

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
February 21, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signals Supervisor, Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

OLD BUSINESS

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

5/16/2016

Schmelzer stated that a traffic camera was placed facing one direction at this intersection for peak traffic. It will then be placed facing the other direction at the intersection. Once the data collected from the video is reviewed, it will be brought back to Traffic Commission for consideration. Item remains tabled.

08/15/2016

DeMuth stated that he needs to convert the video files for review. Item remains tabled.

9/19/2016

Item remains tabled.

02/21/2017

Item remains tabled.

2. Request of Fire Chief Josh Eberle to review sight distance at intersection of Beech Street at East Sandusky Street.

10/17/2016

Chief Eberle stated that he had a near miss accident pulling off of Beech Street onto East Sandusky Street. He suggests that we eliminate one parking space on the northeast corner of this intersection to add sight distance to the intersection. A suggestion is to restrict parking during peak hours. Director Schmelzer stated that when Engineering takes a look at the video for this area for the Main and Sandusky Street intersection review, to take notes on traffic volume in the area, and bring back to Traffic Commission for further discussion.

01/23/2017

Thomas stated that he looked at one 12-hour period of time at this intersection. He looked at how often vehicles were parked in the first parking spaces on the north side of East Sandusky Street to the east and west of Beech Street; how many near miss accidents from vehicles turning left and right off of Beech Street onto East Sandusky Street; and number of vehicles passing through the area. Thomas stated that the parking spaces were occupied approximately 85% of the time; there were three to four near miss accidents throughout the 12 hour period from vehicles turning left. Director Schmelzer requested that Thomas review two more days to obtain additional data prior to Traffic Commission making a decision.

02/21/2017

Thomas reported that the Engineering staff watched three more days of traffic at this intersection. During the three days, there were 11 near misses on one day, 4 near misses on the next day, and 5 near misses on the last day watched. Based on this report, at least one parking space should be removed to improve visibility.

Motion to eliminate one parking space at the northeast corner of the intersection of East Sandusky Street and Beech Street to improve sight distance, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Krista Miller, Principal of Jacobs School, to make Jacobs Avenue at North Blanchard Street right turn only.

01/23/2017

It will be tough getting compliance. This will create double the traffic on residential streets. Councilman Monday requested that Acting Chief Young pull accident reports for this intersection. Acting Chief Young will pull crash data and obtain summary of what the police officer who monitors Jacobs School discussed with Principal Miller.

02/21/2017

Captain Young submitted a report by email stating that there have been no crashes in the past three years at the intersection of North Blanchard Street and Jacobs Avenue.

Motion to deny request to make Jacobs Avenue at North Blanchard Street right turn only based on no accidents being reported in the last three years at the intersection of North Blanchard Street and Jacobs Avenue, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Grant Russel to review possibility of eliminating one traffic lane and adding parking on Beech Street between East Main Cross Street and East Sandusky Street.

Director Schmelzer stated that almost every time he turns onto Beech Street there is a delivery truck parked in one of the lanes. Councilman Monday asked how many parking spaces we would gain by eliminating a lane of traffic on Beech Street. Director Schmelzer stated approximately 15 parking spaces could potentially be created. Chief Eberle suggested a loading zone in each block if we move forward with the request to accommodate the delivery trucks.

Motion to table request until Engineering Department can develop a parking plan for Beech Street from East Main Cross Street to East Sandusky Street including one loading zone on the north side of the intersection of Beech Street and East Crawford Street, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Informal request of Councilman Ron Monday on behalf of citizen to review safety of intersection of Osborn Avenue and East Main Cross Street.

Councilman Monday stated that a citizen contacted him regarding a safety concern at the intersection of East Main Cross Street and Osborne Avenue. The citizen is concerned about the number of accidents occurring from motorists turning onto or crossing Osborn Avenue from eastbound East Main Cross Street. It was suggested to divert traffic onto Eastowne Park Row, then to Wedgewood Drive, and then onto Osborn Avenue. Director Schmelzer stated that this would route thru traffic into residential areas. The City cannot route thru traffic into residential areas. Once the bridge is reconstructed this summer, this will be a nonissue. No formal action taken.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on February 21, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk