

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
December 16, 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: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Stefan Adams, Glenwood Middle School; Alex Parker, WFIN/WKXA.

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.

12/16/2019

Remains tabled.

2. 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.

11/18/2019

Remains tabled.

12/16/2019

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

We have requested that the individual making the request supply to the Traffic Commission some support for the request before we start restricting parking in people's neighborhood that affects their property. Director Schmelzer stated that in the absence of this information that he is inclined to deny the request. Mr. DePuy has been informed that he needed to supply this information. Motion to deny request due to Mr. DePuy not supplying requested information of support by property owners of the requested change in parking restrictions, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

3. 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.

10/21/2019

Director Schmelzer requested Chief Dunbar to place the camera trailer near the intersection of Washington Avenue and Sixth Street to monitor the number of cars and pedestrians at this intersection, and bring back results.

11/18/2019

Remains tabled.

12/16/2019

Chief Dunbar stated that the camera trailer has been set at the intersection of Sixth Street and Washington Street to monitor pedestrian and bicycle traffic traveling Washington Street across Sixth Street. The trailer has not been up long enough to gather sufficient information. Will have a report at next month's meeting. Item remains tabled.

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

9/16/2019

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.

10/21/2019

Director Thomas stated that there is some merit to activity of summer vs. non summer traffic. Traffic counts will be taken as soon as able to do so.

12/16/2019

Remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Sharie Warren, Glenwood Middle School teacher, to change the hours of the No Turn on Red restriction at the intersections of Trenton Avenue and North Main Street and Trenton Avenue and North Blanchard Street 6am to 9:30am and 2:30pm-4:30pm.

Motion to support the modification of signage to be based on an update of times from schools for when kids come and go and determination by the Safety Director around some uniformity for the signage, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. 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 TUESDAY, January 21, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk

WORK ORDERS

Minutes approved by Council on

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.