

Public safety tops for Atchison Commission

(KAIR)--Public safety was a key topic Monday when Atchison's City Commission met in regular session.

It was early in the meeting that Andrea Clements, Executive Director for the healthy living organization Live Well Live Atchison addressed the Commission regarding the fate of the four-way stops near the Atchison Middle School.

A failed motion at the June 18 meeting of the Commission moved forward the possible removal of the stop signs which had been put in place at the start of the year on a trial basis.

Clements, prior to the meeting, pushed for a strong public presence to address the issue, and she was joined by other concerned residents who implored the Commission to keep safety in mind at the intersections of 5th and Santa Fe and 6th and Santa Fe.

Following lengthy discussion, it was ultimately decided to keep the four-way stops in place for an additional 90 days until alternative safety options can be further explored.

Mayor Allen Reavis, saying that he's also heard from residents wanting the signs removed, said the issue will be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting. "Everything stays the same for right now until we can have a little deeper discussion...I'd like to get more opinions on this, too."

It was towards the end of Monday's meeting that Commissioner Shawn Rizza brought forward another matter of pedestrian safety, citing Saturday's hit and run of a 36-year-old pedestrian at 2nd and Commercial. "I think we as a Commission, and as a city, need to really start tackling pedestrian safety as a priority...I don't want to wait until somebody's killed."

Atchison Police Chief Mike Wilson told MSC News the hit and run remains under investigation, with the driver not yet located.

Wilson said the pedestrian did not require hospital treatment.

Many Signals Communicatons