

AGENDA
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES
NEW CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OCTOBER 17, 2013 – 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 Barry Ezerski, Traffic Commission 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: Tom Bartlett, Barry Ezerski, SGT Nicolas Jenkins, David Means, and Johnny Owens

ALSO PRESENT: Sagar Medisetty, Traffic Engineer, LPD Alternate SGT Fernando Diaz, and Sue Smith, Acting Traffic Commission Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Somerlott and Todd Weatherly

II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (September 19, 2013)

MOVED BY: Owens; **SECOND BY:** Means to accept the minutes as written.

AYE: Bartlett, Ezerski, Jenkins, Means and Owens **NAY:** None

III. Consent Item(s)

1) Consider a request **(13-20)** from Ms. Lori Portwood, 4202 SW Summit Avenue, to install “Caution Deaf Child” warning signs on the 4200 block of SW Summit Avenue;

2) Consider a request **(13-21)** from Mary Bailey, 4211 SE Camden Way, to install School Crossing signs on SE Elmhurst Lane at the intersection of SE 40th Street;

Means asked if this was the same street that they put a “No Parking” sign on. Medisetty said that it was a “Stop” sign on that street. He said busses go down that street.

MOVED BY: Owens; **SECOND BY:** Means to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

1) Consider a request **(13-22)** from Sally Greenley, Principal, Pioneer Park Elementary School, 2204 SW Bishop Road, to NE Angus Lane a one-way street between NE Rogers Lane and NE Angus Street;

Medisetty said Pioneer Park Elementary School is located on the east side of NE Angus Place north of NE Rogers Lane. NE Angus Place is a short street and fronts the school between Rogers Lane and Angus Street. It is a narrow street measuring 26 feet from face-of-curb to face-of-curb. During the school pick-up and drop-off times, the traffic becomes quite chaotic. Parents and teachers park on both sides of the street and when they are parked in such a fashion, there leaves about 9 feet in the middle. When cars are parked on both sides of the street, one has to drive down the center, and if a car is approaching from the opposite side at the same time, then one of the two approaching cars would have to back up. It has been observed that there were instances when cars even backed up onto NE Rogers Lane, a 35 mph arterial street; this is a dangerous situation. Medisetty said for that reason, he recommends making NE Angus Place a one-way street going north. He said there is no property that will be affected on this street except 320 NE Angus Place, which is on the southwest corner of the intersection of NE Angus Street and NE Angus Place. The driveway for this house is on NE Angus Place. Staff is still recommending a one-way street which means the resident would have to go out to NE Angus Street to NE Pioneer Blvd instead of going down NE Angus Place to Rogers Lane. The distance he would have to travel would be about the same, maybe 50 feet extra. Weigh the safety of the children and flow of traffic versus the inconvenience caused to the one resident for traveling an extra 50 feet. (Medisetty passed a picture of the traffic problem with cars facing each other, taken by a parent, to the traffic commission.) Ezerski asked if the City is going to widen Rogers Lane. Medisetty said yes to a 5 lanes and the speed limit will go to 40-45 mph. Bartlett asked if the speed limit for the school zone is still 20 mph and Medisetty said yes. Bartlett said he has been in that area and it is a mess and putting a one-way sign on NE Angus Place would control it. Ezerski asked if there were anyone in the audience who would like to say something.

Thomas Perry, 320 NE Angus Place, said he has lived at that address for 36 years. He said, yes, there is a problem during pick up of the children in the evening only. If you make NE Angus Place going one-way, it will still be a problem because irresponsible parents will still park on the other side of the street. Thomas said it doesn't need to be one-way all year but just during the school year or during school hours. He said the Principal of Pioneer Park said the City doesn't own NE Angus Place but the school does and the City cannot enforce anything for that street. He suggested putting a "No Parking" sign on one side of the street. The street will need to be patrolled by the LPD to make sure the signs are enforced whether it is one-way or no parking on one side of the street.

Medisetty confirmed that NE Angus Place is a public street and the police can patrol it. Ezerski asked if putting "No Parking" on one side would help. Medisetty said there are more cars to pick up the children at this school than there are parking spaces. There is a parking area on Cimarron Trail for the busses and some vehicles which makes no room for the parents. The parents have no choice but to park on NE Angus Place on both sides of the street.

Means asked Thomas if the teachers are parking on NE Angus Place also. Thomas said no, they are parking on the north side of the school in a parking space and the busses park on the east side of the school on Cimarron Place. Medisetty said Cimarron Place is one-way for the busses but some parents' park there. Ezerski said that the best way to help is to make it one-way during the school year and not during the summer and holidays but that's not practical. So we need to make it one-way forever. Bartlett said that Thomas was right because regardless of what they do, the parents are going to park on both sides of the street. Bartlett said that he suggests having no parking on the west side of the street and that would solve the children running across the street. The objective is to keep the children safe. Medisetty said the cars are parked on Cimarron Trail Place, Rogers Lane, NE

Angus Place, the north side of the school, in the field west of NE Angus Place. There is not enough space for all the cars.

Owens said that the School Board needs to do a study on this and get with Medisetty and figure out what to do with this problem that is safe for the kids and the residents. Ezerski said the School District owns the land around there. Sagar said he can talk to the principal and see if she can have more parents' park in that area and have a school crossing guard. Ezerski said the drawing doesn't have the addition of the school on it.

LPD Sgt Diaz said the Whittier School had the same problem and called out the police when the principal tried to have no parking on one side of their street and the parents got out of hand. He said they put "No Parking" on the curb line adjacent to the school. The parents can park across from the school but not the curb line adjacent to the school. That prevents the children from running across the street and getting hurt or running in between cars. LPD went out there and enforced it and it works for that school with the help of the parents and teachers.

Owens said the school needs to buy some of the land west of NE Angus Place across from the school for parking. Ezerski, Bartlett and Means agreed.

Billie Melvin, 152 NE Angus Street, said that this parking situation has been talked about over and over again and there was a meeting. They built a parking lot on the southeast side of the school for the teachers. They also built a way in there for the busses and for the parents to unload and load their children and to keep the children off of the street on Angus Place. He said the teachers park on Angus Place. He said he has suggested to put "No Stopping, No Parking" on the west side of NE Angus Place to keep the children from running across the street. Melvin said that if the City puts a one-way sign going north on NE Angus Place that would cause double the traffic going east and west on NE Angus Street where he lives. He said he has called LPD but has not seen anyone to enforce the issue. Ezerski said he has seen LPD monitoring the school zones several times. Melvin suggested all the Traffic Commissioners spend half a day out there and see the traffic in the area before making a decision about what they wish to do.

Ezerski said he agrees with Owens to give this to the Board of Education and do a study for this area for a solution to this problem. Owens recommended that this goes back to the staff and they get with the Board of Education and with LPD and the City Council and come up with a solution.

MOVED BY: Owens; **SECOND BY:** Bartlett to table this and give it back to the staff to get with the School Board and Council members to get more parking for the school.

AYE: Bartlett, Ezerski, Jenkins, Means and Owens; **NAY:** None.

VI. Other Business

Bartlett wanted to know about the flashing yellow arrow lights the Traffic Commission had voted on before. The City was going to put them at not so intersections. Medisetty said the Electronics division was working on that but they are overloaded. He said the new traffic signals were to be installed at East Gore and Flower Mound and at 11th Street and Lee Blvd for the left turns. Medisetty

said the location of East Gore and Flower Mound wouldn't work because the controller system needs an upgrade which will cost around \$5,000.

Owens said at the intersection of Cache Road and Hunter or 72nd Street there is a problem and he wants to go on record saying that there needs to be something done before anyone else is killed. They had another severe accident there this weekend involving a child. They have had two fatalities there. His niece was killed there so he is sensitive to that area. There needs to be something done there like a study before someone else gets killed. Ezerski recommended a traffic light there. Bartlett said it is midway between 67th Street and the Outback Restaurant driveway. Ezerski said there needs to be a left turning lane there with people turning into the movie theater or Wayne's driveway. There are just three ways out of Hunter onto Cache Road. Ezerski asked if this can be a priority before any other project. Medisetty said widening Cache Road is in the 2035 plan. Means said with the new stores opening up on 82nd there is more traffic on Cache. Ezerski said they need to bring it up to the Council and Brad, ODOT representative. Ezerski asked Medisetty to look into it. Medisetty said he would.

VII. Audience Participation

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 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.