

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23, 2021

In Attendance:

Members Present: Chairperson, Ann Smith, Larry Chapman, Barry Mitchell and Mayor Janet Winkler

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Chief of Police, Richard Blevins and Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

Ann Smith called the meeting to order.

Update on Speed Tables:

Rebecca reported that Evans Paving is working on the speed tables for Sheldon Street today. Norman is planning to meet with the pavers, and discuss the design for the speed tables.

Chief Blevins stated that he received a request from a resident on Eastview to have a speed table placed in front of their house due to concerns they had about speeding on the street. Chief Blevins stated that at the last meeting of the Public Safety Committee, the decision was made to limit the number of speed tables per street to 2. He explained that noise is generated by vehicles with acceleration and deceleration as they cross over the speed tables. He commented that we want to try and keep that noise to a minimum, and he planned to explained this to the resident that made the request.

Huss Avenue Survey:

Chief Blevins discussed the survey that was given to the residents of Huss Avenue and Mathewson Street pertaining to a possible solution to addressing the complaints about traffic on Huss Avenue. He reported that there are only 5 families currently living on Huss Avenue – The Jones, The Lamberts, The Stansburys, Vilma Morales and The Lovins. The Throneburg house is currently vacant, along with two other houses on Huss Avenue. Chief Blevins stated that he asked that the surveys be returned by March 15th. The options given and the results of the survey were as follows: (Out of 40 surveys distributed, we received 9 responses)

Option 1 – Widen Huss Avenue – Results: 3 votes

- Eddie Bolick – Owner of Bolick Apartments
- Anna Bryant – Owner of Danny Dunn Apartments
- Jeff Roland – First Citizens Bank

Chief Blevins stated that none of these people are residents of Huss Avenue.

Option 2 – Make Huss Avenue a One-Way Street – Results: 4 votes

- 3 votes came from Apartment Tenants
- Sharon Jones at 112 Huss Ave.

Option 3 – Make no changes to Huss Avenue – Results: 2 votes


- The Lamberts at 109 Huss Ave.
- The Stansburys at 116 Huss Ave.

Chief Blevins stated that his recommendation would be to leave Huss Avenue as it currently is, and smooth out the sides where there is a drop off.

Chief Blevins commented that Eddie Bolick was the first person to express concerns about the street; however, he does not actually live on the street. He added that he only received 9 surveys back, which means 31 of the people surveyed didn't care enough to respond.

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Barry Mitchell) to accept the Chief's recommendation to do nothing to the street, and dress the sides where there are drop-offs. Unanimously approved.

(Copy of Survey)



HUDSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Richard C. Blevins, Chief of Police

To affected Hudson Resident,
Huss Avenue is located in Hudson, NC and connects Mathewson Street and Central Street. It is primarily residential with only a small number of homes, however it is frequently used as a connector for motorist traveling between Legion Road and Main Street. The Town of Hudson has received complaints that the design of Huss Avenue is inadequate to sustain the amount of vehicular traffic that travels it on a daily basis. The complaints allege that it is too narrow and that motorist travel at a speed greater than the posted speed limit, however only one reported sideswipe type accident has occurred on this street in the previous 10 years. The Town of Hudson is considering the complaints and is currently seeking the opinion of residents in the immediate area on how best to meet their needs. As a resident that would be affected by any change, your opinion is sought and will be given consideration before any changes are implemented.

Please review and consider how the below options would affect you, your home and your travel routine. **Please indicate your preferred option and mark only one option.** You may mail, email or telephone your choice to one of the below locations.

Option 1

Widen Huss Avenue. This would allow oncoming vehicles to more safely pass. This could mean that additional property would be claimed by the Town of Hudson to widen Huss Avenue for pavement and ditches.

Option 2

Make Huss Avenue a One Way Street, traveling from Mathewson Street (West) to Central Street (East). This would alleviate the need for widening, as well as reduce the volume of vehicular traffic by one half.

Option 3

Make no changes to Huss Avenue. You believe the street adequately meets the needs of the area.

Please indicate your name and address for purposes of the survey.

Name	Address
Telephone	

Check this box if you would like to receive the results of the survey.

Update on Wrecker Service Rotation:

Chief Blevins presented guidelines for how a wrecker service rotation could work for the Police Department. He commented that he did not try to “reinvent the wheel” with trying to create guidelines for the rotation – he used the guideline from Lenoir and Granite Falls to get ideas for Hudson. The guidelines included the following:

- Approved and active on NC Highway Patrol Wrecker Rotation Listing.
- Must be located within 1 driving mile of Hudson city limits.
- Must be able to respond to the location requested within 20 minutes.
- Must be properly licensed as a wrecker.
- Must operate a 24-hour wrecker and towing service.
- Must have a boom-style wrecker.
- Must have fenced-in storage facility or building for storing towed vehicles.
- Must have daytime and nighttime number listed on storage facility and on trucks
- Must have sign displayed at business location advertising the business and on trucks
- Neither owner nor operator can have been convicted of a felony or any other crime involving moral turpitude or theft will be placed on the rotation.
- Must maintain a liability insurance policy with coverage of no less than \$750,000 from an insurance company authorized to do business in North Carolina.
- Must have wreckers properly maintained and mechanically sound.
- Must charge industry-average fees.
- Must have good, overall appearance with good business practices.

Chief Blevins explained that there will be a primary service and a secondary service. The plan is to have a daily sheet showing the primary and secondary service for the day. The sheet will have contact information for the services. After a week, the primary will rotate off and the secondary will become the primary, etc. If neither the primary nor secondary respond when called, the next call would be to Keens Towing and Recovery. Also, it will be up to the officer whether a large or small service needs to be called. Also, if a wrecker service is going to be out of commission for a period of time, we would need to be notified so that they are not included on the rotation for that period of time.

Chief Blevins stated there would be an application for the wrecker services to fill out for review. The company will be checked out to make sure they meet our policies. There will also be a checklist for the officers to use when the wrecker facilities are visited. The application also authorizes the Police Department to do a criminal background check.

The question was asked about how strict the guidelines would be followed, especially if the call is made in the middle of the night.

Chief Blevins stated that he believes we should be strict with following the guidelines. He commented that the wrecker services that are used by Lenoir and Granite Falls are already familiar with how a rotation works, and they should be used to these types of guidelines. Chief Blevins added that once the guidelines are approved by the Board, he will post them on Facebook, the website and the newspaper to make the different wrecker services aware of the guidelines. He added that he would contact the wrecker services that had contacted him about implementing a rotation to let them know the new policy. None of the services are in the Town Limits.

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Barry Mitchell) to accept the Chief’s recommendations and guidelines for implementing a wrecker rotation. Unanimously approved.

Chief Blevins stated that he planned to make May 1, 2021 the effective date for the new policy.

Rotation Wrecker Checklist

Wrecker Service Name

- Physical location of business located within 1 driving mile of Hudson City Limits. _____
- Properly Registered Wreckers with valid appropriate registration plates. _____
- 24 hour wrecker and towing service _____
- Fenced lot or building to securely store vehicles _____
- Dry storage available if needed. _____
- Sufficient Quantity of absorbent kept on trucks. _____
- Day Wrecker Telephone Number _____
- Night Wrecker Telephone Number _____
- Business Name, Address and Day/Night Numbers displayed on trucks _____
- Business name displayed on Wrecker/Storage Site _____
- Wreckers appear to be properly maintained and mechanically sound _____
- Adequate Insurance _____
- Boom-style wrecker available _____
- Criminal History Checks of Owners/Drivers _____
- Industry Average Fees Charged _____
- Large Wrecker Available (Tractor Trailer/Heavy Load Capable) _____
- Overall appearance consistent with good business practices _____

Application for Hudson Police Department Rotation Wrecker Service

Individual Owner

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ NC Driver's License: _____

Have you ever been arrested or summoned to court as a defendant? _____

Name of Business on file with Secretary of State? _____

If Co-Ownership Exists

Name of all parties with Ownership Interest: _____

Business Information

Physical location of wrecker/storage yard: _____

24 hr Phone Number: _____ Dry Storage Available: Yes No

Name of Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Discuss Recruitment and Retention of Officers:

Chief Blevins gave the Committee an update on canvassing the different police departments in the area to get ideas of what other towns are offering. He stated that one thing different was the take-home car policy – our policy is 15 minutes from the front of the building – some departments are allowing their officers to take cars home county-wide. He commented that from what he has been able to gather, our promotional process seems to move officers along pretty well – the difference seems to be the initial rate of pay. Chief Blevins commented that some police departments are going to great lengths to hire and keep officers.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Barry Mitchell) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk