

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
February 16, 2016

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; Kathy Launder, City Clerk; Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor.

GUESTS PRESENT: Paul Smith, Marathon Petroleum Company; Dan Stone, Van Horn Hoover & Associates; Holly Frische-Council.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 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.

02/16/2016
Item remains tabled.

2. Request for additional signals at Sandusky Street and Main Street.

02/16/2016
Item remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Marathon Petroleum Company to install a crosswalk across East Sandusky Street at Beech.

Smith stated that Marathon employees are using Beech Street to cross East Sandusky Street primarily at lunch and for after hours meetings/events.

Schmelzer stated that the intersection of Beech Street and East Sandusky Street is unsignalized. This request is looked at like a midblock crossing. If a crosswalk was installed, it would give pedestrians a false sense of security. It would definitely need to be signalized. Monday agrees with Schmelzer. Monday is opposed to midblock crossings. This intersection would need to have warning signs or signals. Schmelzer stated that the City's Engineering Department can take a look at vehicle and pedestrian traffic counts at this intersection and compare the results to the criteria in the Midblock Crossing Policy to see if it warrants a crosswalk. Schmelzer questioned as to whether an RRFB signal is permitted at intersections. Schmelzer stated that if the counts meet the midblock crossing requirements, then we will figure out how to signalize it. Stoffel stated that there could potentially be an issue with visibility of the signals due to onstreet parking in the area of the intersection. Stone stated that if you make the crosswalk on the west side of the intersection, there is better visibility for the signals/signs due to no parking in that area.

Motion to table request until Engineering Department can make an examination of the vehicle and pedestrian counts at the intersection of Beech Street and East Sandusky Street against the Midblock Crossing Policy, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed. 5-0.

2. Request of Marathon Petroleum Company to permanently remove the remaining nine parking spaces on South Main Street directly north of East Lincoln Street on the east side.

Schmelzer stated that the City needs to balance the needs of downtown parking if eliminating additional parking spaces. How does it relate to peak hours of downtown business and hotel business? Schmelzer stated that Mayor Mihalik has reservations about granting request. Schmelzer stated that the City has no concerns about the layout of the project and the pedestrian area. Administration's standpoint is very reluctant to give up parking spaces.

Monday asked if the parking spaces in front of the Marathon building will be restored once the parking garage opens. These parking spaces will be restored adding 6-8 parking spaces. Schmelzer stated that right now we don't know the full impact of Marathon's parking garage opening which could take pressure off downtown parking. With the building of the hotel, five parking spaces will be eliminated due to drive access and safety. Smith stated that Marathon's parking garage will be complete by May 2016. The hotel is scheduled to start construction May 2016 with a completion date of September 2017. Schmelzer stated that all the parking spaces will be temporarily blocked during construction through an Event Permit. After construction of the hotel is complete and before restriping parking spaces, wait to see how hotel operates before we permanently remove the parking spaces. Need to make a decision based on how the hotel functions. Motion to deny request, grant an Event Permit for temporary closure of parking spaces during construction, and look at work flow of parking spaces after construction is complete, by Schmelzer, second by Monday. 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 March 21, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk