

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 10, 2016

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Ken Elwin, Interim City Engineer
Committee Members: Shawn Henry, Fire Chief
Juan Olmos, Director of Public Works Designee
Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

Absent: Julie Nelson, Planning Manager Designee

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of March 8, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Shawn Henry Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

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.

2. Parking Enforcement at the Fire Hydrant Located on West 15th Street near Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

(Two-month follow up of effectiveness of Police Department enforcing parking regulations at the requested location. This request was previously heard at the March 8, 2016 Traffic Committee meeting.)

Committee Member STRUBLE reported there have been no calls or complaints received by the Police Department and that he personally has not observed any vehicles blocking the fire hydrant during periodic visits.

Committee Member HENRY also affirmed that the Fire Department has not received any additional calls or complaints for this location.

F. BUSINESS

1. Request #15-022 – Request for Alteration of the Crosswalk at Loughborough Avenue and R Street (Elizabeth Lopez)

(Citizen is requesting the crosswalk be changed to a brick in-lay to better accommodate visually impaired individuals crossing the intersection. This request was previously heard at the September 8, 2015 Traffic Committee Meeting.)

Citizen ELIZABETH LOPEZ was present and explained her request was for a “landmark” along the crosswalk to assist visually impaired individuals; her preferred landmark would be a brick in-lay along the entire crosswalk.

Chairperson ELWIN informed Ms. Lopez that the brick in-lays are purely aesthetic and not designed as an ADA device. Mr. ELWIN stated the City could possibly re-stripe the crosswalk with a thicker thermoplastic material that would have a slight raised edge.

Committee Member OLMOS stated the last re-striping of the intersection was approximately 5 years ago and that the current fiscal year budget would not support a re-striping project.

Chairperson ELWIN stated the intersection re-striping could be added to the maintenance list for the upcoming FY 2016/2017 budget and would be completed sometime after the beginning of the Fiscal Year in July 2016.

MOTION: To add restriping of the crosswalk with thermoplastic material to the FY 16/17 maintenance list.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Juan Olmos Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

2. Request #16-011 – Request for Speed Bumps along Ironstone Drive (Adam Saxon)
(Citizen is requesting speed bump(s) along Ironstone Drive due to vehicles speeding through the neighborhood.)

Citizen ADAM SAXON was present and described his concerns of vehicles excessively speeding at approximately 45-50 MPH.

Committee Member HENRY suggested the Police Department speed trailer as a possible deterrent for a short-term solution and research into a different type of traffic calming device that would allow the Fire Department to not be impeded when responding to calls for service.

Chairperson ELWIN stated a larger area would need to be surveyed for support of the traffic calming device, and once Mr. SAXON completes the survey it would be reconsidered at a future Traffic Committee meeting. The survey area was defined as all property owners along Ironstone Drive, Round Hill Drive, Tudal Avenue, Mondavi Avenue, Sattui Court, and Talbott Court.

MOTION: To continue the item, pending a survey of the defined neighborhood area; addition of speed limit signs along Ironstone Drive; and requesting the Police Department to perform traffic enforcement in the area.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Ken Elwin Moved, Jacob Struble Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

***Clerks Note:* This item was re-ordered at the meeting to be heard last per the request of Mr. Adam Saxon.

3. Request #16-012 – Request for No Parking Zone along a Portion of Loughborough Drive (Erik Ekizian)
(Citizen is requesting a no parking zone adjacent to the driveway entrance near 900 Loughborough Drive due to vehicles blocking the line of site for drivers making a westbound turn onto Loughborough Drive from the driveway.)

Citizen ERIK EKIZIAN explained his concerns with a van that continually blocks the line of site for vehicles turning westbound onto Loughborough Drive from the Mall Parking Lot near 900 Loughborough Drive.

Committee Member STRUBLE stated the Police Department often receives calls for vehicle accidents at the location and suggested a 20 foot no parking zone. Chairperson ELWIN and Committee Member HENRY agreed a 20 foot no parking zone would be appropriate.

MOTION: To approve a 20 foot no parking zone along the requested portion of Loughborough Drive.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to add the No Parking Zone along Loughborough Drive.

Shawn Henry Moved, Jacob Struble Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

4. Request #16-013 – Request for No Parking Zone along a Portion of Kibby Road (Carl Brown)
(City of Merced Water Department employee is requesting a no parking zone at a City water sample collection point due to semi-trucks blocking access to the site, creating an unsafe situation for employees during sample collection.)

Committee Member OLMOS stated there were already some sections painted red along Kibby Road. Chairperson ELWIN explained that City Water crews were having difficulty finding a safe place to park near the City's water collection site due to semi-trucks parking along the area, and suggested a 20 foot no parking zone.

MOTION: To approve a 20 foot no parking zone along the requested portion of Kibby Road.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to add the No Parking Zone along Kibby Road.

Juan Olmos Moved, Shawn Henry Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

5. Request #16-014 – Request for Residential Permit Parking Zone along a Portion of Beals Avenue (Randy Starkweather)
(Citizen is requesting a residential permit parking zone on a portion of Beals Avenue, directly across from Merced College, due to various issues including parking congestion, loitering, garbage, loud music, and jaywalking.)

Citizen STEVE BANDA was present and spoke on behalf of Mr. Starkweather who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. BANDA explained the various issues the neighborhood faced due to their proximity to Merced College, including illegal drug use.

Committee Member STRUBLE explained that it is not against the law at this time to smoke marijuana in public if the citizen has a medical marijuana card; therefore even if the Police are able to respond quick enough to catch them in the act, they would not be able to prohibit them from smoking.

Committee Member STRUBLE went on to state the entire neighborhood (bounded by M Street to Beals Court and Yosemite Avenue to just south of Spalding Court) should be considered for the Residential No Parking Zone. Mr. STRUBLE stated if the committee were to approve only the requested section, it would probably result in the next street over experiencing similar issues.

Mr. BANDA questioned whether they could still proceed with the original request if they are unable to garner support from the larger defined area. The Committee affirmed they would re-consider the request at a future meeting, but the survey would still need to be completed prior to their consideration.

MOTION: To continue the item, pending a survey of the defined neighborhood area.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Jacob Struble Moved, Ken Elwin Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

6. Request #16-015 – Request for No Parking Zone along a Portion of Parsons Avenue (Joel Svendsen)

(City of Merced Engineering Department employee is requesting a no parking zone along a portion of Parsons Avenue, south of Childs Avenue, due to the anticipated additional traffic generated from a proposed 3-story hotel development.)

Chairperson ELWIN described the location of the proposed development, including the required re-striping of Parsons Avenue to accommodate the anticipated traffic flow. Mr. ELWIN explained the parking would need to be eliminated to accommodate the bicycle lane and the width of the traffic lanes.

MOTION: To approve the no parking zone along the requested portion of Parsons Avenue.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to add the No Parking Zone along Parsons Avenue.

Shawn Henry Moved, Juan Olmos Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

7. Request #16-016 – Request for Alteration of Loading Zone along a Portion of East 20th Street (Greg Spicer / Lori Slaven)

(Charles Wright Elementary School is requesting the “Loading Only 9 AM to 5 PM” sign be altered to “Loading Only 7 AM to 4 PM” due to parents parking in the zone during the peak hours of 7:50-8:30 AM.)

Merced City School District Employee MATT ADAMS explained the school’s request to alter the designated time of the loading zone to better accommodate the “safety patrol” system they were planning on implementing at the adjacent crosswalk.

Chairperson ELWIN and Committee Member OLMOS agreed the Merced Municipal Code would need to be updated to reflect the designated time change and a new sign would need to be posted.

Mr. ADAMS stated the school would inform parents of the change in the loading zone time to alleviate any confusion from the change.

MOTION: To approve the request to change the freight and passenger loading zone along East 20th Street to the designated hours of 7 AM to 4 PM.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to change the freight and passenger loading zone along East 20th Street to the designated hours of 7 AM to 4 PM.

Ken Elwin Moved, Jacob Struble Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Ken Elwin, Shawn Henry, Juan Olmos, Jacob Struble

Absent: Julie Nelson

B. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm.

By:



Jamie Cruz
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Approved:



Ken Elwin
Interim City Engineer/Chairperson