

**TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
June 20, 2019 – 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. 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, Robert Kelso, Hershel Kuykendall and Ted Warkentin

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Wolcott, Public Works Director, Cindy Porter, Traffic Commission Secretary, Sgt. John Bordelon, LPD

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (February 21, 2019) MOVED BY: Dentler; **SECOND BY:** Warkentin to accept the minutes as written. **AYE:** Dentler, Means, Kelso, Kuykendall and Warkentin; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None

III. Consent Item(s)

None

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- 1) Consider a request **(19-7)** from Leeandra Lockwood to install CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGN on SE Avalon Street.

Wolcott stated that this is a local residential street, with a speed of 25MPH. City policy is to reserve the installation of CHILDREN AT PLAY signs to streets that are adjacent to public playgrounds. This location does not meet that policy. Staff recommends denying request for the installation of CHILDREN AT PLAY signs.

MOVED BY: Kuykendall; **SECOND BY:** Warkentin to accept staff recommendation to deny request of CHILDREN AT PLAY signs on SE Avalon Street. **AYE:** Dentler, Means, Kelso, Kuykendall and Warkentin; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None

- 2) Consider a request **(19-8)** from Councilmember Caleb Davis to remove STOP sign near 511 NW 40th Street for westbound traffic at NW 40th Street and Meadowbrook Drive.

Wolcott stated that this is a local residential street with a speed of 25 MPH. Previously the Traffic Commission recommended installation of 5 STOP signs and 1 yield sign, Council concurred. This is a cluster of three T intersections creating triangle with T intersections at each corner of the triangle.

One of the triangle corners is controlled by a STOP sign to the west, another is controlled by a STOP sign and a YIELD sign to the south and another at the NE corner is controlled by 3 YIELD signs. The three corners are not consistently controlled. Staff currently recommends removing 2 Stop signs near 511 NW 40th Street for westbound and northbound traffic at NW 40th Street and Meadowbrook Drive. Installing CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP warning sign at existing STOP sign for eastbound traffic on NW Meadowbrook drive at 40th Street. Also Removing YIELD sign near 505 NW 40th Street for northbound traffic at NW 40th Street and Meadowbrook Drive.

Kuykendall asked if these changes would make all 3 corners controlled the same.

Wolcott concurred that each intersection would be controlled with a STOP sign and it would create a leg of traffic and the other leg would stop.

Means stated that this intersection has been brought up many times to this commission. The traffic signs are currently working but it does get confusing.

Holly Neighborhouse, 723 NW 46th Street, stated she grew up in the neighborhood and she agreed that the current signage is working. She stated that the island median is used as a bus stop and there are a lot of kids in the area in the mornings and afternoons, and they don't watch for traffic. They sit on the curb with their feet on the street. Before that STOP sign was there, cars would come around that corner quickly and you can't see around that curb because the home on the corner has lots of trees and it blocks your vision. The STOP sign really helps. The kids are the main concern in this issue. Recently there was a car accident in which a car ended up in the drainage ditch because it had come around the corner too quickly. Meadowbrook is a cut thru street and people travel through there very quickly. Recommends leaving it as is for the safety of the neighborhood.

Jim Eason, 716 NW Heinzwood, has lived there for 40 years. At one time the triangle had a lot of brush in the area but that has long since gone, now has wide open views. There are now 5 or 6 traffic signs for 3 little triangles. When they changed it, it was because of changes made to Meadowbrook. Before there were 3 YIELD signs. Now all the stop signs are an inconvenience to traffic. Recommends the removal of some of the signs to get the traffic flowing better.

Dr. Jack Spencer, Heinzwood Circle, one block from the triangle. If the City is interested in traffic flow, if this is a main artery, there is no reason for there to be a stop sign from 38th Street to 53rd Street at 40th Street. Disagrees with Ms. Neighborhouse that there is a danger of heading west on Meadowbrook coming off of 38th Street approaching 40th Street. But the curb is there. If a car is not traveling too fast the curb is nonsequential. Does not feel there is a need for a stop sign there. Does recommend a YIELD sign at east side of the island off of Meadowbrook heading south to the school. Does not believe that Meadowbrook is a cut thru street.

Kim McConnell, 320 NW 40th Street, has lived there for 20 years. Disagrees with Dr Spencer, Meadowbrook is a cut thru street. There is never a time of day when there is not traffic on 40th Street. It is a natural cut thru street. There are multiple school bus stops there. There is a high school and middle school bus stop right as Meadowbrook merges into 40th Street. There is an

elementary school bus stop right at 40th and Euclid, and there are kids that congregate at 40th and Dearborn as well as 40th and Columbia. There are kids up and down that street all day. They are children and they do not pay attention to traffic. I know that stop signs are not supposed to control speed, but they do. The average speed on the street currently is 35 to 38 mph. The police do what they can, but if you take the stop signs out, the speed is going to increase. Please keep the kids in mind when you start thinking of messing with this intersection.

Dr. Spencer added that Dr Bellino once tried to make changes to this intersection, but they were not approved because someone was concerned about school buses, but the school buses only run in the mornings and afternoons.

Kelso stated that he thought the intersection needed to be either converted to a T intersection or a roundabout.

Kuykendall stated that he had not had a chance to drive this intersection and recommended the commission tabled the issue until next month.

MOVED BY: Kuykendall; **SECOND BY:** Kelso table the item until the next meeting in July. **AYE:** Dentler, Means, Kelso, Kuykendall and Warkentin; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None

VI. Audience Participation

Barbara McNair, 913 Cheryl Circle, asked if there have been any real problems with the signs as they are right now. The community worked really hard to get the signs the way they are now. Believes the signs should stay the way they are.

VII. Adjournment

4:28 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 schedule meeting to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if signing interpreters for the deaf are not necessary.