

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
November 16, 2020

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Safety Director Paul Schmelzer, City Engineer Brian Thomas, Police Chief Robert Ring, Councilman Jim Slough.

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. and Mrs. Rodney and Blackburn.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor, to make the alley at the east side of the intersection of South Main Street and Baldwin Avenue one way heading eastbound due to low vehicle usage; signal upgrade at this intersection is being considered and need to know if signalizing the alley is still warranted.

10/19/2020

Rayle stated that the Traffic Signal Department is looking to upgrade the traffic signals at the intersection of Baldwin and Main. The traffic signal for the alley is not MUTCD compliant. It only has one signal for the alley and we are required to have two signals. The alley is not wide enough for two-way traffic, so looking to make it a one way eastbound away from Main Street. The City would save money on the upgrade of the intersection removing the signals and the poles that we would need to make it compliant. To make compliant would need to have two signals on separate poles, a minimum of eight feet apart. To make compliant we would have to add a pole to the left of the existing signal. Suggest make alley one way going east to first alley intersection and remove signal. Impact to neighborhood minimal. City will save money. Director Schmelzer stated the only negative is if you went straight west across Main Street. Assuming, the majority of the traffic will be heading north or south onto Main Street.

Motion that because it would appear that the impact to the neighborhood would be minimal and the City would save installation and long term maintenance costs on signalization that the alley be made one way going east to first north/south alley intersection, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Discussion: A letter will be sent to residents in the first block of this alley to get their feedback. Motion passed 5-0.

11/16/2020

Motion to lift item from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0.

Director Schmelzer stated that letters went out to residents in the first block of the alley to get feedback. The City heard from two residents on S. Main Street on either side of the alley. Both stated that the traffic signal is used frequently and that changing the alley to a one way going east and removing the signal would cause hardship.

Demuth stated he does not have a preference either way, he just need to know what to do with intersection. If residents want it and use it then he has no problem replacing the signal.

Director Schmelzer stated that if people are using it, then no problem with signal. Director Schmelzer would like to review the usage of the intersection prior to making a final decision.

Motion to table request until video evidence of alley usage as well as the block both directions from 7am-10am and 2:30pm-4:30pm can be gathered and reviewed, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Steve Kania, 2000 Crystal Avenue, for a 35 MPH sign to be attached to existing signage (school bus and parking sign) on Crystal Avenue just south of Melrose Avenue due to speeding cars.

10/19/2020

Chief Ring said sign is already there and there is another one a block down. Stoffel stated that he can put up the portable speed sign and report back.

Motion to deny request to post additional signage, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 5-0. Adequately signed and compliant. If find information that people are speeding, then will bring back to agenda.

11/16/2020

Motion to lift from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0.

Stoffel stated that motorists are traveling at speeds of 35 miles per hour or less most of the time. No further action needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Rodney Blackburn to reconsider the parking restrictions on Seventh Street to allow parking on the street all day.

Mr. Blackburn stated there is an issue with the no street parking on school days from 8am-10am and from 2pm-4pm. His neighborhood is mostly small to mid-sized homes with single lane driveways and one car garages. In talking to a few people in the neighborhood, he found several are having negative issues with the parking restriction. Several neighbors have parked in the school parking lot. When contractors come to work on a home in the neighborhood, residents have to park elsewhere (school and Kroger's parking lot) so that the contractors can park in the driveway so they don't get a ticket. The principal told Mrs. Blackburn that she has over twenty more employees than parking spaces. The principal was not aware of the no parking restriction around the whole block, and told us she needs street parking to make room for the school employees. After some of the employees received parking tickets, the employees started parking at Kroger and walking to school. The principal told us that now Kroger is calling the school and telling them to keep the employees from using their parking lot. So, if that is true, on any given day there could be twenty to thirty cars in the Kroger parking lot that are not Kroger shoppers.

Mr. Blackburn state that they have lived in their house for twenty years, and these houses and school have coexisted for at least sixty years. Don't understand why now street parking is an issue. Also do not understand why parking enforcement was parked on their street every school day morning for at least one hour, and every afternoon for the same amount of time.

Director Schmelzer explained that the traffic/parking situation around Jefferson School was discussed with Findlay City Schools and together came up with the current parking plan. He further stated that we will never find a perfect solution. In speaking with the parking officer regarding the current situation, he stated only thing to do is open parking on Seventh Street as long as there is no parking on the south side. Director Schmelzer spoke with the Superintendent of Findlay City Schools, and he is going to take the suggestion back to their operations people and report back.

Motion to table until additional information is received, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk