

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
April 21, 2014

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer, Police Chief Greg Horne, Fire Chief Tom Lonyo, Councilman Ron Monday.

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Lydia Mihalik, Law Director Don Rasmussen, Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Robert Gillen; Ryan Shoemaker and David Young, Blanchard Valley Health System; Bill Ebersole; Jennifer Cramer.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request to move the No Parking Any Time sign on East Street at the corner of East Street and Lima Street and on both sides of the alley exiting on to East Street between Lincoln Street and Lima Street.

11/18/2013

Visibility is an issue with people parking too close to the eastbound alley. It was suggested to make the alley one way going westbound. Chief Lonyo is against making the alley one way. It was suggested to move parking to the other side of street if there are no fire hydrants.

Motion to table request by Chief Lonyo, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 4-0.

4/21/2014

Motion to lift item from table, by Councilman Monday, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 4-0.

Director Schmelzer is not in favor of making the alley one way. There is currently no parking on the east side of East Street.

Motion to make the west side of East Street from Lincoln Street south to the first alley No Parking Any Time, by Chief Lonyo, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Robert Gillen, 1635 Parkway Drive, to post a stop sign at the alley intersection of the alley north of Meeks Avenue that connects North Main Street and Cory Street for westbound traffic, making the intersection a 3-way stop.

11/18/2013

Stoffel reported that if a stop sign were installed it would be out in the middle and constantly getting hit. The City has experienced this in other areas. Mr. Gillen stated it will possibly slow people down. He has seen drivers go through the stop sign on north south alley. Rasmussen stated it is an issue of enforcement. Mrs. Gillen suggested putting up a speed limit sign.

Director Schmelzer stated that we need to go out and take a look and make sure there is room to place a sign and confirm who owns the property in the area.

Motion to table request until determine the location of the right-of-way in the alley and then determine if a stop sign or speed sign is warranted, by Chief Lonyo, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 4-0.

4/21/2014

Motion to lift item from table, by Councilman Monday, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Gillen reiterated the need for a stop sign at the alley intersection of the alley north of Meeks Avenue that connects North Main Street and Cory Street for westbound traffic. Motion to post a stop sign at the alley intersection of the alley north of Meeks Avenue that connects North Main Street and Cory Street for westbound traffic, making the intersection a 3-way stop if there is sufficient right-of-way for placement, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Lonyo. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Blanchard Valley Health System, South Main Street, to change the parking on West Wallace Street from Chapel Drive west to the end of the West Wallace Street to 30 or 60 minute parking on the north side of West Wallace Street.

Ryan Shoemaker stated that he requests that parking be restricted to 30 or 60 minutes or eliminated altogether on West Wallace Street from Chapel Drive west to the end of West Wallace Street. He prefers that parking be eliminated. There is one private residence on this stretch of West Wallace Street. The remainder of the properties are owned by Blanchard Valley Health System. Shoemaker was not able to reach the property owner of the residence. Shoemaker believes the drivers parking on West Wallace are associates of Blanchard Valley Health System. Director Schmelzer is not in favor of eliminating parking due to the private residence on the street.

Motion to make the north side of West Wallace Street from Chapel Drive west to the end of the West Wallace Street 60 minute parking Monday-Friday 8am-5pm, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Nancy Van Gunten to place additional "Do Not Enter" sign at entrance of Circle Drive at Tiffin Avenue.

Bill Ebersole attended on behalf of Nancy Van Gunten. Ebersole stated that there are numerous drivers that come down Circle Drive the wrong way off of Tiffin Avenue. Chief Lonyo and Director Schmelzer asked why East Circle Drive is one-way. They suggested making it two-way. Councilman Monday stated that this issue came up three or four years ago. He talked with the residents at that time. All the residents were adamantly against making it two-way. Chief Lonyo and Director Schmelzer expressed that they didn't think putting additional signage would help, but are willing to try it. Motion to approve request to place an additional "Do Not Enter" sign at the intersection of Circle Drive and Circle Drive on the east side, by Director Schmelzer, second by Council Monday. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of ODOT to temporarily change speed on Lima Avenue to 25 MPH during

reconstruction of Lima Avenue at State Route 15/State Route 68 interchange.

Director Schmelzer stated that ODOT thoroughly vetted their project in this area and now does not think the reduction in speed limit is necessary. ODOT withdraws their request.

4. Request of Jennifer Cramer, 929 East Main Cross Street, to reduce speed to 25 MPH on East Main Cross from Osborn to beyond Huron Road.

Jennifer Cramer stated that there are drivers that speed around the curve near the Blanchard River dam on East Main Cross Street. She is concerned for safety of those walking in the area. Councilman Monday stated several years ago this request came before the Traffic Commission. At that time it was discussed that East Main Cross Street from Osborn to Bright Road is to be posted 35 MPH because it is over one mile long (1.1 miles long) without having to stop, and East Main Cross Street from Osborn to Blanchard Street is to be posted 25 MPH because it is under one mile long (.9 mile long). Councilman Monday stated this is due to state law. Chief Lonyo stated that there have been numerous accidents with motorists ending up in the river and suggested that East Main Cross from Osborn to Bright Road be made 25 MPH. Director Schmelzer stated that we need to research the law to determine if we can legally lower the speed limit to 25MPH.

Motion to table request by Councilman Monday, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Request of Matt Stoffel, City Public Works Department, for No Overnight Parking and Parking During Park Hours Only signs to be installed at all City parks.

Stoffel stated that there have been numerous cars that have parked in City parks overnight. There are higher incidences at Rawson Park.

Motion to approve request for No Overnight Parking and Parking During Park Hours Only signs to be installed at all City parks, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 4-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on May 19, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk