

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
July 15, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Jill Wagner, Wasbro Rental Property.

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.

7/15/2019

Remains tabled.

2. 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.

6/17/2019

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.

7/15/2019

Remains tabled.

3. 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.

6/17/2019

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 stop signs on West Lima Street, but there are no stop signs on East Lima Street. Mayor Muryn stated that she will reach out to Marathon to remind their employees to be good community stewards, obeying all traffic laws.

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.

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

7/15/2019

Remains tabled. Police Department has completed its data gathering and submitted to Safety Director Paul Schmelzer for review.

4. Request to review pedestrian safety downtown Findlay.

6/17/2019

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.

7/15/2019

Remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Jill Wagner, Wasbro Rental Property and The Sherman House, to change the direction of the one-way on Taylor Street from northbound to southbound.

Ms. Wagner stated that they own rental property at 229 Center Street. When taking potential renters to this location to show the rental, they have to go past 210 Taylor Street. When renters see this property, they don't even want to stop to see the rental property at 229 Center Street because they do not want to

live near 210 Taylor Street. Ms. Wagner also inquired as to why Taylor Street is one-way northbound. It is very difficult and dangerous to turn left on to and travel across Center Street. Making Taylor Street one-way going southbound might make it safer. Director Rasmussen stated that we have a couple open court cases on 210 Taylor Street regarding the condition of the property. Director Thomas stated that we will need to have consensus from the property owners on Taylor Street to change the one-way direction. Chief Eberle stated that we may want to delay any changes until a plan for the development of the 100 block of North Main Street is completed. It may change the look of the neighborhood. Chief Dunbar inquired how changing the direction of the one-way would affect Salvation Army. Ms. Wagner stated that she will talk with the property owners on Taylor Street for their thoughts on changing the one-way direction of Taylor Street from northbound to southbound. Once she has talked with the property owners, she will bring it back to Traffic Commission.

Motion to table item, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Request of Thomas Trutt, 300 W. Lincoln St., for a solution to prevent parked cars from being struck in front of his property, such as a bump out style curb, signage or painted road lines.

Chief Eberle suggested to mark the parking spaces in front of Lincoln School as a box, similar to what has been done W. Main Cross St. and move the stop bar over to align with the edge of the street in the 300 block of W. Lincoln St. to help direct motorists.

Motion to mark the parking spaces in front of Lincoln School as a box, similar to what has been done W. Main Cross St. and move the stop bar over to align with the edge of the street in the 300 block of W. Lincoln St., by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Request of Mary Dunn, Encompass Engineers, to make the intersection of South East Street and East Crawford Street a three-way stop.

Making this intersection a three-way stop will back up traffic. Chief Dunbar does not recall a lot of accidents at this intersection.

Motion to deny request due to traffic stacking concerns, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Request of John DePuy, 3430 Crosshill Drive, to make the west side of Crosshill Drive from Hillshafer Drive north to dead end of Crosshill Drive.

Concerns about vehicles parking in front of his mailbox as well as concerns about emergency vehicles being able to access his home.

Move to table to obtain other property owners' approval, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar, Motion passed 3-0.

5. Request of Simona PMC, 2040 Industrial Drive, to make the intersection of Industrial Drive and Production Drive a three-way stop.

Stop signs are not for speed control, and with distance between Bright Road and that intersection it is not likely to help the situation.

Motion to deny request by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on August 19, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk