

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
September 21, 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; Dave Honse, Street Supervisor; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kuhlman, Holly Frische, Tom Shindledecker.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Paul Schmelzer, Service-Safety Director, to conceptually review making Crawford Street one way and change parking to reverse angle parking.

Memo: Request of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 120 West Sandusky Street, for several of the proposed reverse angle parking spaces directly in front of the church's Crawford Street entrance be designated as handicapped parking spaces and include a curb cut.

3/16/2015

Director Schmelzer presented a conceptual plan to make Crawford Street One Way adding angle parking. This adds 29 parking spaces to Crawford Street. West Crawford Street would become one way going west; parallel parking would remain as it is on the north side; parking on the south side would become reverse angle parking. East Crawford Street would become one way going east; parallel parking would remain as it is on the north side; parking on the south side would become reverse angle parking.

Motion to table for internal review by Police Department, Fire Department, and Hancock County Sheriff's Office by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 3-0.

9/21/2015

Motion to lift item from the table by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0
Frische asked Chief Horne if this will affect the Police Department at all. Chief Horne said it would not. Councilman Monday stated that the Sheriff will only be impacted for a few extra seconds. Director Schmelzer stated that he has heard more discussion about the hardship to the Sheriff's Office from more people than he has heard from Sheriff Heldman himself. Councilman Monday stated that he was originally against the idea but is now okay with the idea since it is for a trial period with a chance to revisit. Motion to make East Crawford Street one-way going east and converting parallel parking on south side of street reverse angle parking and make West Crawford Street one-way going West and converting parallel parking on south side of street reverse angle parking for a trial period not to exceed October 1, 2016, and Traffic Commission review, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

St. Andrew's Church is to follow the same procedure as the past couple years for requesting handicap parking on Crawford Street during church services, complete an All Events Permit Application requesting parking on West Crawford Street from South Cory Street east to the first alley for one year and reapply in subsequent years.

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.

3/16/2015

Honse stated that when cars are parked on the street, it is very difficult to get a small plow truck down the street to plow snow. A fire truck would not be able to get through. This is the narrowest street. There are no snow emergency streets currently in Findlay. Director Schmelzer asked Honse to research how other communities handle snow emergency policies as it relates to parking on the street. Do they handle it by legislation or is it policy. Motion to table request by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 3-0.

9/21/2015

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

Dave Honse, Street Department Supervisor proposes the following Snow Emergency policy:

Make Beech St. from E. Lima St. to Hancock St. "No Parking when Snow Covered", the street is 18' wide and when there is on street parking during snow it is impossible to get any size plow truck through the area.

Make Allen Ave. and Garfield Ave. from Main St. to the dead end at the railroad tracks both "No Parking Over 2" of Snow". Allen Ave. is 26' wide and Garfield is 20', but with them both being dead ends streets it is impossible to plow properly without the trucks have to back down the streets.

Make Clinton St. from Pine Ave. to Walnut St. be made a "No Parking This Side of Street Over 2" on the east side of the road. Clinton St. is 24' wide and with parking on both sides it is impossible to get snow equipment through safely.

Make North and South Main St from Sixth St. to E. Bigelow Ave. both side of the road "No Parking Over 2" of Snow" to be able to properly remove the snow back to the curb.

Make Third Street from Main Street to the deadend at the railroad tracks, south side of the road "No Parking This Side of Street Over 2".

Honse stated the streets requested for Snow Emergency are streets that the snow plow drivers have said are difficult to clear effectively when cars are parked on the street. Rasmussen stated that wording needs to be added to the signs to the effect that vehicles will be towed if parked on the street during a Snow Emergency.

Motion to put Snow Emergency in place effective beginning Winter 2015/2016 in accordance with recommendations from Dave Honse, Street Supervisor, with the modification of making North Main Street from Center Street to Bigelow Avenue and South Main Street from Lima Avenue to Sixth Street "No Parking Over 2" of Snow"; installing signage to indicate "No Parking Over 2" Of Snow" or "No Parking When Snow Covered" as recommended; and adding the "Tow Zone" designation to each sign by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

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.

09/21/2015
Item remains tabled.

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

8/17/2015
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.

9/21/2015
Item remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Ronnie Bowlen for a No Thru Alley sign next to 125 Edith Avenue.

Thomas stated that this alley is vacated. Mr. Bowlen can place his own signage for No Thru Alley, but not in the right-of-way.

Motion to deny request and inform Mr. Bowlen that the alley is vacated and he can place signage on his personal property in any manner he wishes, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Tom Schulz for placement of donated Children at Play and speed limit signs on Oakdale.

Stoffel stated that there are currently two speed limit signs, one on each end of the street. Thomas reported that the Ohio Traffic Code Manual recommends against Children At Play signs stating that there are studies that show that these signs are not effective and that they give children a false sense of security.

Motion to deny request for speed limit signs due to signs already being installed; and deny request for Children At Play signs being placed in the right-of-way; Mr. Schulz can place Children At Play signs on private property and be directed to research from City Engineer Thomas regarding placement of said signage, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Request of Elaine Shellenbarger, 427 Scott Avenue, for speed limit signs on Scott Avenue, one off of Crystal Avenue onto Scott Avenue and one leading from the cul de sac to Crystal Avenue.

Stoffel stated that speed limit signs are generally not posted in residential areas. There are two intersections on Scott Avenue from the cul de sac to Crystal Avenue and motorists travelling on Scott Avenue are required to stop at both intersections.

Motion to deny request to install speed limit signs on Scott Avenue based up the fact that it is residential neighborhood and as a matter of past practice the City does not post, coupled with numerous stops on the route, by Councilman Monday, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Request of Kris DePuy, Seventh Street, for No Parking During School Hours (8:30am-4pm) on the south side of Seventh Street.

Jefferson School changed the student pick up to the Seventh Street side causing a traffic hazard with vehicles parked on both sides of the street during student pick up times. Honsel stated that he was out there this past Friday and there were no vehicles parked on the south side of the street. Schmelzer stated that there needs to be more than one neighbor in favor of the request for No Parking in order to approve the request.

Motion to table request to give time for Ms. DePuy to talk with neighbors to gauge interest in changing Seventh Street to No Parking During School Hours and to talk to Jefferson School about the change in their pick up route, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Horne. 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 October 19, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk

WORK ORDERS

Motion to make East Crawford Street one-way going east and converting parallel parking on south side of street reverse angle parking and make West Crawford Street one-way going West and converting parallel parking on south side of street reverse angle parking for a trial period not to exceed October 1, 2016, and Traffic Commission review, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to put Snow Emergency in place in accordance with recommendations from Dave Honse, Street Superintendent, with the modification of making North Main Street from Center Street to Bigelow Avenue and South Main Street from Lima Avenue to Sixth Street adding signage to indicate "No Parking Over 2" Of Snow" or "No Parking When Snow Covered" adding the "Tow Zone" designation by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.