

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the Traffic Commission of the City of Lake Jackson met on February 9, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Garrett Williams, Chair

Willem Mookhoek

Mark Allen, Secretary

Douglas Kincannon, Vice Chair

Andy Anderson

Barry Tidwell

Larry Rosenbohm

William Yenne, City Manager

Giani Cantu, Asst. City Secretary

Paul Kibodeaux, Asst. Police Chief

Will Brooks, Council Liaison

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Garrett Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Larry Rosenbohm second by Barry Tidwell with all present members voting "aye", the minutes of December and January were approved.

VISITORS' COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PROHIBITING PARKING ON SILVERBELL CIRCLE FROM INDIGO STREET TO THE NORTH CURVE – WINSTON AVERA

Winston Avera, 62 Cayenne Common, property manager for Briarwood Home Owners Association, reported there is a safety issue caused by parking on Silverbell Circle. Mr. Avera presented photos and stated they are requesting no parking signs on Silverbell Circle from Indigo to just around the north curve. Mr. Avera also presented resident comments in favor of the no parking.

Mr. Rosenbohm asked why Mr. Avera thought residents are parking on the road.

Mr. Avera stated most of the on street parking is from the apartments.

Shirley Tyler, 50 Chervil Common, stated her assumption is the reason they park there is if they live in the apartment right by the street it is a shorter distance to their apartment if they park on the street than to park in the parking lot.

Robert Dixon, 51 Caraway common, stated he drives down there daily and sees a school bus going thru there every morning and other vehicles having to wait for other vehicles to get through there because of the parking.

Gary Rodgers, owner of property in the Briarwood Association, stated he agrees with what has been presented.

Mr. Allen stated they have seen this issue before but doesn't remember what the outcome was.

Mr. Yenne stated he believes it was the other apartments, with vehicles cutting through the grass.

Mr. Allen asked what the differences are with this curve and other curves in town.

Mr. Williams stated they need to look at the proximity of the apartments. Therefore, the amount of people in one area may be significantly higher. There is a greater population density in the area.

Mr. Avera stated there are apartments on each side of Indigo and residents don't like to use the feeder road to go back towards the mall.

Mr. Williams stated he believes previously they didn't want to set precedence and have other residents coming in asking for no parking on residential streets. However, the proximity of the area may warrant action.

Mr. Mookhoek stated they need to be sure there is sufficient off street parking spaces.

Mr. Yenne stated the 2.5 parking space ratio was made in the 80's. These apartments were built in the 70's, so he is not sure what the parking spaces were at that time.

Mr. Anderson asked where the drainage ditch is in proximity to the apartments and wondered if there is room for additional parking.

Mr. Avera stated there is a little spot towards the drainage ditch but he's not sure. It could very well be that they don't like the long walk from the parking area. Indigo is already no parking due to the apartments.

Mr. Williams asked if anyone recalled the reason for making Indigo a no parking zone.

Mr. Allen stated to his recollection Indigo had to get cleaned up. The parking on street was blocking traffic coming in. Extending the no parking zone onto Silverbell would just be a continuation of the already existing no parking zone.

Mr. Kincannon asked if the homeowners association can set restrictions for parking on the street.

Mr. Avera stated the homeowners association can set restrictions for parking on the street. However, their bylaws require that residents park in garage and not on the driveway.

Mr. Kincannon asked if there would be an issue to request no parking from Indigo to Cayenne Common.

Mr. Avera stated there is no issue that far down. The main issue is right past the curve near Chervil Common to Indigo.

Mr. Allen stated if there is no problem, then he doesn't see a need to fix it.

Mr. Williams stated the main problem is because of the curve.

Mr. Allen stated there is no law against folks living in the apartment complex choosing to use the city street as primary parking. However, in this case, there is cause of public concern for safety. Residents are requesting no parking to reduce the safety concern. The decision may not be convenient for some. However, the board needs to consider if it will reduce the safety concern measurably.

Mr. Williams shared his concern that it will push traffic down Silverbell past Indigo the other direction.

Discussion was held on extending the no parking past Indigo to Caraway Common.

Mark Allen made a motion for no parking on both sides of Silverbell from Caraway Common around the northwest curve up to the northern intersection of Chervil Common. Willem Mookhoek seconded.

Mr. Anderson asked if there is a time that the parking is worse than others.

Mr. Avera stated problems are during early morning school pick up, afternoon school drop off, and at night.

Mr. Anderson asked if the board could consider no parking as you would in a school zone.

Mr. Avera stated he is not sure that would be helpful because there is a lot of traffic throughout the day and night.

Mr. Anderson asked how that would affect service workers.

Ms. Tyler stated that would be a concern of hers as well.

Mr. Rosenbohm stated they could consider making the outside lane no parking and leave the inside lane alone.

Mr. Avera stated regardless of which side cars are parked on, the concern remains when vehicles are coming around the curve.

Mr. Rosenbohm shared concerns that maybe the apartment complex doesn't have enough parking.

Mr. Williams stated that option would also alleviate the concern of no parking for service workers.

Mr. Avera stated the houses that are impacted would be Ms. Tyler and another home that faces the road. The homeowners association has added additional parking for residents.

Mr. Allen stated he doesn't know if there is inadequate parking but they are here trying to address the safety concern.

Mr. Rosenbohm suggested letting them park on one side and not on the other.

Mr. Rodgers stated he doesn't believe one side will resolve the issue and believes the cars will just go park on the other side. There is concern from the residents and asked the board to consider their request.

Mr. Williams stated the vote of approval only sends it to City Council for consideration.

Mr. Mookhoek stated he doesn't like the option to do no parking on only one side of the street.

Mr. Kincannon asked if it is possible to amend the motion to allow maintenance trucks and/or service vehicles to park on the street.

Mr. Williams stated that wouldn't be a good option and can be confusing.

With 5 present members voting "aye" and Mr. Rosenbohm voting "nay" the recommendation is made for City Council to consider no parking on both sides of Silverbell from Caraway Common around the northwest curve up to the northern intersection of Chervil Common.

Ms. Tyler asked if service trucks parks there, how much is a parking ticket?

Mr. Brooks, Council Liaison, stated when council considers they'll want to see the presentation that was made by residents and clarified that public safety and maintenance vehicles will have more leeway with parking on the street.

No further discussion was held.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC ON YAUPON STREET NEAR ELIZABETH NEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Staff reported this item was brought up by Planning Commission member Vinay Singhania, who is asking the board to review the area.

Mr. Williams stated this has been discussed and school was going to use cones.

Mr. Brooks suggested bringing it back and ask Vinay Singhania to appear to explain his concerns.

Mr. Williams asked staff to pull any previous discussions and invite Mr. Singhania to appear when he is able at a meeting.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PROHIBITING USE OF HAND HELD DEVICES

Mr. Mookhoek stated he brought this item.

Mr. Williams stated they have previously discussed distracted driving. Although phones are the most common, there are several things that can distract a driver. If an ordinance is passed looking at one thing solely, then it is not encompassing everything. There's eating, passengers, newspaper and book reading, women putting on makeup, etc.

Mr. Mookhoek stated there are many issues, but he has noticed other cities adopting ordinances and thought they should take a look.

Mr. Allen stated there are now 44 states that have passed legislation regarding texting and talking while driving. Texas is not one of them. Previous governor rejected. However, Governor Abbott has not reviewed it. Mr. Allen stated during the last session House Bill 80, which addresses this issue, was voted on and easily passed. It has been moved to the Senate calendar for review, which means that the Senate will take it up for proposal on the next session. However, something to note, if you read the bill, there is a section in it that states the law will overwrite or replace any city or local government laws.

Mr. Yenne stated there is no argument that it's not an issue, but the belief during previous discussion was that it should be a state driven law.

Mr. Williams interested in seeing what the officers see on enforcement.

Mr. Brooks stated it is fairly easy in a school zone.

Mr. Kibodeaux stated it is easy to see when they have a device in their hand. Therefore, a no handheld device policy is enforceable.

Mr. Williams stated when he lived in Maryland, the law was no handheld devices period. Hands-free devices were allowed but it was state wide and well known. His concern is, with a city ordinance, drivers visiting wouldn't know the law exists.

Mr. Kincannon asked how a hand held device is any different from messing with the radio.

Mr. Allen stated there is reason to believe the state will eventually adopt a law, so the question will be is the board interested in adopting something that could be over ridden by the state law.

Mr. Anderson stated in his personal experiences, distraction can happen with just talking on the phone.

Mr. Kincannon asked how that would affect doctors and emergency personnel.

Mr. Yenne stated there is a clause in some of the other cities that addresses emergency personnel.

Mr. Rosenbohm suggested they wait to see if the state will adopt a law.

Mr. Anderson stated if the city adopts the same ordinance as the City of Angleton, the message will be received by signage in both Angleton and Lake Jackson.

Mr. Kincannon asked what about a life alert call.

Mr. Anderson stated there are exceptions for medical emergencies and the ordinance also addresses the use of GPS while driving.

Mr. Williams shared concerns that drivers will have phone on their lap and their eyes are now definitely off the road.

Mr. Brooks stated that he pulls off the road to answer phone if he's driving.

Mr. Williams stated if it gets to a certain point, he thinks council would address the issue without Traffic recommendation.

No action taken.

DISCUSS COST ESTIMATE FOR RIGHT TURN LANE AT OYSTER CREEK DRIVE AND HIGHWAY 288 NEAR ANY WAY STREET

Mr. Yenne presented the cost estimate provided by the engineer. If the state does the addition, the cost

would be \$215,000. If the city does it they would need permission from TXDOT and the cost would be \$130,000. If approved, the recommendation will be made to city council for consideration.

Mr. Allen stated in previous discussion it was reported that there was a timing issue and asked if it has been fixed and if there is improvement.

Mr. Brooks stated it helped except the volume is high, so there is still an issue.

Mr. Rosenbohm stated that the State said they wouldn't do this expansion, so it wouldn't be a waste of money

Mr. Yenne stated the only concern is that he has not seen a right turn lane crossing an intersection.

Mr. Kibodeaux stated adding an additional lane may be an issue for traffic coming out or in to Any Way Street.

Mr. Rosenbohm stated if the lane is added they would have to make Any Way a right turn only.

Mr. Mookhoek stated that is a heavily congested area and it would be a good improvement.

On motion by Willem Mookhoek second by Douglas Kincannon, with all present members voting "aye" traffic makes the recommendation for City Council to consider extending the right turn lane at Oyster Creek Drive and Highway 288 near Any Way Street.

REVIEW OF LETTER TO TXDOT REGARDING WORKSHOP ON HWY 332 EXPANSION

Mr. Yenne presented the letter and notes. Staff will continue to monitor.

No further discussion was held.

REPORT OF CITY COUNCIL DECISION ON RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND THE ON RAMP AND OFF RAMP OF HWY 2004 AT CR 288 (OLD ANGLETON ROAD)

Council approved and the request has been made to TXDOT.

No further discussion was held.

REPORT FROM THE WALNUT/OLEANDER TRAFFIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Yenne pulled information on Traffic Logix and the City of Austin ordinance. Mr. Yenne reported the subcommittee suggested the cushions and he asked Barry Tidwell to have the subcommittee discuss and agree on locations for the cushions we could put them out and see how they work. Cushions do not impact volume they only reduce speed.

Nancy Freshour, 53 Lavender Ct, member of the subcommittee, stated the subcommittee has met twice. There is enough data to support doing something on these streets. Maximum speed on Oleander is 41 mph, with one vehicle traveling over 80 mph. Maximum speeds on Walnut were at least 51 mph. The data did not have the set speed limit programmed and therefore the data was not helpful for comparison in that aspect. Ms. Freshour stated that the committee decided they do not want to wait for tables for traffic calming options. The subcommittee is in the process of getting signatures on the radar locations for placement as soon as possible.

Mr. Yenne stated, based on Austin's data, for the cushions to be effective they need to be at least 300 to 700 feet apart. Staff needs the committee to decide where to put the signs between Plantation and the bridge and to specify priority: one, two, and three.

Mr. Williams stated he would suggest putting signs at halfway points between the cross streets.

Ms. Freshour stated they would have to look at driveways.

Mr. Allen asked if the plan is to reconvene the subcommittee to discuss the locations for cushions then bring it back.

Mr. Yenne stated yes. Staff is currently working to see if there is sufficient funding to put them in now.

Ms. Freshour stated what about the traffic radar signs.

Mr. Yenne stated we just need to know the locations the residents would want them.

Mr. Brooks stated residents have volunteered to have radar signs put up. However, they just need one more at a different location. The location needs to make sense.

Mr. Allen stated the subcommittee needs to provide locations for the cushions and the radar signs.

Further discussion was held on the previous volunteered locations for cushions and radar signs and speed studies on Walnut and Oleander.

Mr. Williams stated once city staff has the locations, they can put up the radar signs.

Mr. Freshour asked who they provide that information to.

Mr. Yenne stated the information should be provided to the subcommittee chair, Mr. Barry Tidwell.

No further discussion was held.

CITIZEN'S BOND TASK FORCE UPDATE

Council has decided to put it on the ballot of May 7th election. There are no further updates to report.

ACCIDENT REPORTS – JANUARY

The reports were approved as submitted.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

There were no items of community interest.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Larry Rosenbohm second by Andy Anderson with all present members voting "aye" and there being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

These minutes read and approved this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Garrett Williams, Chairman

Mark Allen, Secretary