

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
August 28, 2017

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

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.

8/28/2017

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

A recap of last meeting was a suggestion to change direction of one way for Beech Street and the alley to the opposite direction. Businesses in the area and in attendance are not in favor of this. Motion to deny request to eliminate a lane of traffic on Beech Street and add parking, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0. Director Schmelzer stated that regarding discussion of changing traffic patterns, he will take comments back to committee for consideration when discussing closing streets for events.

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.

08/28/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Baxter in an email stated that he would not be able to secure the necessary signatures of residents on Sherry Street for his request.

Motion to deny request, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

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.

08/28/2017

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.

08/28/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0. Director Schmelzer reported that Findlay City Schools Superintendent Ed Kurt stated that it is very difficult to make any changes to traffic patterns around schools during the school year. Superintendent Kurt stated that they would continue to monitor the traffic around the school throughout the year and, if necessary, make a change at the beginning of the summer to get resident acclimated and then parents. The Principal of Jefferson School stated that the double stacking on the one way of Maple Avenue is not a safe idea. Will look at periodically throughout school year with school staff and take notes.

Motion to table item and evaluate traffic patterns throughout the school year, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Police Officer Brooks Deidrick to designate the north side of the 200 block of Lime Street as "No Parking Any Time."

Motion to approve request to designate the north side of the 200 block of Lime Street as "No Parking Any Time," by Chief Eberle, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Dean McNash, 2640 Foxfire Lane, to review the intersections of County Road 236 and Foxtail Drive/Lakeview Parkway and County Road 236 and Heatherwood to see if anything can be done to make it easier for pedestrians to cross over County Road 236.

In a survey of about 80-90 respondents from the area, most believed there was a safety hazard for those wanting to cross County Road 236 either by bicycle or by foot. The main concern is the speed of traffic of motorists on County Road 236. A suggestion from the residents to help with speed was to post a sign that shows the speed that the motorist is currently travelling. Further suggestions were adding a traffic signal or a roundabout. Director Schmelzer stated that a roundabout would not fit in the current right-of-way, but will check out. Adding traffic signals would be based on traffic counts. Director Schmelzer stated that County Road 236 was planned for heavy use. Improvements will be made to the road over the next several years including resurfacing and adding a continuous turn lane and a multipurpose path. Director Schmelzer stated that the Police Department can do some targeted enforcement on County Road 236 to maintain appropriate speed of motorists traveling the road.

3. Request of Service Director/Acting City Engineer Brian Thomas to review parking designations on Queenswood Drive between Londonderry Drive and Sutton Place.

Director Thomas stated that the south side of Queenswood Drive between Londonderry Drive and Sutton Place is designated as "No Parking Fire Lane." It appears that the designation is incorrect due to the fire hydrants being located on the north side of Queenswood Drive in this area. Director Schmelzer stated that before this designation change will be considered, we need to have buy in from the residents on the street.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on September 18, 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 September 19, 2017

Motion to approve request to designate the north side of the 200 block of Lime Street as "No Parking Any Time," by Chief Eberle, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 4-0.

Install "No Parking Any Time" signs on the north side of the 200 block of Lime Street.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.