

**VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS
SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 26, 2015**

Members present: Lutz, Evans, Newell
Also present: Patton, Subel, Muscenti, Himes, Brosius, Byron, Lannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairman Janna Lutz.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING PROHIBITED ORDINANCE

Chief Brosius explained that currently texting and driving is only a secondary offense so they can not pull someone over for texting and driving. They would have to be stopped for another offense first, such as speeding, and then they can be charged with the secondary offense of texting and driving. This ordinance will permit the officers to pull someone over for texting and driving as a primary offense.

Mr. Patton said the title of this ordinance is “texting while driving prohibited” and when he reads that he is not thinking about hands free cell phones so maybe they should add “certain wireless communications while driving prohibited”. It is broader than just texting. Mr. Newell said if you are holding a devise that you are communicating with you would be in violation of this ordinance.

Mr. Byron said the ordinance itself will not become effective for thirty days; there is no emergency clause. At minimum, after thirty days you would then be in a position to post the necessary signs. He said he wouldn’t recommend enforcement before the signs are posted. Mrs. Lutz asked, are there good examples of signs that they could or should use? Mr. Byron said Beachwood and Pepper Pike both have them.

Comments were heard and questions were answered.

Moved by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mr. Newell that we pass this at this committee level and accept this legislation, as amended. Carried. Ayes: Lutz, Evans, Newell. Nays: None.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STUDY

Mrs. Lutz said Council has authorized funding for a study. Mr. Lannon explained that they are going to focus on downtown intersections and crosswalks, operation of pedestrian push buttons, signage, and lighting.

Mr. Subel asked, do we have any intent on enforcing jaywalking? Chief Brosius said I don’t remember any pedestrian jaywalker ever getting hit by a car. People who are jaywalking are actually paying more attention than people in the crosswalks. This is almost like a community norm. He said

people often complain about U-turns. We have never had a U-turn accident so how much of my resources do I put into U-turns and jaywalkers?

Comments were heard and questions were answered.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Janna Lutz, Chairman
lgb