

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
January 21, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service-Safety Director Rob Martin, City Engineer Jeremy Kalb, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Police Chief James Mathias.

STAFF PRESENT: Law Director Rob Feighner, Kathy Launder.

GUESTS PRESENT: Tim Bechtol, Phil Johnson, Christina Corron.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Hope Klingler, 204 E. Hobart Avenue, for no parking signs on Maple Avenue from Hobart Avenue to Eagle Street.

8/19/2024

Honse stated that Maple Avenue in this area is too narrow for parking. It should be marked as No Parking Any Time on both sides of the street from Edgar Avenue to Pearl Street.

Motion to table request until communication can be sent to residents living along Maple Avenue from Edgar Avenue to Pearl Street requesting feedback on changing this area to No Parking Any Time on both sides of the street, by Chief Eberle, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

12/16/2024

Item remains tabled.

1/21/2025

Motion to lift item from table, by Kalb, Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

Director Martin stated that letters went out to all residents along Maple Avenue from Edgar Avenue to Pearl Street. Two emails were received from residents. One was not in favor of it, and one was in favor of it. Due to the narrow width of the street in this area, it is difficult for safety vehicles to navigate when vehicles are parked on the street.

Motion to make Maple Avenue from Edgar Avenue to Pearl Street No Parking Any Time, by Director Martin, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of David Ray for a study to change the first alley west of S. Main Street between W. Crawford Street and W. Sandusky St. to a two-way alley.

10/21/2024

David Ray stated that it is difficult to see to pull out of alley onto Sandusky Street no matter which direction. He suggested bubble mirrors or the potential to change the alley to two-way. Director Martin stated that in discussing this with City Engineer Jeremy Kalb, there are a couple issues. The alley is pretty narrow to be able to make it two-way. People are creatures of habit the alley has been one-way for a number of years and people may not realize they can utilize it as two-way. Also, the direction of the one-way alleys/streets change from south to north as you head west. Ray stated that motorists speed excessively from Main Street to Cory Street. Does not want to remove any parking spaces. Honse stated that there are no locations available to install bubble mirrors. Director Martin stated that we can only eliminate so many risks because of the travelling public. The vehicular traffic needs to take ownership and responsibility to travel safely. Director Martin stated that there isn't an easy solution. Director Martin stated that a bubble mirror may not be effective. Director Martin stated that he is willing to give a trial run of making the alley two-way. Honse stated that additional signage would be needed for traffic coming off the alley onto Crawford to make sure they don't go the wrong way on the one-way street. Director Martin stated that he would be more willing to trial a two-way rather than change the direction of travel on a one-way.

Motion to table request until communication can be sent to abutting property owners that have parking availability notifying of a traffic study regarding changing the first alley west of S. Main Street between W. Crawford Street and W. Sandusky St. to a two-way alley, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

12/16/2024

Item remains tabled.

1/21/2025

Item remains tabled.

3. Request of Phil Johnson, Assistant Hancock County Prosecutor on behalf of the Hancock County Commissioners, to close the east/west alley between S. Cory Street west to the first alley intersection between the Hancock County Justice Center and the Hancock County Judicial Center, referred from City Planning Commission on November 12, 2024.

12/16/2024

Phil Johnson stated reason for the request is that Hancock County owns both properties on either side of the alley. When the Judicial Center opens, there will be a lot of pedestrian traffic coming from the Justice Center to the Judicial Center walking across and down the alley. The request to vacate the alley is for safety of these individuals. The suggestion is to install a cross arm at the entrance of the alley to block vehicular traffic that can be lifted as needed. Discussion ensued regarding the tightness of the right turn at the alley intersection for larger vehicles traveling in the alley to drop off mail at the post office drop boxes. Kalb stated that he would like to have vehicle counts for this alley prior to making a decision to vacate the alley. Kalb stated that he is in favor of the drop arm. If the alley is significantly used, the drop arm can be used to close the alley when individuals are crossing from the Justice Center to the Judicial Center and leave the alley open when not in use. Honse stated concerns regarding ease of snow removal if alley is closed. The plows will not be able to make the turn.

Motion to table request to gather vehicle count data in the alley the first two weeks of January 2025, by Chief Eberle, second by City Engineer Kalb. Motion passed 3-0.

1/21/2025

Motion to lift item from table, by Chief Eberle, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

Chief Mathias distributed traffic data for vehicular traffic in the alley. Kalb stated that there are hundreds of vehicles that use the alley during the day. He is not in favor of vacating the alley, but is in favor of a drop arm at the alley for safety for use only when transporting people across the alley from Hancock County Justice Center to the Hancock County Judicial Center.

Motion to recommend denial of request to vacate east/west alley between S. Cory Street west to the first alley intersection between the Hancock County Justice Center and the Hancock County Judicial Center and work with Hancock County Commissioners and Hancock County Sheriff to install a drop gate at east side of the alley intersection and to work with them on the duration, location, mechanism, and signage of the drop gate, by Kalb, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Marc Wolfe, TAM Partners LP, 301 N. Main Street, to remove stop sign at the southwest corner of the alley intersection behind the building at 301 N. Main Street.

Christina Corron, representative of TAM Partners LP, stated that the request to remove the stop sign is to allow for greater turning radius for deliveries from semi trucks to turn at the alley intersection. Kalb stated that he would like to see the sketch of the turning movements for this area. He further stated that he is not in favor of removing the stop sign which would change the traffic pattern. We can consider moving the location or type of sign.

Motion to table request until receive and review the sketch of the turning movements from TAM Partners LP, by Director Martin, second by Chief Mathias. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Bruce McKinney, 400 Church Hill Drive, for a stop sign on State Route 37 at Sixth Street.

Chief Mathias stated that there have not been any crashes reported at this location recently. Kalb stated that in order to add a stop sign at this location Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) would have to give their approval since it is a state route. Kalb does not anticipate ODOT approving a stop sign at this location. ODOT would not be in favor of stopping traffic on the state route in this location if there haven't been any crash reports.

Motion to deny request by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Mathias. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Jake Kelley, Traffic Signal Department, to review the intersection of Fostoria Avenue and Tiffin Avenue.

Motion to table request until Traffic Signal Department is in attendance to discuss, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on February 18, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk