

**TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES
NEW CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
January 19, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.**

I. Meeting called to order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (212 SW 9th St.) by David Means, Acting Traffic Commission Co-Chairman. The meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall (212 SW 9th St.) bulletin board as required by State law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Dentler, David Means and Randy Somerlott

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Wolcott, Public Works Director, and Cindy Porter, Traffic Commission Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Ezerski and Johnny Owens

II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (November 17, 2016) MOVED BY: Dentler;

SECOND BY: Somerlott to accept the minutes as written.

AYE: Dentler, Means and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

III. Consent Item(s)

None

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- 1) Consider a request (**17-1**) from Jay Burk, Councilmember, for the removal of the traffic signal lights at the intersection of NW Gore Blvd. and Lawrie Tatum Road.

Larry Wolcott stated that this item had previously been discussed and tabled pending a traffic study. Signal timing modified to provide additional green time to eastbound traffic to help reduce backup during peak hours. A two more adjustments have been identified, one of them being that the Northbound intersection, exiting off of I-44, can have additional green time than it currently does. Staff is looking in to extending that time. The second is for eastbound at Lawrie Tatum Road, or the casino's driveway, adjustments can be made for it to turn green sooner than it does right now. Other than that, the signal changes appear to be working to reduce stacking during peak hours.

Dentler asked if an additional study was going to be done after these changes have been made.

Wolcott stated that a contract was being initiated with Traffic Engineering Consultants, out of Oklahoma City. Since the position of Traffic Engineer is vacant, the contract will have them doing traffic counts and traffic studies. They will provide input and a timing scenario for the three intersections in question. Theoretically they should be able to do a better job, since this is their specialty.

Means asked if anyone has observed how the current changes are working, if the intersections are more or less congested.

Somerlott stated that he had tried to go through those intersections as often as he can to observe the changes. On one occasion a box truck was stuck in the intersection going eastbound on Gore Blvd. and was forced to sit through an entire cycle before he could go through the intersection. The proposed timing light changes would probably have prevented this from occurring.

MOVED BY: Dentler; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott **TABLE** and to accept staff recommendation to retain signals and modify timing to provide additional green time to eastbound/westbound movements to decrease congestion on Gore Blvd. experienced during evening peak times and revisit this item at a later date. **AYE:** Dentler, Means and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

- 2) Consider a request **(17-2)** from Natasha Cottrell to consider the installation of a CHILDREN AT PLAY or speed limit signs of NW Pollard between 19th and 20th.

Larry Wolcott stated that CHILDREN AT PLAY signs are typically reserved for installation near parks. Since there are no parks at this location, recommendation is for denial of installation of CHILDREN AT PLAY signs.

MOVED BY: Somerlott; **SECOND BY:** Dentler to accept staff recommendation to deny the request to install a CHILDREN AT PLAY or speed limit signs of NW Pollard between 19th and 20th. **AYE:** Dentler, Means and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

- 3) Consider a request **(17-3)** from V. Gay McGahee, Councilmember, to consider the installation of a crosswalk and pedestrian signs on SW 38th Street near Louise D. McMahon Park.

Larry Wolcott stated that currently there are no signs on 38th Street indicating pedestrian activity. Residents walk across 38th Street from the neighborhood on the west side to the park on the east side to access the ball fields or skate park. There are no sidewalks on 38th Street; therefore there is not a designated point of access for pedestrians crossing the street. Staff recommends installing pedestrian warning signs on Northbound and Southbound 38th Street in advance of SW Parkridge Blvd. in each direction, to give traffic warning, and to hold off on any pavement markings on 38th Street.

Means stated that it is hard to steer everyone to a certain point when there are no signal lights.

Wolcott stated that there was no central access point to the park, and that the access was wide open.

Means asked for clarification on where the signs would be located.

Wolcott replied that SW Parkridge Blvd. was a central location so the signs would be a couple of hundred feet of that street in each direction.

MOVED BY: Dentler; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to accept staff recommendation to install a pedestrian signs on SW 38th Street near Louise D. McMahon Park. **AYE:** Dentler, Means and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

VI. Audience Participation

None

VII. Adjournment

4:11 p.m.

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, please notify the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if signing interpreters for the deaf are not necessary.