

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
September 16, 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; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Sonja Huffman and Lori Ulm, Center Street Block Watch; Lindsay Summit; Hancock Public Health.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 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.

8/19/2019

Motion to lift from table by Director Thomas, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 5-0.

Director Thomas stated that they looked at the intersections downtown, looked at which intersections if you stop at the stop bar you can see and which ones you can't when you turn right. Director Thomas will be checking on pricing with DGL to do a model regarding stacking with data relative to traffic counts that we collected for the Downtown project, provide level of service projections for those intersections if those movements are restricted.

Motion to table request, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 5-0.

9/16/2019

Remains tabled.

2. 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.

7/15/2019

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.

8/19/2019
Remains tabled.

9/16/2019
Remains tabled.

3. 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.

7/15/2019
Concerns about vehicles parking in front of his mailbox as well as concerns about emergency vehicles being able to access his home.
Motion to table request until signatures of property owners approving the change can be obtained, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar, Motion passed 3-0.

8/19/2019
Remains tabled.

4. Request of Cathy Weygandt, 204 Greenlawn Avenue, for a traffic signal at Sixth Street and Washington Avenue due to concerns of pedestrian and cyclist trying to cross over Sixth Street.

8/19/2019
Lee Weygandt stated that it is difficult and dangerous to cross Sixth Street at Washington Avenue. Suggests installing a signal similar to the one at South Main Street and Baldwin Street, a traffic tripped light and a button to push for pedestrians. Some children cross there to get to Jefferson School. Would like a study done. Director Thomas stated that there are crosswalks there but no signal. Schmelzer wants to differentiate between how long you have to wait to cross a busy road and something we would put in place to actuate to stop traffic. Would take a look at adding a midblock crossing with signalization if a significant number of students cross there to get to Jefferson School. Would like to see what the changes look like around Jefferson School before making a decision. Will be doing additional monitoring in the area due to changes we are making around Jefferson School and will monitor this area as well.
Motion to table request pending additional investigation and analysis of the proposed changes of traffic patterns around Jefferson School, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

9/16/2019
Remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Tori to make one side of Breckinridge Road and one side of Crystal Lane No Parking Any Time due to difficulty travelling through when vehicles are parked on both sides of the road.

Chief Eberle stated that when he travelled down Breckinridge Road and Crystal Lane there weren't very many cars parked on the street to cause a concern. Director Thomas stated that as with any request to eliminate parking on one side of a street, the requestor will need to obtain signatures of 75% of the residents on Breckinridge Road and Crystal Lane who are in favor of making one side of both roads "No Parking Any Time" before moving forward with a decision.

Motion to table request until sufficient signatures are obtained by requestor, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Request of Sonja Huffman, Center Street Block Watch, for Block Watch signs be installed in the 700-800 blocks of Center Street.

Ms. Huffman stated that they have had a block watch for Center Street area for about two years. Stoffel stated that Officer Brian White usually just gets with him to have signs put up.

Motion to defer to Officer White and Matt Stoffel for location of placement of signs, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion 3-0.

3. Request of Sonja Huffman, Center Street Block Watch, to make the intersection of Center Street and Carnahan Street a four-way stop.

Ms. Huffman stated that Findlay is growing and more people are going to Riverside Park. There are also more activities going on at Riverside Park than there used to be. Ms. Huffman stated that members of the block watch approve the intersection Center Street and Carnahan Street becoming a four-way stop.

Director Thomas stated that the City does not install stop signs for speed control. Traffic warrants need to meet requirements for an intersection to become a four-way stop.

Motion to obtain traffic counts for Center Street and bring back to Traffic Commission for consideration of a four-way stop at Center Street and Carnahan Street, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Request of Sonja Huffman, Center Street Block Watch, to install "Slow Children At Play" signs in the alley between the 800 blocks of Center Street and Cherry Street.

Slow Children At Play signs are not an approved sign for the right-of-way per the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. These signs may be placed on private property. The City does not provide these signs.

Motion to deny request for "Slow Children At Play" signs, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Request of Chad Richards, to add a crosswalk across 18th Street at Pershing Street.

There is no ramp on the south side of 18th Street at Pershing Street. The nearest existing crosswalk is 150 feet. Pedestrians would be walking through a line of parked cars if a crosswalk were installed at this location. It would be very dangerous for pedestrians, giving a false sense of security. The safer option would be to cross at the existing crosswalk at Main Street.

Motion to deny request to add a crosswalk across 18th Street at Pershing Street due to safety reasons, by Chief Eberle, second by Thomas. Motion passed 3-0.

6. Request of Chad Richards, to add a turn lane at Flowers Avenue at 18th Street.

Adding a left turn lane on Flowers Avenue at 18th Street would not make it safer. Adding a stop sign at that intersection would make it safer than adding a turn lane. Chief Dunbar stated that he can place an unmarked vehicle in the area to monitor traffic patterns during drop off and pick up of students

Motion to table request to look at the traffic patterns in the area to determine a solution, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 3-0.

7. Request of Hancock Public Health to install signs on Bright Road at Melrose Avenue northbound and southbound directing citizens to Hancock Public Health's new location.

Lindsay Summit, Hancock Public Health, stated that Hancock Public Health recently moved locations. She is requesting directional signage ("Health Department" with an arrow) be placed on Bright Road at Melrose Avenue.

Motion to approve request of directional signage one each to be placed facing northbound and southbound on Bright Road at Melrose Avenue, 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 October 21, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk