

City council OKs task force resolution; awaits 2013 budget info

Written by Greg Scherger

Tuesday, October 02, 2012 9:28 AM -

DELPHOS — City Council addressed a light legislative agenda in regular session of their first October meeting Monday evening.

Council was addressed by Tom Mazur, executive director of the Lima / Allen County Regional Planning Association, and by Kathy Luhn on behalf of the Allen County Public Health Commissioners, in support of a resolution endorsing the creation of an Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force charged with upgrading Allen County bike and pedestrian venues and improving the safety of the same.

Mazur commented that Allen County ranked very high in Ohio for serious accidents involving motor vehicles with bikers and pedestrians for urbanized area with population less than 50,000, just behind the Findlay area with the No. 1 ranking in the state.

Mazur indicated a need for policy change, education, and enforcement to begin to change this statistic.

Luhn spoke of the need to enhance bike and pedestrian pathways and usage as a means to improve the overall health condition of county residents and reduce chronic health conditions. The proposed task force would draw upon a wide membership base, and ultimately act to attempt to secure bike/pedestrian project funding from state and federal sources.

Council responded with approval of a resolution endorsing the creation of the task force, an action that is at no cost to the city at this time.

In other action, Mayor Gallmeier suggested and received approval for the re-appointment of Eric Kerner as a representative to the Allen County Board of health, a 5-year term.

Safety Service Director Greg Berquist stated that various city departments are instructed to have their budget proposals for 2013 to him by Monday. Council has tentatively schedule an initial review of the 2013 budget by the finance committee on Oct. 15, same date as the next council meeting. The intention is to have the budget approved before the end of the year.

Council also agreed to assist the administration in the annual "coat drive," to be held this year at the Canal Street City Building from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 27.

Gallmeier indicated that trick or treat in Delphos would be held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Councilman Hanser questioned Berquist regarding any action to potential re-roofing of the Waterworks Park Shelter House in conjunction with assistance provided by a Vantage carpentry class. Berquist indicated that this plan did not work out and bids for the project would be requested in the future.

Berquist also indicated that no further action had occurred regarding the potential placement of a water line to service south Cass Street residents within an easement aside of the railroad tracks adjacent to Bunge NA, citing the need to move a filing for this action from Allen County to Van Wert County __PUBLIC__