

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 13, 2016

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Theron Roschen, City Engineer
Committee Members: Jeff Horta, Fire Chief Designee
Julie Nelson, Planning Manager Designee
Juan Olmos, Director of Public Works Designee

Absent: Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of July 12, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Julie Nelson Moved, Juan Olmos Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Jeff Horta, Juan Olmos, Julie Nelson

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. Request #15-019 - Request for Removal of 2-Hour Parking Limit at the Mondo Building Parking Lot / Parking Lot 1A (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 Main Street to avoid the two-hour limit, taking away from customer parking. This item was previously heard at the September 8, 2015 meeting.)

The Committee briefly discussed the request and acknowledged the Main Street Association's support of the parking change. The Committee was in agreement the changes were appropriate.

MOTION: To approve removing the two hour parking limit in Parking Lot 1A.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to reflect the removal of the two hour parking limit.

Julie Nelson Moved, Theron Roschen Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Jeff Horta, Juan Olmos, Julie Nelson

Absent: Jacob Struble

2. Request #15-020 – Request for Two Handicap 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 to better serve the customers at Valley Health Center and Medical Supply. This item was previously heard at the September 8, 2015 meeting.)

Development Associate KAREN BAKER stated she had spoken with the various downtown businesses, and the Theatre was a proponent of the parking change, as well as the Main Street Association.

Committee Member OLMOS commented on the location of the existing angled parking on K Street, stating it would be preferable to have consistency along Main Street by adding the on-street handicap space directly in front of the business. Mr. OLMOS also questioned the funding source for the necessary curb changes, stating Public Works – Streets budget does not have money set aside for such requests.

Chairperson ROSCHEN stated the handicap parking would have a much broader use than solely for the requesting business and would benefit all the businesses within the vicinity. Mr. ROSCHEN went on to say that funding could be decided later, possibly by City Council, and that he was in favor of approving the addition of the handicap parking.

Committee Members HORTA and NELSON both commented they were in agreement that the handicap parking would be beneficial. Committee Member OLMOS stated he could not support the change due to the lack of funding, as well as the location of the spaces fronting K Street rather than Main Street.

Chairperson ROSCHEN also stated he would investigate the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and current available funding levels. In addition, Mr. ROSCHEN stated he would look into adding the location to the transition plan and priorities would be assessed.

MOTION: To approve the request for two on-street handicap parking spaces on the east side of K Street just north of Main Street.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Approves amending the current ordinance to reflect the addition of the on-street handicap spaces.

Theron Roschen Moved, Julie Nelson Seconded

Vote: 3-1

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Jeff Horta, Julie Nelson

Voting No: Juan Olmos

Absent: Jacob Struble

3. 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. This item was previously heard at the May 10, 2016 meeting.)

Citizen RANDY STARKWEATHER was present and reiterated his concerns with the parking issues, as well as explained he was unable to garner support from the extended neighborhood that the Traffic Committee previously requested he survey.

Chairperson ROSCHEN speculated the college students park on Beals Avenue out of convenience for its proximity to the College, and that the extended neighborhood may not be impacted since it would no longer be convenient for the students.

The Committee discussed the location, and concluded the easterly mid-block portion of Spalding Court between Wathen Avenue and Beals Avenue should be included in the Residential Permit Parking Zone due to its proximity.

MOTION: To approve the residential permit parking zone along the requested portion of Beals Avenue, with the addition of Spalding Court mid-block from Wathen Avenue extending to Beals Avenue.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: A Public Hearing must be held to consider the approval of the Residential Permit Parking Zone.

Julie Nelson Moved, Jeff Horta Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Jeff Horta, Juan Olmos, Julie Nelson

Absent: Jacob Struble

4. Request #16-021 – Request for Alignment Warning Sign on Saratoga Court (Jon Hawthorne)
(Citizen is requesting the addition of a left turn arrow at the 90 degree bend of Saratoga Court due to their concern of vehicles crashing into their residence.)

Chairperson ROSCHEN stated the nature of this request, and future similar requests, should be under the purview of the City Engineer and do not need Traffic Committee action. The Committee was in agreement that the item should be referred to the City Engineer.

MOTION: To approve referring the item to the City Engineer for his determination and response to the requesting party.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Julie Nelson Moved, Juan Olmos Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Jeff Horta, Juan Olmos, Julie Nelson

Absent: Jacob Struble

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.

By:



Jamie Cruz
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Approved:



Theron Roschen
City Engineer/Chairperson