

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay

April 17, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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 Rustemeyer, Aaron Baxter

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.

04/17/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Thomas, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 4-0.

Thomas stated that there is sufficient sidewalk to be able to scale it back to an 8 foot sidewalk on both sides and remain ADA compliant. This will allow us to add the turn lane and only lose maybe one parking space. This block will be reconstructed this summer as part of the Main Street/Cory Street Project.

Motion to move forward with implementing the plan to add a left turn lane on West Sandusky Street at Main Street with larger parking spaces and adding a designated left turn signal to East Sandusky Street and West Sandusky Street at Main Street traffic signals, by Chief Eberle, second by Lt. Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

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 about Beech Street and have them attend the next Traffic Commission meeting.

04/17/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Thomas, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 4-0.

Need to wait to make a decision until large property owners have been notified and invited to the meeting.

Motion to table request, by Councilman Monday, second by Lt. Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

3. 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.

03/20/2017

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.

04/17/2017

Demuth stated that he changed the timing of the traffic signal, but has not been able to monitor. Will be doing maintenance next month in the area and will be able to monitor to determine if it is helping. Demuth stated they did test the light, and they were able to walk to the second lane of traffic before the green light signaled for motorists.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Jen Fulton for "Wrong Way" signs to be placed on Crawford Street.

Stoffel stated that Crawford Street is overly posted with signs in regards to the one way designation. The one way designation signage is placed at all intersections and alleys. The feasibility of placement of additional signage is difficult.

Motion to deny request for "Wrong Way" signs on Crawford Street due to sufficient existing signage and feasibility of placement of additional signage, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of George Rustemeyer to make Maple Avenue between Fairlawn Place and Pearl Street "No Parking During School Hours".

Mr. Rustemeyer stated that Maple Avenue is a narrow street. People picking children up from the school are parking along Maple Avenue in residents' front yards. There are safety issues with students walking in the street to get to the vehicle. All property owners have signed a petition in favor of making Maple Avenue "No Parking During School Hours".

Motion to make both sides of Maple Avenue between Fairlawn Place and Pearl Street "No Parking Any Time," by Councilman Monday, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Aaron Baxter to make Sherry Street from Pearl Street to Sixth Street one way northbound.

Mr. Baxter stated that Sherry Street is narrow, two cars cannot pass at the same time without going off the road into the yards. It is causing erosion on both sides of the street. Mr. Baxter inquired if the postal route needs to be considered when determining the direction of a one way. Councilman

Monday stated that we need to be assured that the residents on the street are in favor of changing Sherry Street to one way. Mr. Baxter is responsible to obtain signatures of residents in favor of the one way.

Motion to table request until Mr. Baxter obtains signatures of residents in favor of changing Sherry Street to one way, and invite a representative of the US Post Office to address issue of postal route to the next meeting, by Councilman Monday, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Request of Brian Thomas, City Engineer, to review crosswalks at Trenton Avenue and Bolton Street and West Main Cross Street and Liberty Street.

Thomas stated that we are getting ready to do a curb project on West Main Cross and on Trenton Avenue. There are a couple crosswalks that he is requesting be reviewed to determine if they should remain after the curb project is done. Thomas stated that the crosswalk at W. Main Cross St. and Liberty St. crosses four lanes of traffic. May have increased use due to the new Kan Du Art Studio. Lt. Dunbar stated that the Police Department encourages people to cross at crosswalks. Chief Eberle stated that we should have flashing beacons added to this crosswalk. Demuth stated that he can lay the foundation for the flashing beacons, and then we can decide later if we want to install the flashing beacons.

Thomas stated that we have the same issue at Trenton Avenue and Bolton Street. This crosswalk crosses five lanes of traffic. There is a significant distance to the next signalized intersection. Lt. Dunbar stated that he has less objections about removing this crosswalk than the Main Cross/Liberty crosswalk. Thomas stated that he can plan on putting the ramps in and then we can decide if we want to replace the crosswalks at the next meeting.

Motion to prepare curb ramps at the intersections of West Main Cross Street and Liberty Street and Trenton Avenue and Bolton Street, and table the request to review crosswalks and decide if crosswalks should remain and if any signalization is needed, by Chief Eberle, second by Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Request of Brian Thomas to review the existing crosswalk at West Main Cross Street and South Cory Street.

Thomas stated that the existing curb ramps do not meet code on the northwest side of West Main Cross Street and South Cory Street. Suggestion to eliminate the crosswalk on the west side and stripe the east side for a crosswalk.

Motion to eliminate the crosswalk on the west side of the intersection of West Main Cross Street and South Cory Street and remove signals, and stripe the east side of the intersection for a crosswalk, by Chief Eberle, second by Lt. Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on May 15, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk