

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
August 20, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Lydia Mihalik; Don Rasmussen, Law Director; Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth Traffic Signal Supervisor; Jeremy Kalb, Engineering Department; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Jill Wagner.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Tom DeMuth, City of Findlay Traffic Signal Supervisor, to review the crosswalk signalization across Lima Avenue at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company leading from their corporate offices to their parking lot due to ailing equipment needing repaired or replaced.

4/16/2018

DeMuth stated that the traffic signal equipment at Cooper Tire was installed in 1993. The hardware is wearing out and it is outdated equipment. In lieu of spending money to update the light, DeMuth suggested that it be converted to a regular crosswalk like West Main Cross Street. Schmelzer stated that an RFB similar to West Main Cross Street is no longer recognized under the Uniform Traffic Code. DeMuth stated that if it is not a federal or state highway, should be able to use the RFB. Not a traffic control device just an enhancement. Option A is to just stripe a sign the crosswalk. Option B is to install a HAWK device or overhead light. Option C is to replace the existing. Schmelzer stated the cost of this type of device is born by the entity that needs it. Cooper Tire needs to pay for a HAWK system or traffic signal or we will put back to a crosswalk. DeMuth stated that they will not be happy with a HAWK system. Schmelzer stated that he will talk with Cooper Tire about cost of traffic signal after DeMuth gets actual costs.

08/20/2018

Schmelzer forwarded to Cooper and has not heard back.

2. Request of Michael Chiarelli, Kan Du Group located at 17728 County Road 99, Findlay, for a traffic signal facing north at Speedway Drive to allow motorists to safely be able to turn left (east) from their facility as well as Flashover Sports.

4/16/2018

Chiarelli stated that the Kan Du Group is the former Blanchard Valley Industries and moved to a County Road 99 location. It serves adults with disabilities. There will be 45-50 adults on location at a time. There is a concern of the safety of turning left out of the drive onto CR 99. A traffic signal would allow a safer turn. The entrance to the facility will be moved to line up with the existing traffic signal.

Schmelzer stated that usually the organization requesting an additional traffic signal would be responsible for the cost to purchase and install the signal. There may be grants or government funds available to cover the cost. Having a traffic signal there may spark additional development. Cost to install a new signal would be approximately \$15,000 if have to purchase all equipment. Schmelzer stated that if the owner moves the drive the City would pay for the signal. Chiarelli stated that the owner is aware that they would have to move the entrance.

Motion to table request pending further discussion regarding combining the driveways, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

06/18/2018

No new information.

8/20/2018

Schmelzer met with property owner. Doubt we will do anything there very soon. Keep on the agenda.

3. 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.

Schmelzer stated that a map was put together based on Police Department recommendation to the school. Have not heard back from Superintendent Ed Kurt or Dennis McPherson.

Motion to lift off table, by Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussed plan.

- A. Remove parking restriction on school days south side of Seventh Street east of the first north/south alley
- B. Make a no parking zone on Washington Ave. between Sixth St. and Seventh St.
- C. Change Maple Ave. from Seventh to Fairlawn to a one way in southbound direction to create a row of parking on the west side and bypass lane on the east side
- D. No parking on Fairlawn

Modify map per discussions for next meeting. Will then give to Findlay City Schools to have them review recommendations.

Motion to table, by Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Jill Wagner to make the southeast area of the River parking lot free public parking.

Jill Wagner stated that there is a sign in the parking lot by the pedestrian bridge along the Blanchard River that states "2 Hour Parking". There are no other signs in this parking lot stating that it is 2 hour parking. Ms. Wagner would like the City to remove this sign to make this parking lot free parking from the concrete structure to the pedestrian bridge.

Sherman House had leased these parking spaces at one time with signage designating it as Sherman House parking. Once the Sherman House signs were removed, the 2 Hour Parking signs were not put back up. Schmelzer stated that signage should be consistent with other City parking lots. We should have put 2 hour signs back up. Chief Eberle stated that overgrown brush and trees need to be cleaned up along the parking lot as well. Schmelzer stated that the City will do some maintenance to clean up the area around the parking lot, will remove all old signage, and install appropriate 2 Hour Parking signs, and make sure that the parking lot is being patrolled.

2. Request of Jeremy Kalb, Engineering Department, to change the first alley east of Main Street from E. Main Cross St. to E. Crawford St. to one way southbound.

The request to change the direction of the alley to one way south is so that access to the parking garage can be maintained when East Crawford Street is closed for events. This request was made by a business owner. Chief Eberle suggested that we contact the other business owners in the area to get their opinion.

Motion to table, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Request of Jeremy Kalb, Engineering Department, to remove the on street parking spaces on the south side of E. Lincoln Street from S. Main St. to Beech Street.

Thomas stated that the on street parking spaces were temporarily removed during the construction of the Hancock Hotel. The church called and said that they don't need the spaces for their activities. Schmelzer stated that these parking spaces will be utilized by visitors to Downtown.

Motion to deny request to remove parking spaces on the south side of E. Lincoln Street from S. Main St. to Beech Street and to reinstall the parking spaces, by Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Request forward from Brian Thomas, Acting City Engineer, to add a stop sign on Fairmont Drive at Beechmont Drive.

Thomas stated that this request came from a resident in the area. The resident is concerned about speeding on Fairmont. The City does not install stop signs to regulate speed. The Police Department will do some targeted enforcement in the area.

Motion to deny request for a four-way stop on Fairmont Drive at Beechmont Drive, by Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Request of We Serve Coffee to restrict trucks in first alley east of Main Street from E. Sandusky Street to E. Crawford Street.

Building appurtenances are being damaged by trucks going through the alley. Deliveries are made to restaurants, Bistro on Main and Legends, using this alley.

Put up bollard?

Should

Motion to not place restrictions on truck traffic in alley, by Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Request by phone of Rick Armstrong to add a left turn signal at the traffic light at Sixth Street and South Blanchard Street heading eastbound.

Thomas stated that the City is currently discussing adding a left turn lane on Sixth Street in both directions at South Blanchard Street. He received the survey and is trying to figure out how to make it work. Sixth Street will need to be widened to add a left turn lane. Survey will show if there is existing right-of-way that can be used. Haven't reviewed the survey fully yet.

No action taken.

7. Request of Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor, to review the need for traffic signals at the intersection of N. Main St. and Clinton Court.

DeMuth stated that the traffic signal at the intersection of N. Main St. and Clinton Court is due to be replaced/upgraded. DeMuth asked if the traffic signal is still needed. Cost for the replacement/upgrade is approximately \$100,000. He stated the current signals will be good for another 5 years. Schmelzer stated that if the north side of river is developed, the traffic signal would definitely be needed. Schmelzer stated that we should hold off on this discussion until plans for development of the north side of the river are completed. If the traffic signals start to fail, then bring back for discussion.

No action taken.

8. Request of Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor, to review the east side crosswalk across Tiffin Avenue at Croy Drive

DeMuth stated that the wheelchair ramp was not installed by ODOT, but they striped it for a crosswalk, but no signals added. Ramps are at the curve, not dedicated. Crosswalk marking is thermoplastic, would have to ground out. Signs should be larger and lowered.

Move to peel plastic, by Schmelzer, second by Thomas

Stripe were mistakenly placed and currently signed as part of ODOT project to not cross there, that's why we are removing the crosswalk to match the original intent of the project.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on September 17, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk