

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 Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. for regular session at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, in City Hall Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Michael Cloeter, Chair
Doug Smith, Vice-Chair
Ravi Singhania
Jay Foster

Sabrina England, PW Director
Anamaria Acuña, Asst. City Secretary
James Cromeenes, LJP
Matt Broaddus, Council Liaison

ABSENT:

Jessica Rogers
Nicholle Wilson
Shannon Biar, Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cloeter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEAR IN NEW MEMBER

Ms. Acuña administered the oath of office to Jay Foster.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 13, 2022

Mr. Cloeter shared that he would like to amend the sentence to state, "...becoming problematic if there was not enough distance for the second turn."

On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Foster with all present members voting "aye," the September minutes were approved as amended.

VISITORS' COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT DEWBERRY/ STRAWBERRY COURT AND DEWBERRY/ DEWBERRY COURT– MEREDITH RAMIREZ

Ms. Ramirez was not present. Ms. England summarized that Ms. Ramirez's main concern is there are children on the neighborhood, and she believes having stop signs would make this street safer. Her request is to add stop signs.

Mr. Cloeter asked if Ms. Ramirez thought there was speeding. Ms. England responded that all that was expressed was the previous statement about children in the neighborhood,

Ms. England clarified that it is Strawberry Drive not Strawberry Court, and while investigating the neighborhood she only found two stop signs, and none are on that side of the road.

Mr. Cloeter shared that he believes that having three stops in that area is excessive.

Mr. Singhania asked if there was a traffic study. Ms. England responded that there is not. Mr. Singhania shared that he doesn't see a speeding problem there, but he also noted that he doesn't live near the area.

Council Liaison Broaddus shared that he lives nearby and doesn't believe speeding is an issue. He has noticed that there are lots of families with children in the neighborhood. He commented on recent updates as the neighborhood is well lit with the additional light added onto Dewberry Court.

Mr. Cloeter asked if there was a lot of street parking. Mr. Broaddus shared that there are a handful of vehicles that street park. He also added that there were previously gates on the street of Dewberry Drive which narrowed the road, so he believes that ensures no speeding.

Mr. Cloeter asked if there were any histories of accidents. Ms. England said nothing that she was aware of.

Council Liaison Broaddus asked for clarification as to where they are proposing to place the stop signs. Ms. England shared that her understanding was to add stop signs on Dewberry Court and on Strawberry and not on Dewberry. Mr. Foster interpreted the stop signs to be on Dewberry. Mr. Smith asked for clarification on where Ms. Ramirez is requesting the placement of the signs. Ms. England said she would reach out to Ms. Ramirez for clarification, but she was under the impression that she was going to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Cloeter mentioned that with the request of the previous stop sign request on Dogwood being denied he does not believe the council would want to approve all the stop signs. Mr. Cloeter stated he would agree to yield signs in the courts.

The traffic commission agreed the street does not seem to have any issues. Mr. Cloeter summarized they agreed to take no action but have staff update Ms. Ramirez and let her know that if she does not agree, she can come to a meeting, and they may reconsider and possibly request additional data.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT THE 100 BLOCK OF BIRCH – DARLENE CERNY

Ms. Darlene Cerny – 108 Birch

Ms. Cerny stated that she has lived on this street for about 57 years. Recently she noticed there are people speeding, "almost racing." She believes that adding speed bumps would help. Mr. Cloeter asked which direction the speeders were coming from. She commented that they are coming from Oyster Creek Drive.

Ms. Cerny commented that she has previously requested to add stop lights at the end of the street due to the many new businesses in the area.

Mr. Cloeter asked Ms. Cerny where her street was located, and she mentioned the surrounding streets being Huisache and That Way. She mentioned that she is also concerned about the potential traffic to follow with the new development (Lakewood Manor) on Huisache.

Mr. Cloeter commented that he would be okay with a traffic study on the 100 block of street. Mr. Singhania agreed that once the development is built there will be more traffic. Mr. Cloeter directed Ms. England to run a traffic study on Birch Street. He asked if this could be brought back to the November meeting. Ms. England suggested the December meeting so that they can collect a full month's worth of data.

Mr. Cloeter clarified there are different options to slow down traffic other than speed bumps. Ms. Cerny stated she is open to other options and suggested speed signs be placed. Mr. Cloeter asked if there could be a sign added to the street.

Ms. England confirmed they can place a 30-mph speed sign as that is the current speed limit. Ms. Cerny commented that she wanted 25-mph, but the traffic commission shared that if she wanted a speed limit change it would have to go to council, but they are okay with placing the 30-mph sign.

Mr. Cloeter asked where the signs could be placed. Ms. England stated that she can place them at the 100 and 200 block of Birch Street.

Ms. Acuña asked for clarification on what the traffic commission is requesting staff to complete. Mr. Cloeter stated he would like to add the speed limit signs and complete a traffic study.

Ms. Cerny thanked the commission for their help and congratulated Mr. Foster on his appointment to the traffic commission.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE NO PARKING SIGNS ON AZALEA STREET FOR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S SCHOOL FOR LITTLE PEOPLE – NACONDA FRANK

NaConda Frank - 404 Azalea Street

Ms. Frank passed out labeled maps to the commission to demonstrate the current direction of the traffic flow for the school's pick up / drop off hours.

Ms. Frank commented that in the past there have been a few accidents on the Yaupon and Azalea intersection. This school year they have decided to change the traffic flow in hopes of improving the pickup / drop offs. She stated unfortunately they have encountered issues with residents speeding and neighborhood parking on the street.

The neighborhood parking has made this a lengthier process for pickup/ drop offs, as staff must redirect traffic making what should be 10 to 15-minute task take twice as long. The First United Methodist Church currently has a sign for no parking during church hours. She is coming forth to request permission to do the same with no parking signs during school hours. She advised the school is in session from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Ms. Frank noted there is a fire hydrant near their playground area and a certain resident persistently parks near the fire hydrant and exit making it difficult for the parents to leave. She proposed to have the curb with the fire hydrant painted or marked to resolve the issue. Ms. Frank stated the resident has been ticketed recently but would like to prevent any other parking near the hydrant.

Mr. Cloeter asked what the current signs are. Ms. England stated the sign on the other side notes, "no parking during church services." Mr. Cloeter asked if Ms. Frank wants the no parking signs on both sides of the street. Ms. Frank responded yes.

Robert Orr – P.O. Box 1590

Mr. Orr commented there is congestion with a certain neighbor on the street because he has company trucks that park on the street. Ms. Frank commented that parents must take turns on each side of the street to pass because his trucks and trailers block the road.

Mr. Foster asked what caused the change in traffic flow. Ms. Frank shared they had a different flow during COVID as they were practicing distancing. Ms. Frank noted the former feeder road is in horrible condition, so they decided to move both the pickup / drop off to the front of the church.

Ms. England asked about the uses for parking lots. Ms. Frank said the teachers and staff park in the lots. Ms. England asked if parents park in the lots and then cross. Ms. Frank answered if parents do park in the lots, they are not allowed to cross the street until 9:05 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. They do not encourage the children to cross during pickup / drop off to avoid pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Mr. Broaddus asked what ages the children are. Ms. Frank stated that children at the school range from infants to the age of five.

Mr. Cloeter stated they have had a previous request for no parking signs near Bess Brannen. Mr. Broaddus shared that Royal Oak Circle recently added no parking signs.

Mr. Cloeter asked what the procedures are to have the signs placed and if the neighbors must agree. Mr. Broaddus stated that their input is always appreciated but does not believe it is required. Ms. Acuña stated staff sent letters and polled the Royal Oak residents advising them when the meetings discussing the signs would be held.

Mr. Broaddus stated that those signs were specific to school hours. Mr. Cloeter asked if other neighbors would be open to the no parking signs. Ms. Frank stated one resident bought and posted his own "No Parking" sign in front of his driveway.

The commission came to an agreement and stated the curb should be painted to notate the fire hydrant. Lt. Cromeenes stated it is against state law to park within 15-ft of a fire hydrant.

Ms. Frank stated they are open to limiting the no parking signs by time intervals.

Mr. Foster asked if Ms. Frank's request is for every pickup/ drop off notated or if she is willing to consolidate certain times. Ms. Frank stated that drop offs are from 8:50 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. and the pickup window is from 11:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. on school days. Mr. Foster noted that there is also a pickup window from 1:50 p.m. to 2:05 p.m. Ms. Frank noted that the one is not as necessary as it is manageable.

Mr. Smith asked how long the no parking variant would be on the street. Mr. Cloeter noted there are only three houses on one side.

Mr. Broaddus asked what side the drop off lines are coming from. Ms. Frank noted there are two drop off locations.

Mr. Cloeter asked if this request will be sent to the City Council. Ms. England confirmed that it would.

Mr. Broaddus asked if the letters to the residents were sent prior to taking the request to council or after. Ms. Acuña stated that letters were sent after the request was sent to the council. Mr. Broaddus stated that the council would more than likely request the letters be sent for this request as well.

On motion by Mr. Singhanian, seconded by Mr. Smith to recommend the city council install "no parking" signs only on the residential side of Azalea Street with limited hours of 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and 11:30

a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on school days and to paint the curb near the fire hydrant.

There was discussion of the vehicles parking on the other side of the street if the “no parking” signs are only on one side. Mr. Cloeter suggested installing signs on both sides of the street.

Mr. Smith motioned to amend the standing motion to include both sides of Azalea, seconded by Mr. Foster with all present members voting “aye,” the recommendation to city council is to install “no parking” signs on both sides of Azalea Street with limited hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on school days and to paint the curb near the fire hydrant, was approved.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A YIELD SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF ALLWOOD AND BANYAN

Mr. Cloeter stated that there was a similar discussion about a year ago. Ms. England stated the concerns were about street parking, and how difficult it is to see when driving around the parked vehicles.

Mr. Cloeter asked where the yield sign would be placed. Ms. England shared the sign would be placed on Allwood. Mr. Cloeter stated that the sign will not help with visibility.

Ms. England shared that residents are allowed to street park, but they must be at least 30-ft away from the intersection. There was discussion of how often and how long they can be parked on the street. Ms. England said they can street park whenever, but the vehicle must be moved every 24 hours.

There was a resident who parked their trailer on the street, but that issue was resolved. As of now Ms. England does not believe there is an issue with street parking if they are not blocking the intersection.

Ms. England noted there have been junk vehicles reported to code enforcement for being parked for long periods on that street. This issue is already being taken care of by code enforcement. She reiterated that residents are allowed to park on the street, but this is the first time there is a request for a yield sign. Mr. Smith commented that a yield sign will not prevent them from street parking. The commission agreed.

Mr. Cloeter stated he does not see any parking at the intersection of Banyan so that is not an issue either. Ms. England stated code enforcement / police can inform the residents near the corners of the street where they can park as long as they are 30-ft away from the intersection. Mr. Cloeter stated no action will be needed but staff can follow up on the intersections if they see it necessary.

STAFF UPDATES – SABRINA ENGLAND

- a) Pending updates from Traffic Engineer for Majestic Oak Circle and Forest Oaks Lane
 - o Ms. England summarized that at the last meeting the traffic commission requested her to get with the traffic engineer, but they did not get into depth of the conversation to provide an update.
 - o The concerns were as follows for Majestic Oak Circle: speeding, drop-off / pick-up locations of buses, and potential cross walk placement. The engineer will come to town to make recommendations after reviewing the locations.
 - o Forest Oaks Lane will discuss options for painting or striping.

Ms. England reported updates on items sent to the council. They approved the limited right turn sign but voted no to the flashing sign due to the cost being \$9,000. The city attorney has drafted an ordinance for the right turn sign, and this will have two readings. Mr. Cloeter asked to ensure the ordinance for the limited right turn sign is on the upcoming council agenda.

ACCIDENT REPORTS – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes read over the September reports. He noted accidents have gone down from the previous year. Council Liaison Broaddus stated that they must have at least two accidents a day according to their reports.

Lt. Cromeenes stated on October 6, 2022, a major accident involving a motorcycle was traveling at a high rated speed. He slammed into the back of a car hauler and lost his arm; he was life flighted as he lost a lot of blood. The person admitted that he was speeding.

Lt. Cromeenes stated that LJPd tries to combat speeding on HWY 288 or where they expect people racing. He also noted there were no fatalities in the month of September.

Mr. Cloeter thanked Lt. Cromeenes for his reports.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Smith asked when the downtown parking lot will be stripped for parking.
 - Ms. England stated that she is not involved in the downtown project, but she can ask.
- Mr. Smith asked if the new cameras located on HWY 288 were installed by the state.
 - Lt. Cromeenes stated the cameras are license plate readers (LPR).
 - LJPd has installed 5 new cameras and they help to report stolen vehicles and solve other crimes.
 - Mr. Broaddus also shared that Northwood HOA also installed two LPR cameras.
- Mr. Smith was asked by residents why there are so many 18-wheelers parking by the mall.
 - Ms. England responded that is a private parking lot owned by the mall if they have an issue, they can take care of it.
- Mr. Smith asked who / where can residents report when there are people parking in their yard.
 - Ms. England shared code enforcement handles yard parking complaints.
 - Mr. Broaddus stated that yard parking is allowed if they are parked on an improved surface.
- Mr. Cloeter shared that the green gets stuck on the traffic light Oyster Creek and That Way. He also noted the traffic light entering Kroger also gets stuck.
 - Ms. England shared that they recently made repairs to the light on Kroger, and she will look into the light by CVS.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2022.

Michael Cloeter, Chair

Shannon Biar, Secretary