

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, November 9, 2021, 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:

Kevin Land, Chair

Michael Cloeter, Vice Chair

Shannon Biar, Secretary

Doug Smith

Larry Stanley

Meagan Borth, Asst. City Manager

Sabrina England, PW Director

Anamaria Acuña, Interim Asst. City Secretary

James Cromeenes, LJP

Council Liaison – Matt Broaddus

ABSENT:

Ravi Singhanian

Andy Anderson

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Land led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 12, 2021

Mr. Cloeter suggested a correction to state “four-way stop” instead of “four-way street,” in the crossing guard section. On motion by Mr. Smith second by Mr. Biar with all present members voting “aye”, to approve the October minutes with the corrections suggested by Mr. Cloeter.

#### VISITORS’ COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

#### DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR THE NO PARKING SIGNS ON ROYAL OAKS CIRCLE AND TANAGER BY BESS BRANNEN

Brittany Whitley – 57 Royal Oak Circle

Mrs. Whitley stated that she is new to the neighborhood. Although she hasn’t been there long, she has noticed that since the school was rebuilt and shifted over, she has issues with not being able to enter her street due to cars blocking the entrance.

Mrs. Whitley clarified that there is parking on both sides of her street and there are times that she must go around so that she does not hold back traffic on Anchusa by waiting for someone let her enter the street. She also noted that she has waited for up to five minutes to enter her street until someone shifts over for her to enter the street.

While driving around Mrs. Whitley and her husband noticed there are “no parking” signs on Tanager, but people don’t comply and will still park on the streets. She wanted to correct that in terms of her request she submitted. She stated she does still want some on her street (Royal Oak Circle) because people will park on both sides of the street. She also captured a picture of a vehicle that frequently parks facing the

wrong side of the road. She suggested placing similar “no parking” signs that are currently on Arrow Wood and Tanager.

Mr. Land mentioned that there was discussion at the October meeting, where they mentioned the strategic plan, and the school drop-off and pick-up lanes to be on campus. The commissioners agreed that although the lanes are available, they do notice that there are parents that continue to park on the residential streets.

Mr. Land requested a visual representation of the area along with some drone footage in the last meeting. Mrs. Whitley explained that she emailed Ms. Acuna because she did not feel like it was an accurate representation of the parking in the neighborhood. Although the time stamps showed 3:36 P.M. through 4:00 P.M. Mrs. Whitley stated that if they were to drive along the streets anytime during the school release there is usually more traffic.

Mrs. Whitley and her husband did not agree with the representation of the drone footage because it does vary daily, so she provided the commissioners photo evidence of the parking on her street. There was discussion from the commissioners stating the drone footage did not show many vehicles. Mr. Cloeter stated he didn't see many parking near the school and asked if we knew when the drone footage was taken. She clarified she didn't want the commissioners to think that there wasn't an issue just based off the footage on the drone, so she decided to collect more evidence.

Mr. Land requested a map of the existing “no parking” signs are in the area. While searching for the map of the existing signs there was discussion of where the older “no parking” signs were located based off the older location of the school. Mrs. Whitley confirmed that there are signs on both Arrow Wood and Tanager. Ms. England stated that she has a copy of the map on her computer, but it is not available for viewing at the moment.

Mrs. Whitley clarified that she isn't requesting the signs to be effective all day. She wants to have similar signage as the existing ones on Arrowwood and Tanager, which state there is no parking during school hours. The commissioners discussed if making the signage available on only one side of the street would help. She stated that anything would help as long as she is able to enter her street to get home at a reasonable time.

Mr. Cloeter mentioned that he doesn't want the signs to affect the current residents. Mrs. Whitley shared that her neighbors usually all park in their driveways. There is an exception to the neighbor that is on the circle of the street and most of the blocking is on the entrance as the parents don't want to park all the way down the street and walk as far so she thinks signs on the entrance are preferred.

Mr. Broaddus has children that attend Bess Brannen, and he has noticed even during drop-off that parents will park on the streets to drop off their children instead of going to the designated lanes. There are signs on Tanager and Arrow Wood because of the old placement of the school but he doesn't notice parents parking there anymore. He shared that there is a potential danger of the kids crossing the street if they don't need to be. He stated that even the potential school zone change will also help the issue. Mrs. Whitley stated thankfully they do have a crossing guard at the entrance of her street.

Ms. Borth stated that unfortunately they do not have visuals of the signage on the roads mentioned. But if they vote on having signage, they can state “similar to the existing signs.” Mr. Broaddus stated that he

is certain that the signs are time based and the existing signs are posted on both sides of the streets. There was discussion on deciding whether to require signage on both sides or if it would alleviate the congestion if they're placed on just one side.

On motion by Mr. Biar, seconded by Mr. Cloeter with all present members voting "aye," to install "no parking" signs similar to those currently in place on Tanager, with the signs limiting the time between school hours and school days to be posted on Royal Oak Circle was approved and will be recommended to council.

Mr. Land shared that the issue will go to council for their debate and final approval. Ms. Borth stated that the traffic commission will give their recommendation, but Mrs. Whitley is more than welcome to attend the meeting on November 15, 2021, at 6:30 P.M.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT THE 400 BLOCK OF CENTER WAY – JACOB SHANK

Mr. Jacob Shank was not present to discuss his concerns.

The commissioners reviewed the traffic count reports. The traffic count was placed on October 6, 2021 and picked up on November 2, 2021. There were about 30,000 vehicles crossing the location with the posted speed limit as 30 mph. Mr. Cloeter asked where the 400 block is located. Ms. Borth located the 400 block on Google Maps and found that the Church of Christ was located on the street.

Mr. Land stated that the 95% speed of 32.2 mph, is not something they normally act on. He did notate the maximum speed of 64.6 mph is ridiculous, but that was only one individual at 10:00 A.M.

Ms. Borth shared that the city has one available digital flashing sign that detects when vehicles are speeding. They do have two speeding concern topics this meeting so the commissioners can decide when and if they would like to use the sign.

Mr. Cloeter stated that they don't like placing speed bumps on residential neighbors due to emergency routes and vehicles.

The commission decided to table this item and reach out to Mr. Shank to see if we will be at the next meeting.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A SOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONCERNS CAUSED BY U-TURN ON LEFT LANE OF OYSTER CREEK DRIVE AND SANDALWOOD – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes shared that Mr. Dannhaus came to the police department and shared his concerns of an increased number of vehicles attempting to make a U-turn on the turning lane, but the street is narrow, so they run into a few different problems.

There are drivers that realize the lane is too narrow so they will stop, back up and adjust themselves to fit, which causes congestion on the street because others will have to wait on them to go. Other drivers realize they can't make the U-turn and attempt to travel left onto the street, but they travel the wrong way into the neighborhood.

Lt. Cromeenes shared a picture (below) to help explain that there is a median that separates the road, and one side is for exiting only and the other is for entrance only. Because they choose last minute to travel up the street, they do not realize that they are entering the wrong way and Mr. Dannhaus noticed some cars having to stop to let them enter.



Mr. Land suggested having a directional sign, so the vehicles know the entrance is on the right side, and possibly even a “do not enter” sign. Mr. Broaddus suggested adding the raised dotted lines, so they know where they are supposed to turn. Mr. Land stated that the challenge is when they abort the U-turn then they’re closer to the exiting entrance.

The commissioners asked Lt. Cromeenes if he has any suggestions for the raised issue. Lt. Cromeenes stated that he does think the raised dotted lines will help but the U-turn is the main issue causing both problems at hand. He stated they would continue to re-adjust themselves and the congestion would still be an issue. Lt. Cromeenes doesn’t know if the U-turn would be a good idea.

Mr. Biar stated he agrees with the notion of the no U-turn because most standard vehicles are unable to make the U-turn. His wife’s vehicle is a Rav4 and noted that even that vehicle is too large to make a U-turn in that location. He shared unless you were to make the U-turn from outside of the left turn, it is physically difficult to make it.

Ms. Borth stated by adding the “no U-turn sign” they would have to recommend it to council. Mr. Broaddus asked if the raised dotted lines would also have to go or if it was approved solely by the traffic commissioners. Ms. Land clarified it would only be the sign that needed the approval from council.

There was discussion if they should place both a “do not enter”, “wrong way” or, “keep right” signage. They all concluded that the no U-turn signage would be best.

Ms. Borth stated that if they wanted to, they could recommend both the direction and no U-turn signage to council and let them decide. She stated that the no U-turn sign would more than likely help alleviate the problem and would probably be the better option.

On motion by Mr. Stanley, second by Mr. Doug with all present members voting “aye,” the movement to install a “no U-turn” sign, along with the raised dotted stripes, and a painted arrow on the street was approved and will be recommended to council.

#### DISCUSS NO PARKING IN THE ALLEY BEHIND WURST HAUS – GARY FOOSE

Gary Foose – 208 Parking Way

Mr. Foose provided each commission member a copy of a letter that includes pictures of the damage to his property.

Mr. Foose stated he’s owned the property since January 2019. His building is approximately 1,500 sq. ft. and he noted that it is a standalone building. He shared some background of a previous incident. He stated that employees use the alley way behind his business (and theirs) for parking. He doesn’t have an issue, but restaurants do have large delivery trucks dropping off heavy loads in the back, so they must enter the alley way as well. Mr. Foose doesn’t believe that allows much room for the 18- wheelers (delivery trucks) to enter.

Mr. Foose completely understands with the volume of deliveries that such large trucks must make the deliveries. He is upset because in July 2020 a delivery truck hit his building and damaged his roof. The incident was not reported, so when he returned, he had to file the incidents to the police the next day. He stated that it was \$3,000 to repair the roof and \$5,000 to repaint the roof to match the building and roof.

Mr. Cloeter asked for reference where his building was located. Ms. Borth demonstrated that Mr. Foose’s business is near Wurst Haus, through Google Maps.

Mr. Foose explained that the delivery trucks will use both entrances of the alley and he suggested making it one way. He also suggested not allowing the vehicles park in the alley way to give the 18-wheelers more space. He understands that the employers require them to park in the back because then their employees would take from the front of their property, but his property continues to get damaged by the 18-wheelers. He believes the vehicles that are parked in the back don’t leave enough space for delivery trucks, which could be the reason they damaged his building and continue to damage his property.

Two water barriers were placed after his building was crashed into and the barriers were paid for by Mr. Foose to prevent any further damage. He stated that they were placed on his property line and water barriers were moved by the 18-wheelers. He shared that he has also placed red paint on his property line along with no parking signs and they continue to park there. He has about 10 water barriers around his lot right now and they are still being moved. He informed the commissioners that the water filled barriers are about 1,100 pounds each. Mr. Foose expressed that his property rights are being violated. He stated his signs he posted state after 5 pm they could park near or on his property because he is not there at the time. Now with the barriers they can’t park on his property anymore.

Mr. Land asked who owns the strip of land in the alley way. Ms. Borth stated that engineering personnel is not at the meeting but to figure out for sure they’d have to look at easement records.

Ms. Borth stated that this issue was presented to the city attorney Ms. Russell. Ms. Russell shared that at the moment the city and the police department are limited on what they can do. She also shared that

with the current ordinance an individual is not allowed to encroach on any street, and the alley way is included in the definition of a street. She suggested an option, which is to change the ordinance to allow the police departments to write parking violations instead of an encroachment violation. Currently the police department is not allowed to write a ticket unless they are obstructing the entrance.

Another solution presented was staff can create a letter to notify all the neighboring businesses that they cannot block the streets with the current ordinance in effect. The police department was requested to monitor the area more frequently and to continue to monitor. An additional solution was to create no parking with either striping or signage, which is an ordinance change that would be taken to council.

Mr. Foose asked where the firetrucks would go through when there are cars parked in the alley way. Ms. Borth shared that both the Fire Marshall and the Fire Chief have stated that the firetruck cannot get down the alley even without the vehicles present. Mr. Foose asked how they could not go through the alley if 18-wheelers are able to. Ms. Borth clarified that they both stated that they will not go down that alley and if an accident were to occur, they would access through a different route.

Mr. Foose stated that since clipping his roof off and realizing that they (the delivery trucks) do not have enough space they have decided to take the entrance on the other side of his building and the delivery trucks are now running through his landscape. He is not against removing the 18-wheelers through the alley because he is aware that the businesses cannot operate without their deliveries. He stated he knows for a fact that it would make it difficult on the delivery trucks if they were required to deliver through the front. Mr. Foose stated that the best option would be for the employees to get out of the way.

Mr. Foose stated that another reason why it is so tight in the alley is because some of the businesses are storing their old appliances in the back. Mr. Foose added that there was no security back there, nor were there lights or cameras except for the ones he had recently installed. Mr. Foose stated that he has paid for security cameras to have evidence in case another accident was to occur. Mr. Foose also suggested removing parking spaces for easier access to enter the alley way.

The concerning issues Mr. Foose reiterated were having further damage on his roof and property, because his water barricades are being moved. He also stated his painted property lines are not being honored. He's considered purchasing bollard poles, but that may require permitting and all his other attempts were temporary fixes and can be moved.

Mr. Cloeter asked how the trucks are moving the water barriers. Mr. Foose stated that the trucks are running into them and pushing them out of the way. Mr. Land asked if the alley way is suitable for an 18-wheeler and if we could have the city engineer investigate it.

Ms. England stated that the property line gets fuzzy because all the business has some portion of private property in the alley. Some of it may be considered private property but the rest is city property. Right now, the city is referring to the plats, but she suggested surveying to properly distinguish where the property ends.

Ms. England shared that Mr. Foose is correct that an 18-wheeler cannot make a turn, which is why his corner property is currently being ran over. Regardless, if Mr. Foose has the boulder there, they will continue to move it as long as the rock does not wedge in between the vehicle's tires. She also shared

that Code Enforcement has sent letters to the business owners stating that their employees are not allowed to park by his property, however they are still a few that continue to park there.

As the commissioners further reviewed the pictures of the alley way there was discussion of the placement of the dumpsters. Ms. England shared that she must have the dumpsters placed behind the lights and not in between because the commercial trucks have hit the lines before when the dumpsters were underneath the lines.

Mr. Stanley asked if preventing 18-wheelers from entering would alleviate the problem? Ms. England explained that she thinks it would get rid of the problem because there are not other vehicles that can cause as much damage as an 18-wheeler. Mr. Land also asked if the alley way is not suitable for an 18-wheeler then why allow it? Ms. England shared that there are some cities that do not allow 18-wheelers within city limits, but Lake Jackson would not be able to do that because there are no warehouses available to store or stage the shipments.

Ms. Borth found a map of the property lines and presented it to the commissioners. Mr. Land stated that they could certainly make no parking on the city property, but various areas are considered private property. Ms. England added that regarding the comments Mr. Foose made about the other business storing their old appliances and other things in the alley way, Code Enforcement has written a notice stating that they are not allowed to store items outside because it could warrant as a at risk in a potential windstorm or hurricane. The note stated they are not allowed to store appliances or other items unless they are secured (tied down) and will not move.

Mr. Land suggested that the city engineer clarify and regulate what vehicles will be able to enter. Even though others think it may be an inconvenience not to allow larger vehicles to enter, Mr. Land doesn't think that is enough reason to destroy someone's property. Mr. Biar stated he agrees with Mr. Land but thinks they need to enforce an accurate survey of the (plot) property lines and stripe the city property as no parking.

Mr. Biar stated that he's aware of restaurant business and most deliveries occur before business hours, but there are instances when that doesn't happen. He stated if the large trucks are parked out front, then it will become an issue. Mr. Biar also stated that sending out a letter to the surrounding businesses in conjunction with his previous suggestions and agreements should help alleviate some of the problems.

Ms. Borth asked the commissioners after they identify the property with the engineering survey if they would want this issue to return for discussion. There was mention over what should be done once the survey was completed. Some commissioners agreed that there was no need for the topic to return and when the city completes the survey, they could stripe the road to identify that there will be no parking allowed.

Mr. Stanley commentated that the paint striping may not help completely because he thinks the 18-wheeler is the problem and he thinks they should not be allowed in the alley way, or they will continue to cause damage.

Ms. Borth suggested to take this issue back to staff along with getting the survey completed. If they choose to give tickets when and if cars choose to park inside of the painted lines, they will need to create an ordinance to classify it as a parking violation.

Mr. Cloeter suggested that we can try all the suggestions without an ordinance and agrees that a letter needs to be sent out. Ms. Borth stated that the letters will be sent to both the property owners along with the business from the city advising specifically not to park in the alley way.

Mr. Biar stated that he agrees with sending the letter but also thinks painting the striped lines accurately should be completed while they decide what else should be done to help alleviate Mr. Foose's problem.

Mr. Land stated the consensus is to do a survey and then bring the issue back.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RIGHT TURNING LANE ON PLANTATION DRIVE – MATT BJUNE

All commissioners agreed to push the issue until Mr. Bjune can attend a meeting to discuss his concerns.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES ON THE 100 BLOCK OF ANY WAY ST – JOSHUA MCCAIN

110 Anyway Street – Joshua McCain

Mr. McCain stated he was a Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy. He has patrolled for over two years. He is currently working for the Metropolitan Division. The current speed limit is 30 mph, and he is suggesting we reduce the speed limit to 20 mph. He shared that Any Way has many speeders and has personally caught individuals driving at 60 mph while he was on duty.

One of the issues on Any Way Street is that none of the intersecting roadways or crossways have yield signs. Mr. McCain clarified that towards the opposite end of the intersecting streets there are yield signs. He stated that because the lack of signs Any Way is a straight shot and may be the reason individuals choose to speed because they do not have to stop

Lake Jackson Intermediate and Bess Brannen are close by, and he thinks speeding is a danger to the kids that walk home. Mr. McCain stated he has witnessed children almost getting hit by the speeders and he doesn't want to wait until someone gets hit for the issue to be fixed. He came in hopes of either having the speed limit reduced on the street but would be content with any other traffic control suggested,

The traffic counts presented were from June and July of 2020 (due to previous studies). Mr. Land noted that the highest speed noted on the traffic count was at 37.

There was conversation between Mr. Biar stating that Any Way is the backbone of the neighborhood. Mr. McCain stated that it is used as a through street when people don't want to be bothered with the stops.

Mr. Broaddus commentated that there is no cross street on Anyway until you get to Mistletoe. Mr. McCain stated he lives on the corner and has noticed people speed up after.

When Mr. McCain worked for Brazoria County, during his night shifts he would park near his house and caught drivers speeding from 45 to 60 mph near the curb.

There was discussion if the traffic count was relevant to where Mr. McCain lived since the traffic count was from the 200 block and Mr. McCain lives on the 100 block.

Mr. Broaddus asked how many residential areas have speed limits less than 30 mph. Ms. Borth stated that currently there aren't any areas with a speed limit below 30 mph. She added although the city doesn't, they can vote on reducing the speed limit

Mr. McCain shared that between 2:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. kids are crossing the roads and neighboring streets. His main concern is that he doesn't want a child to get hit due to the reckless speeding down his neighborhood.

Mr. Broaddus stated there is a lot of volume on the street because it's near a highway and there is a big apartment complex near this block. There were questions whether there were any street markings. Mr. Broaddus stated there are currently no dividers, nor yield signs, and no stop signs.

Mr. Biar questioned if Staghorn Court and The Bridge Subdivision were in line so there could be a 4 way stop placed. Mr. McCain stated that it doesn't align and that it is slightly off centered.

There was discussion over how the "Ways" (Any Way, That Way and Circle Way) were created to be main roads instead of a residential street. Mr. Biar stated that once they enlarged 288B it messed up the plans of the Ways being considered as main roads, which could be a reason the street markings were intentionally left off.

Mr. McCain stated even though they don't agree with a speed limit reduction, he still wants something done to help alleviate the speeding problem.

Mr. McCain's neighbor down the street mentioned that a few years back, a mustang came around the corner, stepped on the gas and ended up taking out a light pole, and a street sign. The vehicle ended up where Mr. McCain's yard is with the car completely spun around.

Ms. Borth and Lt. Cromeenes stated that they could ask the police department to patrol down the street.

Mr. Land suggested the (solar) flashing speed limit sign plus the patrolling in the neighborhood. Mr. Cloeter agreed with Mr. Land.

Mr. Land asked if the city could continue to monitor the street and if needed, we can bring the issue back.

#### ACCIDENT REPORTS – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes stated that nothing stood out of the ordinary in last month's report and stated that it was similar to last year's count.

#### ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Ms. Borth stated due to the Festival of Lights, the city will be closing the main route of the parade (with the approval of Council):
  - Street closure is reserved for patrons to sit and watch
  - Parade is on the November 20, 2021
  - Festival starts on November 19, 2021 and ends on November 21, 2021
  - Mr. Broaddus suggested publicizing the new no parking because of the hundred spots being removed

- Overflow parking will be at the recreation center in McLean Park and there will be shuttles busses that will drop will be in between City Hall and the Police Department
- Mr. Broaddus suggested adding a sign where citizens can park and notify the patrons of the busses on the road blocking

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Mr. Biar second by Mr. Cloeter to adjourn and end the meeting. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M. These minutes read and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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Kevin Land, Chair

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Shannon Biar, Secretary