

# TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay  
March 18, 2019

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mayor Christina Muryn, Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Don Rasmussen, Law Director; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Judy Brenner and Jeremy Philips; Holly Frische, City Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request of Judy Brenner to allow street legal golf carts to be driven on the street in the downtown area.

Judy Brenner stated that she would like to start a golf cart shuttle downtown. The shuttle would run during lunch hours and during the evening. She stated it would be a free service. The advertising on the cart would pay for the service. They will have six passenger golf carts that are street legal. They will not stop on Main Street. They will pick up and drop off passengers on side streets only. Will eventually have an app for pick up requests. Until the app is up and running, the drivers will circle around and have folks wave them down. Also, they will have business cards with phone number and word of mouth for folks to call when need picked up.

Director Schmelzer stated that there is no ordinance that needs to be passed to operate a golf cart in the downtown area. The City and State already have laws in place that allow street legal golf carts to operate on City streets. Director Rasmussen stated that as long as the golf carts are street legal, they can travel on streets with 25 mile per hour speed limit. Director Schmelzer stated that there is no action that the Traffic Commission needs to take for this request.

Director Schmelzer stated that a taxi business license is required and all drivers will need to get a taxi driver license which includes a background check.

Director Schmelzer stated that we need to check with the Zoning Department for the regulations on a changing mobile digital billboard. Ads change every 10 seconds. Signs are on the sides of the golf cart, not front or back.

The shuttle is a good idea. Suggest reach out to Downtown Findlay Improvement District to help coordinate and spread the word, Marathon Center for the Performing Arts, etc. regarding events. Also, may be helpful for downtown employees parking at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts to utilize.

2. Request of Councilwoman Holly Frische to install 35 MPH sign heading north on Harrison Street at the corporation limit.

Councilwoman Frische stated that residents in the West Park area expressed concerns with motorists speeding on County Road 144. Councilwoman Frische stated that she met with Hancock County Engineer who stated that the traffic counts do not warrant a speed limit

lower than 55 MPH on County Road 144. Speed limit signs are not required on county roads, and the Hancock County Engineer will not approve one to be placed.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the City could put up a 35 MPH speed limit sign at the corporation limits heading north out of the corporation limits. Councilwoman Frische stated the goal is to reduce the rate of speed on County Road 144. Hancock County can't change the speed limit. She stated it has been a concern for about a year largely due to the ODOT construction.

Director Schmelzer stated that if the issue is volume not speed, we can't do anything about it. The construction is scheduled to be done at the end of 2019.

Chief Dunbar stated that he will have his department do some targeted enforcement on Harrison Street. Also have a conversation with the Hancock County Sheriff to be made aware of potential speed issue.

Director Schmelzer stated that the City cannot install a sign telling someone something that is not legally correct which is what we will be doing if a 35 MPH sign is placed at the City limits leading out of the City limits. We will have folks complaining that the City put up a sign that is not correct.

ODOT is not going to do anything during construction to change posted speed. Councilwoman Frische wants Director Schmelzer to contact ODOT to have them change the speed limit on County Road 144 temporarily because of the construction traffic for the rest of the year. Director Schmelzer stated he will contact ODOT to see if they can temporarily place a construction zone north of Harrison on County Road 144 and will copy Hancock County Engineer Doug Cade on emails.

3. Request of Jill Wagner, to remove the stop signs in the east/west alley between 109 E. Lincoln St. and 719 S. Main Street.

Motion to approve request to remove stop signs in the east/west alley between 109 E. Lincoln St. and 719 S. Main St., by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. 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 April 15, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder  
City Clerk