

# TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay  
February 19, 2019

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Service Director/Acting City Engineer Brian Thomas, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Police Chief John Dunbar, Councilman Jim Slough.

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Treece  
Councilman Grant Russel, Councilwoman Holly Frische.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 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.

8/20/2018

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

11/19/2018

No new information

2/19/2019

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

Flashover Sports has closed so the traffic flow is considerably less. The back building is being used by Kan Du Group. Director Thomas recommends that in the interest of cleaning up the agenda that we deny the request, and Kan Du Group can bring the request back to the Traffic Commission in the future if needed.

Motion to deny request for a traffic signal facing north at Speedway Drive, by Director Thomas, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request to consider removing traffic signal at Lake Cascades and Western Avenue.

9/17/2018

This item has been briefly discussed before. The traffic signal at the intersection of Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway is failing. The cabinet and controller is also failing. Thomas stated that traffic counts did not meet warrant for traffic signal to remain. Engineering Department recommends to remove traffic signal and install stop signs on Lake Cascades Parkway. Western Avenue traffic will not stop. There are currently no sight issues. This may change if the southwest corner is developed. Chief Dunbar stated some concerns with the curve from Lake Cascades Parkway onto Western Avenue remaining a Yield. He proposes to eliminate the curve. Another suggestion was to replace the Yield with a Stop Sign. It is proposed to have Western Avenue as a thru street, have traffic on Lake Cascades Parkway stop at Western Avenue, keep yield sign at curve. Flash for two weeks on yellow for Western Avenue, red for Lake Cascades Parkway, then bag the traffic signals. If there are no concerns after this period, then come back for official determination of removing traffic signals. Motion to table and bring back to the Traffic Commission after review of the traffic pattern of the yield sign at the curve, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

10/15/2018

The traffic count in this area showed that there is not much traffic. Need to look at traffic that uses the right turn curve with the yield sign.

11/19/2018

No new information

2/19/2019

Motion to lift from table by Director Thomas, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

Make more sense to leave the continuous turn with a yield. Chief Eberle looked same as merging on highway. Traffic count does not warrant a traffic signal.

Motion to remove traffic signal at Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway, install stop sign on Lake Cascades Parkway at Western Avenue; Western Avenue would be a through street, keep yield sign at the continuous curve from Lake Cascades onto Western Avenue, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Councilwoman Holly Frische to look at the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Deer Ridge Drive and East Melrose Avenue.

9/17/2018

Thomas stated that the last traffic count done was in 2015. The average daily total did not meet the warrant for a traffic signal. With the new apartments going in on the north side of Melrose Avenue, there will be an increase in traffic. Deer Ridge is a private drive. A new signal will cost approximately \$150,000. Recommend get current traffic counts after the apartments are built and occupied. Motion to table until traffic counts are obtained, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

11/19/2018

Traffic counters have not been placed yet.

2/19/2019

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

Director Thomas stated that we can't put stakes down for the traffic counters in the winter season and he wasn't able to get the traffic count done before winter. The drive into Deer Ridge and into the new housing development across Melrose will not line up.

Motion to have Engineering Department look at traffic counts when available and bring back to Traffic Commission for consideration, by Director Thomas, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Holly Rucker, 1610 Autumn Drive, for a "No Outlet" sign on Autumn Drive at Cranberry East.

Autumn Drive is a dead end street. There should have been a temporary turn around built when the area was developed, which would have eliminated people turning around in Ms. Rucker's driveway.

Motion to approve request for a "No Outlet" sign on Autumn Drive at Cranberry East, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of David Adams, AME Mason Church, to change the parking on the west side of Liberty Street from Lima Avenue to W. Lima Street to allow for parking on Saturday mornings.

AME Mason Church have made a request for several years through the event permit process to request parking be allowed on the west side of Liberty Street on Saturday mornings for their Saturday morning activities.

There is currently parking permitted on Sundays and holidays on the west side of Liberty Street.

Motion to change parking restriction on the west side of Liberty Street from Lima Avenue to W. Lima Street to allow parking on Saturdays as well as the current allowance of Sundays and holidays, by Councilman Slough, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request to revert East Crawford Street back to two-way traffic from Main Street to East Street.

Mast arms for traffic signals have been removed. It would cost approximately \$125,000 for whole intersection. Received letters from business owners on East Crawford Street opposed to reverting East Crawford Street back to two-way traffic. Councilman Russel stated that Downtown Findlay Improvement District (DFID) is very much opposed to reverting it back as well.

Motion to deny request to revert East Crawford Street back to two-way traffic from Main Street to East Street, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Referral from City Council: Letter from Jack Winans, We Serve. Coffee, regarding a the 15 minute parking spaces on East Sandusky Street asking that they be evaluated in the future to determine their effectiveness.

Councilman Russel posted to Facebook about the new 15 minute parking spaces and mentioned We Serve. Coffee, not knowing that We Serve. Coffee was not in favor of the 15 minute spaces. There were some disparaging comments resulting from the post and Mr. Winans did not want to be associated with these disparaging comments which prompted his letter to City Council. Councilman Russel has since had conversations with Mr. Winans. He does not wish to revert the 15 minute parking spaces back to 2 hour parking spaces. He sees the benefit to some of the businesses, not necessarily his business. He is willing to give the spaces a try if it will assist in downtown parking. The point of his letter was not to request a change back. Councilman Russel requests that the Traffic Commission take no action on the letter, except to say that it was sent, received, and discussed. The business owners of Jack B's and Buggy Whip Bakery have been very positive and favorable. The residential tenants of the area are less satisfied. Everyone Councilman Russel speaks with requests enforcement of parking whether it is the 15 minute parking spaces or the 2 hour parking spaces.

Motion to take no action, by Director Thomas, second by Councilman Slough. 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 March 18, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder  
City Clerk