

**MINUTES**  
**TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING**  
**NEW CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – APRIL 17, 2014 – 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 9<sup>th</sup> St.) by Johnny Owens, Alternate Traffic Commission Chairman. The meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall (212 SW 9<sup>th</sup> St.) bulletin board as required by State law.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Bartlett, Carl Dentler, SGT Nicolas Jenkins, David Means, Johnny Owens and Randy Somerlott

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sagar Medisetty, Traffic Engineer, Officer Brad Davis, LPD, Jerry Ihler, Public Works Director/City Engineer and Jackie Somerlott, Traffic Commission Secretary

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barry Ezerski

**II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (March 20, 2014)**

**MOVED BY:** Somerlott; **SECOND BY:** Bartlett to accept the minutes as written.

**AYE:** Bartlett, Dentler, Jenkins, Means, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

**III. Consent Item(s)**

None

**IV. Old Business**

- 1) Consider a request (**14-01**) from Councilman Jay Burk, 1415 NE Independence Avenue, to discuss considering the installation of "No Trucks Over 5 Tons Weight" signs on northbound and southbound 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between NW Ferris Avenue and SW 'C' Avenue.

The Traffic Engineer explained that the request of the No Trucks Over 5 Tons signs on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. between NW Ferris and SW "C" is primarily made for two reasons 1) is to promote 2<sup>nd</sup> St. as an area offering a pedestrian friendly shopping experience which would attract citizens of Lawton and shoppers from nearby towns and cities and 2) for aesthetic purposes – when larger trucks go down 2<sup>nd</sup> St and turn they leave black skid marks on the curb which is unappealing to the eye. If the signs were installed, the semi-tractor trailers coming off the I-44 highway could use Gore Blvd. exit to serve businesses or if turning off I-44 south bound down 2<sup>nd</sup> St., they could turn left onto Ferris and go to Railroad St and go behind the new Lawton Town Center development to their destination, to Gore or all the way to Lee Blvd. Many of the businesses in the area have existed long before 2<sup>nd</sup> St. was reconstructed/redeveloped. For some businesses like Nissan, they have their service and parts building and the delivery truck to this building would have to use at least a portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to get out. Staff has spoken with LPD who indicated they could share information with officers to ensure that only those trucks that go all the way up and down 2<sup>nd</sup> St. would be enforced. Some of the trucks could still use a little portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to access major roads such as Gore Blvd. The intent of the agenda item is to prevent the pass-through traffic that goes all the way from Ferris towards C Ave and vice versa.

Means asked about Ferris and Railroad. He suggested they use Ferris to Railroad and turn south. He asked if the street could accommodate trucks going around the corner. He said PSO uses 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to get to their yard. He said they use Railroad or Larrance and he asked if you are going to tell them they can't use 2<sup>nd</sup> St but instead go on the south side of Ramada Inn and execute the right hand turn, then cross

Gore Blvd. He asked if a signal would be needed at the Gore intersection and if the trucks could make the 90 degree turn. He said it is similar to Rogers Lane at I-44 when trucks try to execute the right hand turn to go east bound. He is afraid there is going to be a problem. Medisetty said he will check the intersection to see if the turn can be made. He said behind the Lawton Town Center is a 3 lane roadway. Means said okay. Bartlett said he has driven down the roadways and said trucks cannot make a turn down any of the residential streets if the trucks are made not to use 2<sup>nd</sup> St. He said it is sad there is only sand beneath the bricks. He said the trucks cannot make any turns down intersections of Ferris at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> St. and asked where trucks will be routed to. Means said that Railroad will be utilized. He said he has not seen that Railroad is a 3 lane and that if so the trucks can execute the turns as long as there is not a lot of traffic. Owens asked Jerry Ihler if Ferris is just a regular street. He said that Ferris Ave is a 2-lane street. They are working on plans to develop the intersection which will be 4-lane at the intersection. From Ferris Ave. where they have completed Railroad St ~~back-east-and-back to the~~ south – they are probably 2/3 of the way through the development. The idea was that it was meant to be 3-lane to accommodate the trucks. But at this point and time it is not ~~–3 lanes~~ from a little north of Kohl's ~~west north~~ to Ferris Ave. back around west to 2<sup>nd</sup> St., ~~that~~ is not finished. With regards to the question about the sand bricks and sand – actually it is not on sand, but it is a concrete area that holds the sand. The problem has been there were no weep holes for the water to get out. As we have gone in and made some repairs we have put in weep holes and Cliff Haggemiller will tell you it is much better than in the past. Not to say there won't be any future maintenance, ~~–b~~ But the last intersection ~~from Gore to the south at "C" Ave.~~, we have stamped the concrete and are going to do this at Ferris also. Bartlett said they will be able to go across there without tearing things up to get to Railroad St. Ihler said he couldn't speak for Mr. Burk because this is his request. He said the request was not about the damage to the bricks at that time and it wasn't the main purpose of the request. He said his understanding was the request was to stop trucks over 5 tons coming from I-44 cutting through the City by way of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Trucks will be sent east on Ferris to Railroad St and at that point ~~if they were to go to Nissan south to Gore.~~ Now, most of the Nissan trucks come down Gore to 3<sup>rd</sup>, cross 2<sup>nd</sup> St. west bound to 3<sup>rd</sup> and turn right and go that half block and turn again and come back east and unload ~~cars parts in the alley~~. They ~~couldn't have to~~ use the half block on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. because they can't back up ~~on to~~ 3<sup>rd</sup> St. So it's his understanding to allow trucks to unload at Nissan and make that right turn out of the alley onto 2<sup>nd</sup> St for that half block and then go back east to I-44. Normally he said he wouldn't be in favor because of the businesses needing to have access. Councilman Burk talked to businesses at the mall about the new shopping center and their deliveries were designed to be on Railroad St. ~~In spite of the design t~~ There is ~~no a~~ problem with them unloading their trucks on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and they can come in on Railroad St. because stores back up to Railroad St. to unload. Then they come around and go back on I-44 from Ferris. There is no reason they couldn't make a left off of Gore and go south to A Ave to go to the newspaper. The businesses at the mall receive deliveries in the back and can come down Lee Blvd. Sagar talked to business owners and they can work with the delivery people where they don't have to use 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Nissan will have to use the ½ block on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Currently there has been more truck traffic because of the bridge construction. Eastbound trucks from Altus, t instead of working their way to US 62 ~~we have requested ODOT to put a truck route to inform drivers where otherwise they~~ were coming down Cache Rd and going to I-44 and veering to right heading south. We have requested ODOT to put a truck route to inform drivers. Now because of bridge work they can't get through it so they are bypassing it and using 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Means said that is where they have to make that 90 degree turn at Rogers Ln and I-44 and for people heading northbound to go west are having difficulty. Ihler said ODOT has ~~put together~~ completed a project to pull the nose back.

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Councilman Burk said the intent was never about the brick. It was a hard lesson about how it should have been stamped concrete which was done south of Gore at "C" Ave. The north section will be done all the way back to Ferris. He said it's beautiful and you can't tell the difference. He said he spoke to developers at the hotel convention center and they are going to buy the west side and there will be a 3

story building. The concept is the bottom level will be retail; middle will be offices and top will be residential nice homes. He said the problem is that you can't ask people to be on a pedestrian friendly road with semis idling with the diesel smoke. They aren't going to allow any semi trucks come down and unload in front of the complex ever. They will only come from the back. Our streets won't stand up to that type of traffic. They are thinking they want this developed into a pedestrian friendly area and want people to walk the Three Mile Thursday. After all the work that has been done (trees, pots, sprinklers etc) we want it to ensure it remains pedestrian friendly. For instance in parts of Bricktown you don't see semis unloading. They have a limit to the size of the trucks and that is no different than what we want here. We believe with some help there are some things needing to be done — as far as issues of making turns. The goal here is not to keep anyone from making a delivery. He said they spoke to Nissan and they go down to 3<sup>rd</sup> to the alley and the only thing they unload are engines. Vehicles are unloaded on the south side; no vehicles are unloaded on the car lot side. He said he talked to everyone they could think of to let them know they are trying to find a solution and are not trying to be a problem. He said most of things that happen is through traffic. The semis use the wrong lane and make a left turn on Gore to go east then to I-44. If the driver had had directions to go down and go back behind the development that wouldn't appeal to him, but he doesn't know. If we want people to come and stay in the convention center and we hope they come here to conventions, and we hope they walk the area to the mall. That was really the goal and it was never to stop traffic from coming in to deliver. He said he talked to Nissan who said they are going to try to get a smaller delivery truck to deliver to their back side and they are willing to put up a Right Turn Only sign to get back onto to Gore to I-44. The mall delivery traffic mostly comes down Lee and come in the back side to deliver. Everybody else they talked to had another route. He said all we were trying to stop where the 18-wheeler trucks from traveling through. When construction happened, a lot of traffic was diverted but it was stopped. Again, he said they were doing nothing to damage business.

Bartlett said he would like to hear from the Nissan dealership to see what they have to say because at first they were against it. Burk said he and Kim Shahan met with Dan Mullins and they walked the distance and asked what they could do to make this as painless as possible. He said they don't necessarily get deliveries each day that sometimes there are only two per week. He said Dan Mullins was big in educating the drivers to ensure they are traveling the right route. Bartlett asked if a truck route map was going to be set up and Burk said that it is agreed that there is damage to the roads because people don't know how to get around. He said he is hoping something can be done because the roads are being torn up and he thinks Rogers Lane is the perfect way for trucks to pass through Lawton. He said he thinks we need to do better to find routes for citizens who come through Lawton.

**MOVED BY:** Means; **SECOND BY:** Dentler to install "No Trucks Over 5 Tons Weight" signs on northbound and southbound 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between NW Ferris Avenue and SW 'C' Avenue.  
**AYE:** Dentler, Jenkins, Means, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** Bartlett

**V. New Business**  
None

**VI. Adjournment**  
4:30 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.