

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
July 24, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth, Traffic Lights Supervisor; Jeremy Kalb, Engineering Project Manager; Don Rasmussen, Law Director Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: none.

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 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.

06/19/2017

No action taken.

07/24/2017

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

Kalb met with the property owners on Beech Street to gauge their opinion on changing Beech Street to one lane and adding parking. They were not in favor of it. Many of these businesses have deliveries made on Beech Street that tie up a lane of traffic for a period of time while unloading. These property owners would rather see Beech Street be reversed to one way going northbound and the first alley east of Main Street be reversed to one way going southbound. This allows for traffic coming from the parking garage to exit onto East Main Cross Street off of Beech Street rather than East Sandusky Street off of Beech which backs up due to vehicles exiting the Marathon Petroleum parking garage. Councilman Monday stated that he is not necessarily in favor of changing the one way directions. It would be easier for a semi hauling vehicles delivering at LaRiche to turn off of East Main Cross Street onto Beech Street rather than East Crawford Street onto Beech Street. We need to get the opinion of the businesses that are along the alley of changing it to one way. Councilman

Monday stated that before we take action on request for Beech Street parking, we need to have Councilman Russel attend a meeting to discuss why he requested the change.
Motion to table request, by Councilman Monday, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

2. 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.

07/24/2017

No action taken.

3. 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.

07/24/2017

No action taken.

4. 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.

07/24/2017
No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of members of the Tall Timbers Industrial Center to install a speed limit sign on Hamlet Drive.

There are no speed limit signs on Hamlet Drive. Speed limit for this road is 35 MPH. Chief Dunbar stated that enforcement would be easier if there are speed limit signs posted.

Motion to install two speed limit signs in each direction on Hamlet Drive, by Chief Dunbar, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Alison Newtown Mazey, 136 E. Pine Ave., for a "Caution Blind Person" sign be placed on Pine Ave. and Ash Ave. as well as the entrance to the alley that runs along the east side of 136 E. Pine Ave. Also requesting speed bumps be placed in the alley or that the alley be made one way (entrance off Ash Ave., exiting on Pine Ave.) due to excessive speed down the alley.

A "Caution Blind Person" sign does not meet the criteria for a sign in the right-of-way per the Ohio Manual for Uniform Traffic Code. These signs can be purchased by a citizen and installed on his/her personal property not in the right-of-way. The City of Findlay does not allow speed bumps in alleys or streets. Chief Dunbar stated that we could do some targeted enforcement in the area to help deter motorists from speeding in the area.

Motion to deny request for a "Caution Blind Person" sign and speed bumps in the alley, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Neil Allen, 503 W. Sandusky St., for installation of directional "One Way" signs on the southwest telephone pole at Hurd Ave. and W. Sandusky St. to advise east and west traffic on Sandusky St. that Hurd is one way.

Motion to approve request for a "One Way" sign to be placed on the southwest telephone pole at Hurd Ave. and W. Sandusky St., by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Request of Joshua Romaker, 501 N. Blanchard St., for consideration of a pedestrian crosswalk with caution lights or a full fledged lighted intersection to be installed at the intersection of Interstate Drive and Northridge Road.

Foot traffic could increase with the new hotel being built in the area. DeMuth recommends that a crosswalk can be placed on the north side of Interstate Drive and the east side of Northridge Road with appropriate pavement markings and signage. At this time, this intersection would most likely not meet the traffic counts to warrant a traffic signal.

Motion to install crosswalks on the north side of Interstate Drive and the east side of Northridge Road with appropriate pavement markings and signage, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. 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 August 21, 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 August 1, 2017

Motion to install two speed limit signs in each direction on Hamlet Drive, by Chief Dunbar, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to approve request for a "One Way" sign to be placed on the southwest telephone pole at Hurd Ave. and W. Sandusky St., by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to install crosswalks on the north side of Interstate Drive and the east side of Northridge Road with appropriate pavement markings and signage, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

ACTION.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.