

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
June 17, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: John Harrington, City Council; David Owens, Mallett Enterprises; Tom Drake; James Koehler; Dan Stone, Van Horn Hoover Associates; Del Nichols; Marilyn Young; Mrs. Strzmpka; Katie Mercer; Grant Russel, City Council.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 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 McPheron 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.

6/17/2019

Director Schmelzer stated that he does have additional information from Dennis McPheron at Findlay City schools and will be following up with him. He will bring back the recommendations at the next meeting. Councilman Harrington mentioned that the only thing he would change with the recommendations listed is extend the one-way on Maple from Seventh to Pearl.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of David Owens, Mallett Enterprises: proposal to make the first n/s alley to the east of Main Street between Main Cross and Crawford two-way from Main Cross to the intersecting e/w alley; change the remaining portion of the n/s alley to one-way southbound from the e/w alley south to Crawford.

Director Schmelzer recused himself from the discussion on New Business Item 1.

Chief Eberle feels this is a good compromise. Mayor Muryrn stated that it would be safer for pedestrians walking in the alley.

Motion to approve request to make the first n/s alley to the east of Main Street between Main Cross and Crawford two-way from Main Cross to the intersecting e/w alley; change the remaining portion of the n/s alley to one-way southbound from the e/w alley south to Crawford, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Jon Fleegle to designate one parking space for loading zone at 221 Broadway.

By request of Jon Fleegle, this item has been pulled from the agenda.

3. Request of Blanchard Housing Partners and Krystal Ridge, Inc., to make the intersection of Bishop Lane and Sheridan Avenue a 3-way stop.

City Planning Commission recommended to make the intersection of Bishop Lane and Sheridan Avenue a 3-way stop.

Motion to make the intersection of Bishop Lane and Sheridan a 3-way stop as recommended by City Planning Commission, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Request of Blanchard Housing Partners and Krystal Ridge, Inc., to make the north side of the newly extended Bishop Lane "No Parking Any Time" immediately in front of the apartment development.

City Planning Commission recommended to make the newly extended Bishop Lane "No Parking Any Time" immediately in front of the apartment development. Director Schmelzer stated that it makes sense since the apartment development should not need that area for parking.

Motion to approve request to make the newly extended Bishop Lane "No Parking Any Time" immediately in front of the apartment development as recommended by City Planning Commission, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Request of Del Nichols, 1210 South Street, to make Williams Street one way going south from E. Sandusky St. to the end of Williams Street.

Mr. Nichols stated that there are semi trucks that travel back and forth on Williams Street which is not wide enough for two semi trucks to pass. The semi trucks then travel off the roadway into residents' yards causing ruts and holes and a muddy mess in the yards of the property owners. Mr. Nichols stated that he talked with the Street Department who stated that they could not widen the road. Mr. Nichols does not have a preference which direction you make the one-way. Director Schmelzer stated that utilities can be moved to widen the street if needed. Director Schmelzer stated that we will pull the survey information for the right-of-way and contact property owners to gauge their interest in making Williams Street one-way.

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

6. Request to review adding speed hump on Lima Street and Putnam Street.

Director Schmelzer stated that this item will be split into three separate requests:

6a. Request of Christopher Strzempka for speed bumps on East Lima Street and request for stop signs at the intersections of East Lima Street and Beech Street and East Lima Street and East Street, making these intersections 3-way stops.

Mrs. Strzempka attended the meeting on behalf of Christopher. She stated that last year, a traffic study was to be done in the area regarding the amount of vehicles and the speed of the vehicles. Marathon traffic has become worse with speeding. Mrs. Strzempka stated that the stop sign request for E. Lima and East St. would not be feasible. She withdraws that request. Director Schmelzer stated that a traffic study would steer away from installing stop signs. The traffic counts would not support the addition of a stop sign. Director Schmelzer stated that the City does not put up stop signs to control speed. He stated we need to observe what the traffic looks like during the peak times. Don't think we need traffic counts. Just need steady observation by Police Department and/or Police Chief or Director Schmelzer just to see

what it looks like. Director Schmelzer stated that he initiated conversation about speed humps in one particular location to control the speed of very large trucks. The City is not in favor of putting speed humps on residential streets.

Mrs. Strzempka mentioned that there are several stops signs on West Lima Street, but there are no stop signs on East Lima Street.

Action item: develop plan between Director Schmelzer and Chief Dunbar to see what traffic looks like in the AM and PM peak times and Director Schmelzer will follow up with Mrs. Strzempka.

Mayor Muryn stated that she will reach out to Marathon to remind their employees to be good community stewards, obeying all traffic laws.

Motion to table pending investigation by Police Department and Safety Director, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

6b. Request of Cassie Miller of 1121 Putnam Street to request speed bumps on Putnam Street due to high rates of speed.

As Director Schmelzer stated in 6a. the City does not want to start introducing speed bumps into residential streets. Only large speed humps for dump trucks to control speed. Will investigate to see if we have a real issue with speed that cannot be addressed with enforcement.

Motion to deny request for speed bumps on Putnam Street, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

6c. Speed humps on Lima Street

Director Schmelzer stated that he would like to see speed humps for West Lima Street west of Western Avenue. Dump trucks going in and out have a high rate of speed. Mainly hauling in and out of National Lime & Stone. These speed humps are removable. They will not be in place during the winter months. Question if the street sweeper will be able to go over the speed humps without damaging equipment. Parties involved also working on issue of speed. Hope the speed humps will help mitigate the issues in the area that the City has to address. If the other parties come up with a solution that mitigates the issues, then the City will not take any action. Director Schmelzer requested Public Works Superintendent Matt Stoffel to check out the speed humps and make sure that the street sweeper can clear it along with any other concerns.

Motion to install two sets of speed humps across West Lima Street west of Western Avenue pending clearance of street sweeper, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Request of Katie Mercer to change parking restriction on Broadway to allow parking starting at 5am.

Ms. Mercer stated that when she signed the lease for her business location on Broadway, she didn't realize there was a parking restriction of No Parking between 1am-6am. She offers a yoga class starting at 5:30am and at 6am. She is requesting that the parking restriction be made from 1am-5am. Director Schmelzer stated that we are willing to try changing the parking restriction from 1am-5am. The City certainly reserves the right to revisit if there is something that comes up that we are not aware of that the change of parking restriction negatively affects.

Motion to change the parking restriction on Broadway from No Parking between 1am-6am to No Parking Between 1am-5am, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

8. Request to review pedestrian safety downtown Findlay.

Councilman Grant Russel stated that a resident that was struck in a crosswalk recently downtown approached him with ideas to make downtown streets safer for pedestrians. A suggestion is to make all intersections in Downtown Findlay "No Turn on Red." Also, installing left turn lights on all traffic lights Downtown. DeMuth stated that plans are already in place for traffic light upgrades which will include left turn lights on all intersections that have left turn lanes in Downtown. Director Schmelzer stated that we can look at the Capital Plan, and in the interest of pedestrian safety downtown, we can move the request

for signal upgrades up on the list to have them completed sooner.

Discussion regarding "No Turn on Red" during certain hours. Have not done research on other downtowns or how this affect the Uniform Traffic code. Used to be No Turn on Red prior to 2003. Director Schmelzer stated that it makes sense for special hours. May back up traffic. What do we want to do in the interest of pedestrian safety. See what introduction to no turn on red would make on stacking. Maybe not on Main Cross and Sandusky intersections, but all other intersections in downtown have the "No Turn On Red" designation. Have DGL take a look at. Demuth stated that if you can't see to turn right on red without entering into the crosswalk to see to turn, then it should be "No Turn On Red." Director Schmelzer stated this should be part of the criteria along with stacking. Director Schmelzer requested the Engineering Department to do a study on the intersections with the criteria and come back with a list of intersections and a map to determine where we want to introduce the No Turn On Red. If we don't have anything conclusive, then look at engaging DGL. Director Thomas will contact DGL for a cost to do the study, if needed.

Motion to review the Capital Plan as it relates to the traffic signal upgrades in Downtown to determine if those projects can be moved up in the schedule; have Engineering Department study each Main Street intersection in the Downtown using the two criteria for right turn on red: 1. Do you have to encroach into the crosswalk to make a decision as to whether or not it safe to move forward in your vehicle, and 2. Stacking, then bring it back for further discussion, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. 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 July 15, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk