

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
August 17, 2015

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer, Police Chief Greg Horne, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, 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; Joanne Streacker, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kuhlman, Holly Frische, Tom Shindledecker, Bob Nichols.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 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.

08/17/2015

Item remains tabled.

2. 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.

08/17/2015

Item remains tabled.

3. 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.

07/20/2015

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. Malarkey 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.

08/17/2015

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

Director Schmelzer explained that the request is for six parking spaces on the east side of South Main Street directly south of Hardin Street. The seven parking spots south of the aforementioned parking spaces will remain 2-hour parking.

Motion to permanently vacate the first six (6) parking spaces on the east side of South Main Street from Hardin Street south, by Councilman Monday, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 5-0.

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

07/20/2015

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.

8/17/2015

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

Chief Eberle stated that he sat at the intersection and did not see an issue with line of site, however, he can see an issue with motorists travelling at a higher speed than the speed limit. Schmelzer stated that as far as an engineering perspective, there is no need for a stop sign. Schmelzer further stated that he does not agree with installing a stop sign, but is will to consider it to curb speeding behavior. Chief Horne stated that installing stop signs would assist in slowing down traffic.

Motion to change the intersection of Lakeview Parkway and Brookview Trail to a 3-way stop, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 4-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of August Steinbrook, 132 19th Street, to eliminate parking on one side of the street.

A letter was received with all residents of 19th Street signing approving of the request to eliminate parking on one side of the street. When vehicles are parked on both sides of the street, it is difficult for school busses and snow plows to get down the street.

Motion to make the north side of 19th Street No Parking Any Time by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Bob Kuhlman, 500 Fox Run Road, for additional 25 MPH signs on Saratoga off of Bright Road.

Mr. Kuhlman stated that his request is for Fox Run Road and surrounding area streets, not Saratoga. Mr. Kuhlman stated there are no speed limit signs on Fox Run Road, and streets to the south of Saratoga. He stated that there are many motorists who speed throughout this area. He doesn't know if installing speed limit signs will help.

Motion to table request to gather further information on the Fox Run Road and surrounding area street, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Schmelzer. 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 September 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk