

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
March 20, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: George Adam Sr.; Brian Bauman

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.

02/21/2017

Item remains tabled.

3/20/2017

Motion to lift from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0. We have been talking about this for awhile. Taken a look at video and stacking that occurs. Thomas put together a concept drawing of what it would look like to add a dedicated turn lane and what the impact would be to parking. It is not fully developed. Idea is to take away some of the sidewalk width that is there to add the turn lane and keep the parking. Can maintain 8 feet of sidewalk on both sides of street by keeping parking. There will be more functional area for pedestrians to move once the tree wells are removed during the Main Street project than there is now.

Motion to table for further discussion, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0.

2. 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.

02/21/2017

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.

03/20/2017

Motion to lift from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0. Talked about putting parking on Beech. Thomas put together exhibit for additional parking on Beech. Can add a total of 15 parking spaces from Main Cross to Sandusky Street on Beech Street. Discussion ensued regarding flow of traffic on Beech Street. Schmelzer asked Thomas to take map and take same parking configuration but move it over to east and west and show the alleys up to Main Street and create pdf and put arrows on it as to which way motorists have to travel as posted now, then email out to commission members for review at next meeting.

Motion to table so that Thomas has a chance to put exhibit together so that if we are going to add parking to beech that we do so after looking at the full traffic pattern in the area, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

Give copy of revised exhibit to larger property owners that abut Beech Street and have them attend the next Traffic Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Hunters Ridge Homeowners Association for permission to mount two 12"x15" signs on existing posts in the right-of-way on the south side of First Street, east of Williams and on the north side of Lippincott Avenue, east of Williams. The signs would read: "Hunters Ridge A Deed Restricted Community. FHRHA."

George Adam Sr. secretary of the Hunters Ridge Homeowners Association stated that they had new homeowners come into the neighborhood and not know that there is a homeowners association that has deed restrictions. Adding these signs would assist in informing new residents.

Schmelzer stated that he is not in favor of adding these types of signs to traffic control signs and in public right of way. If we allowed this, every subdivision would want to add to signage in their subdivision. Schmelzer suggested to post signage on the vacant lots that are yet to be developed. Mr. Adam stated that there are only two lots that are vacant. The bigger problem is with existing homes that are being sold and buyers are not being informed of the deed restrictions in place through the homeowners association. Chief Eberle suggested that the signage be placed in the yard of the first property in the subdivision, not in the public right of way. Schmelzer stated that they would have to follow the zoning requirements for signs. Schmelzer stated the difficulty we have with request is we don't have a way to uniformly apply this type of request. Traditionally requests to piggy back on to public right of way signs has been denied unless it's in the interest of public safety.

Motion to deny request to mount homeowner association signs on existing posts in the right-of-way, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Ken Loch to review the timing of the lights at Sandusky and Blanchard.

Motion to have Tom Demuth, City Traffic Lights Supervisor, review the timing of the traffic signals at Sandusky and Blanchard, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0. Demuth stated that he has reviewed the timing of the traffic signals and will make adjustments as needed.

3. Request of Bakers Acres Association to add speed limit signs on Carlin Street between Lima Avenue and Byal Avenue.

Chief Eberle stated that speed limit signs should be placed especially southbound. Director Schmelzer stated that typically we do not add speed limit signs to residential streets, but given the fact that there will be increased traffic in this area over the next three years with the I-75 construction, it will be a good idea.

Motion to place two 25 MPH speed limit signs on Carlin Street in logical locations along route, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Request of Tom DeMuth to review crosswalk placement at the intersection of Tiffin Avenue and Croy Avenue due to visibility issue on the northwest corner.

Discussion ensued regarding options to alleviate issue. Demuth suggested to delay the green light to allow pedestrian traffic to start across prior to vehicle traffic. Maybe place a No Right Turn on Red sign to help alleviate. Mitigate risk and worth looking at. Last resort is to redo curb and ramp on the other side of the box.

Motion to review the timing of the traffic signal to see if a delay in the green signal for southbound thru traffic can be facilitated in order to create additional visibility for a pedestrian in the crosswalk, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0.

Review results and bring back to Traffic Commission next month.

5. Request of Pat Gaswent, Classic Sign Company, to make Logan Avenue parking on one side of the road only.

When we are making parking restrictions on streets the petitioner needs to get input and approval from the neighbors. The petitioner was informed of this when the request was made.

Motion to deny request and have Mr. Gaswent get signatures of property owners on Logan Avenue that are in favor of the request to restrict parking and bring back to Traffic Commission, by 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 April 17, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk