

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
June 19, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Tom Brown.

OLD 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.

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.

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.

06/19/2017

No action taken.

2. 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.

05/15/2017

No action taken.

6/19/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 5-0.

DeMuth stated that he hasn't been out to the area in a couple weeks. He has talked with pedestrian that had the issue and hasn't had any problems since the change was made. DeMuth does not see an issue at this pedestrian crossing. This matter is closed.

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

04/17/2017

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.

06/19/2017

No action taken.

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

04/17/2017

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.

05/15/2017

No action taken.

6/19/2017

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

Discussion ensued regarding need for signalization. No further action needed.

5. Request of Councilman Ron Monday to review the left turn signalization from Fostoria Avenue onto Tiffin Avenue.

05/15/2017

Councilman Monday stated that a constituent had expressed to him that the directional signage on Fostoria Avenue at Tiffin Avenue is confusing. Discussion ensued regarding the left turn signal activation of the traffic signal. Schmelzer inquired why the hashes on pavement along the island along the eastbound lane are in place? Can it be changed to a lane of traffic to open up the intersection to allow for a dedicated left turn lane?

Motion to table to research history of hashes on pavement, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

06/19/2017

No action taken.

6. Request of Councilman John Harrington to review the traffic pattern around Jefferson School.

5/15/2017

Acting Chief Dunbar stated that he has assigned the Special Assignment Unit to review the traffic pattern around Jefferson School. They are to have their report completed by May 24, 2017, to bring back to Traffic Commission. It is suggested to reach out to Dennis McPherson to attend the next meeting when it is discussed.

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

06/19/2017

Chief Dunbar stated that Sgt. Brian Dill with the Special Assignment Unit reviewed the area for best options for traffic pattern around Jefferson School. He spoke with school personnel as well as the residents in the area. The following are several proposals for consideration:

- A. Remove the No Parking restriction on Seventh Street between S. Main St. and Maple Ave. to allow for additional stacking.
- B. Make Washington Ave. between Sixth St. and Seventh St. No Parking during school hours.
- C. Make Maple Avenue between Seventh Street and Fairlawn Place one-way going southbound allowing two lanes of stacking.
- D. Make Fairlawn Place from Maple Ave. to Washington Ave. No Parking during school hours.
- E. Maple Avenue between Fairlawn Place and Pearl Street has already been made No Parking Any Time on both sides of the street.

Schmelzer requested that Chief Dunbar develop a map with the recommendations and forward to the Superintendent of Findlay City Schools for review. The net benefit of these recommendations is to get cars off of Sixth Street and increase bus maneuverability on Fairlawn Avenue.

Motion to have the Engineering Department create an exhibit to reflect proposals A, B, C, and D from Special Assignment Unit, and forward to Ed Kurt, Superintendent of Findlay City Schools, and Jefferson School Principal for review, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Request of Dan Budke, 719 South Main Street, to permanently remove three parking spaces in front of 719 and 725 South Main Street.

5/15/2017

Dan Budke stated that he owns 719 and 725 South Main Street. He has off street parking available for these two properties. Since Marathon Petroleum Company built the new parking garages, there rarely is anybody parked in the spaces in front of 719 and 725 South Main Street. He stated that these parking spaces can be converted into bump out areas or green space as a welcome corridor to Downtown. Schmelzer stated that the symmetry would not match at both corners of the north side of the intersection.

Motion to grant request of permanent elimination of the first three parking spaces on South Main Street going north on the east side of the intersection of South Main Street and East Lima Street near 719-731 South Main Street, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday.

Discussion: Chief Eberle suggested we look at a conceptual drawing for this area before parking spaces are permanently removed. Schmelzer stated that he has reluctance to create a place for any landscaping due to the low feasibility of installation of an irrigation system for the area. Look at conceptual plan for expanding landscape in area and feasibility of installation of irrigation system. Chief Eberle questioned if the City doesn't move forward with a plan for bump outs or landscaping, will the parking spaces remain?

Director Schmelzer withdrew his motion and Councilman Monday withdrew his second of the motion.

Motion to table request, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

06/15/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

Schmelzer reviewed the area. He understands where Mr. Budke is coming from, but after looking at the overall plan for the Main Street Improvement project, it doesn't fit aesthetically to have a bump out in this parking area. Schmelzer stated that the City receives complaints all the time about parking spaces being removed from downtown. There is no infrastructure in place in the parking area for irrigation system if landscaping was installed in the parking area as an island. Chief Eberle stated there may be an increased need for parking once the hotel opens up.

Motion to deny request to permanently remove three parking spaces in front of 719 and 725 South Main Street, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Tom Brown to add a stop sign on westbound W. Bigelow Avenue at Broad Avenue.

Tom Brown stated that his wife was in a very serious accident at this intersection. He feels that making it a 3-way stop intersection would prevent any further accidents.

Schmelzer stated that given traffic volumes for this intersection, stop signs on W. Bigelow Avenue at Broad Avenue would not be warranted per the Ohio Uniform Traffic Code. Schmelzer suggested that the approach off of Broad to W. Bigelow Avenue be straightened out so that it is a perpendicular viewpoint making it easier to see.

Motion to deny request for a stop sign on westbound W. Bigelow Avenue at Broad Avenue due to insufficient traffic volume; and to approve straightening the approach of the intersection off of Broad Ave. to W. Bigelow Avenue so that it is a perpendicular viewpoint, by Director 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 July 17, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk

WORK ORDERS

Minutes approved by Council July 18, 2017

Motion to straighten the approach of the intersection off of Broad to W. Bigelow Avenue so that it is a perpendicular viewpoint, by Director Schmelzer, second by Monday.
Motion passed 5-0.

ACTION.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.