



**Department of Public Works
Eric W. Larson – City Engineer**

Karen Tingle-Sames, Mayor

City Council Members

Alan Gibson
Don Hawkins
David Lusby
Kelly McEuen

Larry Prather
Mark Showalter
Connie Tackett
Chad Wallace

June 29, 2009

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Karen Tingle-Sames

FROM: Eric W. Larson, City Engineer; Acting Chairman – Traffic Committee

RE: Minutes and Recommendations – Traffic Committee Meeting July 28, 2009

--

Present: Eric Larson, Brian Shorkey, Scott Jarvis, Terry Thomas.

- 1) Resignation of Alan Gibson, City Council – Eric noted Alan will no longer be participating due to his resignation. The Mayor will be appointing a new CC member to the Committee soon.
- 2) Election of Chairman – The Committee recommended that this decision be postponed due to small showing of members and the pending appointment of a new member.
- 3) Minutes of June 16, 2009 approved. – Shorkey made motion, Jarvis seconded – committee approved.
- 4) No guests were present.

New Business

- 5) 806 Pocahontas – on street parking restriction request
Eric reported to the committee that this citizen was requesting no parking on one side of the street due to poor emergency access. She claimed EMS had trouble assessing site during a recent call. Duane Lee reported to Eric that the paramedics that responded did not report any trouble getting to the house nor did the resident complain about any delay in responding. Due to the pending decision on the Parkside Subdivision parking request and the creation of a City wide parking policy, the committee recommended to table any action on this until Parkside is resolved.
- 6) West Jackson – No Parking on street
Brain reported to the committee that during a recent Board of Adjustments meeting discussing the Steve Watson building and the pending Mike's donut business, the BOA members expressed concern that the Donut shop will generate more traffic than the parking lot can handle and that people may begin parking on the street without having the adequate room. They have asked the Committee to discuss the issue. Eric stated that he agrees on street parking would be a problem. The section of street is very short and only wide enough for two lanes of traffic. Across Jackson from this site is a business with rear parking and a wide apron entrance that if parked in, would block traffic in and out of the parking lot. In addition,



the ground slope from the Watson building foundation down to the pavement is very steep and goes right up to the edge of pavement, making it impossible to get partially off the road. The entrance is built in the right location but due to past intersection widening efforts, the pavement is on the private property lot and if parked in, would block the intersection with US 25. The building also has a back entrance that if blocked, would prohibit deliveries to the site. In summary, there is no place to park on the street without blocking a lane of traffic. There are only four properties adjacent to West Jackson and all have off street parking available to them. Eric made a motion to post No Parking on Both sides of the street on West Jackson. Terry Thomas seconded. Committee approved.

- 7) No other new business was discussed.

Old Business

- 8) Winner's Circle No Parking revisited
At the last meeting, the Committee asked Eric to confirm the signage was adequate and installed correctly. Eric confirmed it is. No further action was taken.
- 9) Radar Traffic Counter Purchase
Eric reported to the Committee the results of his research into this type of Traffic Calming tool purchase. Eric states the City has budgeted \$24,500.00 for Traffic Calming for the Fiscal Year. One item the group might recommend to the Mayor for purchase is a Radar Traffic Counter. This device is mounted discreetly on a utility pole and measures speeds, volumes, and vehicle class (type) without the obvious speed trailer and flashing speed sign. It was would useful in studying speed and cut through complaints without skewing results with the Calming effect of the trailer. These units operate on battery power and use software and PDA/Laptop interfaces to download data. The first unit and software package costs \$4,390 with additional units costing \$3,400 since the software would already been purchased. Eric also noted that this particular company was having a sale, but not sure if it was still going on. The sale was on older tube counters that had been refurbished. While older technology, they still used software the laptop downloads and tube laid on the roads. They also can collect speed, volume, and class data. A set of four of these would be very useful in intersection counts to justify 4 way stop signage or traffic signal justification. At \$495 each plus software (no cost if we bought the radar unit), Eric said this was a real bargain. In a past job, Eric had used tube counters like these and knows their capabilities well and how to use them. The Committee agreed that the Police Chief should review the counter information and be a part of the decision to recommend or not, therefore the item was tabled.
- 10) LED Sign Purchase
Eric reported to the Committee the results of his research into this type of Traffic Calming tool purchase. Eric states the City has budgeted \$24,500.00 for Traffic Calming for the Fiscal Year. One item the group might recommend to the Mayor for purchase is LED lighted Stop signs. These signs have solar panel power and light the sign border to add emphasis and make the sign more visible. They could be used in a high accident location. Eric reported that getting utility poles and electrical service set for KU power is actually more expensive than the solar packs. Each sign with solar pack is \$1,350. Options, such as pre-programmed timers to program certain times of day rather than 24/7 use are \$800, cellular controllers to program remotely are \$1,100, and motion sensors to activate only when a car approaches are \$5,000. Eric noted these would be a set of 2 or 4 depending on the intersection and only set after the Police and the Committee determined the intersection has a history of problems and these signs are needed. The Committee agreed that the Police Chief should review the counter information and be a part of the decision to recommend or not, therefore the item was tabled.
- 11) Flashing Beacons for Crosswalks and School Zone Purchase
Eric reported to the Committee the results of his research into this type of Traffic Calming tool purchase. The request for this device was made by St. Johns School for the school zone on Military St. These beacons are mounted above and below the School Zone sign and flash alternating. Newer technology is solar powered and has a cellular controller that allows programming the lights for different times and days

and special events by internet. Again, it is cheaper than traditional pre-programmed controllers with electrical power. For each location, two sets of lights would be needed to cover both directions. The first set, the primary set, has the controller and costs \$4,025. The second set, the slave, is only \$2,775 because it connects by radio to the primary only. If, for example, you installed a second set on Main St., then each set would only be the slave price. Eric Has discussed this cost with the Principal and the Father of the Church and told them the City can not do this but if the Church funded them, then Public Works could help with installation and training to use. Then, in the next few years when the Church plans to move out to US 460 East of Town, the City would be willing to relocate the beacons for them and reinstall, since they would be property of the Church. Eric has not received any word back from the Church on this. No further action was taken.

- 12) Main St. speeding at Military and East Main Extended intersection
Eric noted that during the previous discussion with the Church, safety on Main St. was discussed. The Church intends to contact the Police about manned presence there on Sundays due to speeding and safety concerns. Eric has told the Church that the Committee has discussed the issue previously and referred it to KyTC for review. No further action was taken.
- 13) Traffic Calming Program
Eric noted his opinion that the draft of a program manual be put on hold until we can get resolution of the Parkside issue and come up with a community wide solution. Committee took no action on this item.
- 14) Parkside Subdivision
Eric reported that the Mayor has not yet given a recommendation back to the Committee on the No Parking request. She has requested Eric and Scott Jarvis meet her on site to discuss the idea of posting No Parking on the intersection corners and at Fire Hydrants only, not the entire inner loop. No further action was taken.
- 15) Bradford Subdivision No Parking Sign Consistency
Eric reported he had inventoried all the No Parking signs in Bradford. Unfortunately, only 11 of the 66 signs in the subdivision have the “No Parking this side of Street” language. Most of the signs say “No Parking Anytime” and are posted midblock and not visible along the entire block. Therefore most of those signs would have to be removed and replaced and supplemented with at least one more sign per street. There are also several streets with no signage at all. Eric plans to prepare a map and plan to determine the exact number but assuming replacement of 50 signs and adding another 50, at approximately \$50 each, the cost for materials is about \$5,000. No further action was taken.
- 16) On Street Parking Policy
Scott Jarvis reported to the Committee that he has been in contact with several surrounding communities, including Lexington, to discuss this On Street Parking issue. Apparently Georgetown is ahead of everyone simply in the fact we now require parking restrictions on new subdivision streets and have them noted on the plats and signed from the beginning. No other community has even addressed that or the existing streets like Georgetown is currently doing.
- 17) No other Old Business was discussed.
- 18) 118 Hemingway – Request for a Deaf Child at Play sign (Not discussed in meeting but noted for the record)
Eric reports that the Mayor has decided to not follow the Committee recommendation concerning this sign request. Research by multiple professional organizations, states, and FHWA suggests these signs are ineffective at reducing speeds or pedestrian/vehicle accidents, give the parent and child a false sense of security, and tend to apply playing in the streets is permissible. Therefore, the FHWA no longer endorses their use. As a result, the City is concerned of the liability associated with placing these signs with the overwhelming information available against the use of Child at Play (and variants) signs.

- 19) Loading zone request at Subway restaurant on E. Main St. (not discussed in meeting but noted for the record)
Mayor decided against granting this request.
- 20) Next meeting date scheduled for August 11, 2009 is cancelled. The Next meeting is September 8, 2009, 5pm City Hall.
- 21) Motion to Adjourn – Shorkey, second by Thomas. Passed. Meeting Adjourned.

Recommendations to the Mayor for Approval:

- 6) Post No Parking on both sides of the street – West Jackson.