

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
July 20, 2015

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Police Chief Greg Horne, City Engineer, Brian Thomas, Councilman Ron Monday.

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Don Malarkey, Paul Smith, and Stephanie Griffith, Marathon Petroleum Company; Councilperson Holly Frische; Dennis Hellman.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Mayor Lydia Mihalik for a crosswalk on East Sandusky Street at Hunters Creek Drive.

12/15/2014

Motion to table request, by Director Schmelzer, second by Captain Young. Motion passed 4-0.

07/20/2015

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

Motion to deny request by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Dave Honse, Street Department Supervisor, to implement a snow emergency policy effective beginning Winter 2015/2016 on Beech Street from East Lima Street to Hancock Street.

07/20/2015

Item remains tabled.

3. Request of The University of Findlay, 1000 North Main Street, for a pedestrian activated light across North Main Street from new admissions office to the campus.

07/20/2015

Item remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Police Chief Greg Horne for clarification of location of handicap parking space near 307 Clinton Street.

Stoffel stated that the current location of the handicap parking space is in front of 315 Clinton Street. The gentleman who requested the handicap space lived at this location. Stoffel was informed last week that this gentleman moved.

Motion to remove handicap parking space signage and curb marking at 315 Clinton Street, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Marathon Petroleum Company, LP, to permanently remove 6 parking spaces along South Main Street, directly south of Hardin Street along the east side of the street.

Don Malarkey stated that a green space is being constructed as part of Marathon Petroleum Company's (MPC) expansion project. This green space will be at the southeast corner of Main Street and Hardin Street. This area is meant for a gathering space. To enhance the security, safety, and privacy of this area, the parking spaces along this area are requested to be permanently removed. MPC understands that parking in downtown is a hot issue. MPC is addressing the issue of its employees parking in on street parking spaces by constructing two parking garages that will house all employees. Therefore, employees of MPC will no longer be parking on the street once the second parking garage is completed. The net result is favorable.

Councilman Monday stated that he has received calls from merchants on the west side of South Main Street in the 600 block requesting to not have parking taken away. Councilman Monday stated that he would oppose the request to permanently eliminate parking spaces on Main Street due to this opposition.

Director Schmelzer stated that he feels we are stuck in the middle. He likes the plan but does have some pressure from downtown merchants regarding insufficient downtown parking. Director Schmelzer requested that we examine this request when MPC's second parking garage is complete and parking availability is realized. Malarky stated that the timing of construction is not good to wait. MPC is essentially trading 6 spaces for 1000 spaces with the new garage. MPC patrols the area streets for employees parking on the street. If found, the employee is given two warnings, and then serious action is taken. Latest date that MPC can wait for a decision to move forward is January 1, 2016. Director Schmelzer stated that it is not an unreasonable request. It is a question of timing.

Motion to table request, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Request of David Reddick for additional 35 MPH signs on West Main Cross Street eastbound east of I-75.

Stoffel reported that the speed limit signs in this area are within the required distances, however, there is not a speed limit sign eastbound after I-75 until you get to the cemetery.

Motion to install one 35 MPH sign on West Main Cross Street eastbound just past the I-75 exit, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Request of Allen and Rubye Garner, 242 East Pine Avenue, for a handicap parking space in front of 242 East Pine Avenue.

Chief Eberle spoke with the Garners. They are clearly handicapped and do not get around well. Director Schmelzer inquired if there is off street parking available on the property. It appears that there is room toward the rear of the property for parking. It is preferable that parking be created and maintained on their property versus creating a handicap space on a residential street. If there is no other alternative, an exception may be able to be made.

Motion to deny request due to adequate space available on property to make parking suitable, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 4-1.

5. Request of Joanne Streacker, 8293 Brookfield Drive, for a 3-way stop at the intersection of Lakeview Parkway and Brookview Trail.

Ms. Streacker states that it is difficult to see when pulling out off of Brookview Trail on to Lakeview Parkway. She has seen numerous near misses.

Director Schmelzer stated that there have been no vehicle or pedestrian accidents and one bicycle accident per review of traffic reports at this intersection. There are no sight distance issues at this intersection at 25 MPH speed per Uniform Traffic Code. A stop sign is not warranted per the specifications. Director Schmelzer stated that since this item was added to the agenda during the meeting, additional review is needed.

Motion to table request for further review, Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. 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 August 17, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk