

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 8, 2015

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Ken Elwin, City Engineer

Committee Members: Stan Murdock, Director of Public Works-Operations

Bill King, Planning Manager Designee

Jeff Horta, Fire Chief Designee

Absent: Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of July 14, 2015

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Stan Murdock Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

Clerk's Note: Staff recommendation approved.

E. REPORTS

1. Committee Member Reports

(At this time, it is appropriate for any Committee Member to give an informational report of any work completed, training, or other item to share with other members. Please be brief, and no action may be taken on these items.)

None.

F. BUSINESS

1. No Parking Zones Along East Alexander Avenue Bounded by G Street and Oleander Avenue

(Red curb is installed adjacent to the driveway entrances of 241, 506, 634, 712, 730, and 756 East Alexander Avenue. It has been brought to staff's attention that the no parking zones were installed by City staff, but were not included in the Merced Municipal Code [MMC]. Action is required to update the MMC to reflect the no parking zones.)

Committee Member KING requested clarification on correspondence received from Steve Lyon regarding opposition to the existing red curb across from Burbank School.

After a brief discussion, Committee Members agreed the no parking zones should remain.

MOTION: To approve the existing no parking zones along East Alexander Avenue.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to include the no parking zones.

Stan Murdock Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

2. Request #15-017 – Request for Alteration of Turning Lanes at the Intersection of G Street and Olive Avenue (Robert Simons)
(Citizen requests the striping and light cycles be altered on Olive Avenue at the G Street intersection to allow the east and west bound traffic on Olive Avenue to utilize the existing left turning lane and the adjacent lane for left turns onto G Street.)

Committee Member MURDOCK and Chairperson ELWIN clarified the request and discussed the conflict in movement and agreed additional research into the intersection would be necessary.

MOTION: To table the item to a future Traffic Committee meeting pending additional research by staff.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Stan Murdock Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

3. Request #15-018 - Request for Police Enforcement or Installation of Speed Bumps Along McCombs Drive (Tom Reta)
(Citizen requests police presence or the Installation of Speed Bumps along McCombs Drive due to vehicles speeding through the neighborhood.)

Citizen TOM RETA explained the previously installed 25 MPH signs have not helped the speeding issue in the area and requested possibly a speed trailer as a deterrent.

Chairperson ELWIN suggested the issue be discussed with the Chief of Police, as the Police representative was not at the meeting.

Committee Member MURDOCK informed Mr. Reta that the City does not have any functioning speed/radar trailers at the moment.

MOTION: To deny the request for speed bumps and refer to the Police Department for the availability of additional patrol to perform speed checks.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Stan Murdock Moved, Bill King Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

4. Request #15-019 - Request for Removal of 2-Hour Parking Limit or Issuance of Parking Permits for Designated Spaces at the Mondo Building Parking Lot (Manuel Alvarado)
(Sierra Health Foundation Employee requests removal of two-hour parking limit in the parking lot located behind the Mondo Building on Main Street due to employees of the surrounding businesses parking on the street to avoid the two-hour limit, taking away from customer parking.)

Citizen MANUEL ALVARADO detailed his concerns on parking issues in Downtown Merced, requesting the 2-hour parking limit be removed.

Chairperson ELWIN stated a meeting with the Downtown Association on the proposed parking changes would be necessary to remain consistent with past practice, and that the effort would be referred to the Economic Development Department for coordination.

MOTION: To refer the item to the Downtown Association to make an official recommendation to the Traffic Committee.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Bill King Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

5. Request #15-020 – Request for Two Handicap Parking Spaces and Three 30-Minute Parking Spaces on K Street at Main Street (Cliff Caton)
(Property owner requests the on-street parking on the east side of K Street at Main Street be converted to two handicap parking spaces and three thirty-minute parking spaces to better serve the customers at Valley Health Center and Medical Supply.)

Chairperson ELWIN detailed the location of existing handicap parking spaces and the required sidewalk changes necessary to accommodate the request. Mr. ELWIN also stated the item should be referred to the Downtown Association prior to a Traffic Committee decision.

MOTION: To refer the item to the Downtown Association to make an official recommendation to the Traffic Committee.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Stan Murdock Moved, Bill King Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

6. Request #15-021 – Request for Temporary Construction Only Parking on Portions of Barclay, Beckman, and Tolman Ways and Permanent Two-Hour Parking Zones on a Portion of Barclay Way (Lennar Homes)
(Developer requests temporary restricted parking during the construction of new homes, as well as permanent two-hour parking between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM after the homes on Barclay are built.)

Lennar Land Development Manager BILL WALLS and Attorney MIKE SLATER detailed their request, describing the parking issues due to the UC Merced Bus Pick-up / Drop-off location.

Chairperson ELWIN asked for clarification on the location of the model homes and reiterated that temporary construction only parking is handled through the encroachment permit process. It was also clarified that the 2-hour parking zones would be removed after the model homes are sold.

Committee Member MURDOCK questioned the use of “permanent”, citing the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. It was clarified permanent was not part of Lennar’s request.

Committee Member KING stated the broader issue is that the UC Merced Bus Stop locations determine the area of concern. Mr. KING questioned why Lennar’s request included both sides of the street, as the development was only happening on one side. Mr. SLATER insisted both sides were necessary to alleviate the traffic issues and to ensure UC Merced would move their bus stop location.

The Committee discussed disclosure to the owners purchasing the newly constructed homes regarding the future removal of the 2-hour parking zones. Lennar’s representatives agreed that Lennar would notify the City when the model homes were sold.

MOTION: To approve the 2-hour parking zones, with the stipulation that (1) the timed zones would be removed after the sale of the model homes and that (2) Lennar would provide a disclosure regarding the future removal of the 2-hour parking to the homeowners.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approve amending the current ordinance to add the two-hour parking zones on a portion of Barclay Way.

Stan Murdock Moved, Bill King Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

7. Request #15-022 – Request for Pavement Markers Along the Crosswalk at the Intersection of R Street and Loughborough Drive (Elizabeth Lopez)
(Citizen requests pavement markers to assist persons with a visual impairment disability in crossing the intersection of R Street and Loughborough, as well as other intersections throughout Merced.)

Citizen ELIZABETH LOPEZ was present and described her concerns with the crosswalk at Loughborough Drive.

Chairperson ELWIN described the recent improvements made at the Southeast and Southwest corners, which included the installation of truncated domes.

Ms. LOPEZ suggested the City work with Mobility Specialist Tara Brown-Ogilvie of the Helen Keller National Center as a possible resource. Chairperson ELWIN agreed to speak with the mobility specialist, as well as research other options for the intersection internally.

MOTION: To continue the item to a future Traffic Committee meeting, pending additional research by staff.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Bill King Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

8. Request #15-024 – Request for Four-Way Stop at Olivewood Drive and Meadows Avenue (Planning Commission)
(Planning Commission requests a four-way stop at the intersection of Olivewood Drive and Meadows Avenue due to changes in traffic volumes with the addition of a proposed tire store at 1204 W. Olive Avenue.)

Committee Member KING clarified the request was a separate motion made by the Planning Commission due to their concerns about traffic volumes and that their recommendation was not a condition of approval for the proposed tire store.

Chairperson ELWIN informed the Committee that 7 accidents occurred at the intersection within the last 5 years, which did not meet the minimum traffic warrants for installation of stop signs.

Committee Member MURDOCK suggested the intersection be looked at in the future as there is no current issue.

MOTION: To deny the request for a four-way stop.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Stan Murdock Moved, Jeff Horta Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Stan Murdock, Bill King, Jeff Horta

Absent: Jacob Struble

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.

By:



Jamie Cruz
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Approved:



Ken Elwin
City Engineer/Chairperson