehicles on NE Gateway Dr speeding (30 to 50 mph) in the 25 mph zone were going over 35 mph, with 4.5% going 45 mph or faster. There has been talk by the City of raising the speed limit or the need for a traffic study in this area of rapid commercial development. The Board recommends continued monitoring and patrol.

On southbound SE Gateway Dr, vehicles speeding (30 to 50 mph) in the 25 mph zone showed 34% were traveling at 35 mph or higher. It is recommended that monitoring be done on northbound SE Gateway south of Fareway.

Review of Governors Days participation.

Leinenkugel provided a brief overview of the Board's participation Friday evening and Saturday afternoon at Governors Days. She felt it was good for the Board to have a visible presence at the City event, and acknowledged that the biggest draw was having a uniformed PCSO officer in attendance.

Old Business:

After action discussion on Governors Days

The Board discussed safety concerns related to holding Governors Days at the South Sports Complex for the first time. Parking on residential streets and foot traffic on roads after dark posed some concerns but did not cause any major problems. Soccer games that had been scheduled for the location were rescheduled. There were some lost children and lost items but no significant issues reported by Station 37. It is anticipated that the event will continue to be held at this location for another 3-4 years.

Citizen complaints or questions referred.

Past Board liaison Councilman Burger referred an email from a resident to Chair Grove concerning safety at the Beaverbrooke Blvd and Highway 141 intersection. The person was complaining that it had been six months since he had raised this issue and he had not received feedback. There was a four vehicle crash in November 2021 that caused a fatality when a vehicle rear-ended another vehicle that had stopped for the southbound light. It was explained to the citizen that there was no long-term data available for the intersection due to the short time the traffic lights have been in place, and that the State Department of Transportation has jurisdiction of Hwy 141 and would need to make decisions regarding the addition of flashing warning lights.

New Business

Update on Council Issues

DePhillips mentioned that there are rumors of a home business operating near NE 21 St and NE Heritage Dr, possibly working on cars. The Council has been reviewing a lot of site plans for commercial development.

Other business or concerns

Guthrie reported that street work on N James St for the new splash pad construction north of the current library has been planned to allow one lane each direction to remain open by utilizing the turn lane. The utility work under the street is expected to take from 5 days to 2 weeks, and should be done prior to the start of school on August 23.

Leinenkugel stated that pedestrian and bike traffic across N James St at the trail crossing between NW 7th and NW 8th streets has been observed utilizing the crossing signal. It was mentioned that this may indicate a decreased need for the stop sign on N James at 11th St. Leinenkugel mentioned that the issue of poor lighting at NW 8th has not been resolved (the street lights do not extend over N James at the intersection) and still increases risks at the trail crossing.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm

Next Meeting: August 4, 2022

Draft minutes submitted by Kathy Leinenkugel, Board Secretary

Fire department report attached below.



JOHNSTON-GRIMES METROPOLITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

6373 MERLE HAY RD.
JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131

June 2022 service calls

329 calls across all districts

Total calls **increased from** May's total (323).

Station 37 – 93 calls

Station 38 – Grimes district – 28 Johnston district – 66

Station 39 – 126 calls New NW Area - 2

14- Mutual Aid Given calls: Granger – 2 Urbandale - 6 Saylor – 5 Ankeny - 1
Mutual Aid Received – 8 agency responses

EMS calls (249) – 75.6% Fire/other calls (74) – 24.4%

9 incidents in Category 1 - 5 structure fires, 1 grass fires, 2 vehicle fires, 1 dumpster fire

3 incidents in Category 3 - Excessive Heat, scorch burns with no ignition

210 in Category 3 – Rescue/EMS

2 incidents in Category 4 - Hazardous Condition which is gas leaks, chemical spills, power lines down.

18 Service Calls in Category 5 – 18 assists

31 Good Intent Calls in Category 6

45 False Alarms in Category 7

0 incident in Category 8 –

2 incident in Category 9 - Number issued in error

Major incidents to report in JGMFD districts or involving JGMFD Units

No major incidents to report

Items of interest:

N/A