

**TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES
NEW CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 23, 2017 – 4:07 P.M.**

I. Meeting called to order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 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: Carl Dentler, Barry Ezerski, Robert Kelso, Johnny Owens and Randy Somerlott

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Wolcott, Public Works Director, Jay Burk, Council Person and Cindy Porter, Traffic Commission Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Ezerski and Johnny Owens

II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (January 19, 2016) MOVED BY: Somerlott;
SECOND BY: Dentler to accept the minutes as written.

AYE: Dentler and Somerlott; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** Ezerski, Kelso and Owens

MOTION FAILED

III. Consent Item(s)

None

IV. Old Business

- 1) Consider a request (17-4) 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 further traffic light adjustments to help improve traffic on Gore Blvd. It is being brought back today for further discussion

Jay Burk stated that he was still getting a large volume of calls regarding the temporary light. In 2006 there was a great deal of accidents at that intersection, some of them being pretty severe. Council and the Comanche Tribe came to an agreement that the Tribe would purchase the temporary light and that the City would install it, until an access road could be constructed to the Casino. Now there is a new access road, with a nice new light, and it's hardly ever used because people are still funneling back to Gore Blvd. It was believed that the majority of traffic was during rush hour where it would stack up back to Mike's Sports Grille. Where the problem now seems to be occurring is at 4:00 p.m., when travelers get stuck at all three lights. There has got to be a way to get rid of this light, perhaps making it a right turn only out of there. There is a right turn only coming out of Wal-Mart onto Sheridan Road. Perhaps censored light, paid for by the Tribe, could be installed. There is a censored light at the Apache Casino on Gore Blvd. and it works. There is an Eastside resident who would like to voice his concerns as well.

Keegan Ledford stated that when the temporary light was proposed it was projected to only take a year. If the deal was to take down the light once the access road was put in, he didn't see anything wrong

with that. A deal is a deal until it's changed, and he didn't think anything has changed. McDonald's on Cache Road is another example of a right turn only on a busy road. So make it a right turn only and see if that encourages people to use the access road onto Lee Blvd.

Owens stated that he agreed with Ledford that a deal is a deal.

Ezerski stated that he received a phone call from Amy Ewing-Holmstrom, who was the Council Person for Ward 4 at the time, and she corroborated Burk's case that it was a temporary arrangement. There people have called him and one has shown up at his home, to try and encourage him to remove the light. The timing changes have helped at rush hour, but they are making it difficult at other times.

Owens played a voice mail message from Amy Ewing-Holmstrom for the record:

"Hey Johnny, its Am, I know you're on the Traffic Commission. I'm calling today to express my concerns over the light in front of the casino. That came up while I was on City Council, and I fought against that light for a lot of reasons but mostly the people on the East side don't want that light. So I am calling to tell you that we don't want that light the plan was put it up temporarily until the side road was built. Now the side road is built time to remove the light and make those folks make a forced right just like they do in front of Wal-Mart."

Ezerski asked Wolcott to reiterate the background for Robert Kelso, the newest member of the board.

Wolcott stated that initially when this all started, it was 2006 and there were accidents occurring at the intersection of Gore Blvd. and Lawrie Tatum Road. At that intersection you have the Casino, the Montego Bay Apartments and the Best Western Hotel and there were T-Bone accidents happening when people were getting impatient and trying to get out pulling out into traffic and causing accidents. That is what initiated the action to look at it. City Council made an agreement with The Comanche Tribe at that time to put in temporary traffic signals, and they did call it temporary at that time. Since then the traffic signals have been in place since August 2006. Then last year Jay Burk brought it back fir discussion in July, since then staff has tried to make adjustments to the lights primarily to reduce traffic during peak hours, 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning and 4:30 to 5 in the evening. That seemed to be the biggest complaint at that time. Now we are back to discussing whether to maintain the light at Lawrie Tatum and Gore Blvd.

MOVED BY: Owens ; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott **TABLE** and to remove the traffic signal lights at the intersection of NW Gore Blvd. and Lawrie Tatum Road and making the exit onto Gore Blvd a Right Turn Only. **AYE:** Dentler, Ezerski, Kelso, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

V. New Business

- 2) Consider a request **(17-5)** from Caleb Davis, Councilmember, to install a School Zone flashing light for Northbound 53rd Street, North of Gore Blvd.

Wolcott stated that this is the school zone for Eisenhower. The traffic going Northbound on 53rd Street going north has an existing speed limit sign that has times indicating when the school zone is in effect.

There is also a small flashing light on the left sign of the road for northbound traffic as well. The request is to replace the existing sign with a school zone flashing light sign. In this case it is probably less evident that they are within a school zone since they are going away from Eisenhower. Drivers don't feel they have enough time to actually read the sign to understand that they are in a school zone. This change would eliminate that confusion.

MOVED BY: Owens; **SECOND BY:** Dentler to accept staff recommendation to install additional school zone flashing light for northbound 53rd Street, North of Gore Blvd. and remove the existing school speed limit sign with times. **AYE:** Dentler, Ezerski, Kelso, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

- 3) Consider a request **(17-6)** from Carl Dentler, to install a NO U TURN sign for Westbound traffic on Lee Blvd. at SW 52nd Street.

Wolcott stated that right now there are no U TURN signs at intersections along Lee Blvd. at 6th Street and 14th Street, at the other intersections, they are allowed. This no U TURN would eliminate the conflict that you have when you have an east or westbound vehicle making a U TURN and that conflict with a north or southbound traffic trying to make a right turn on red. The vehicle doing the U TURN would have the right of way, but the vehicle making a right turn would think they are making a left turn and it causes near misses. The recommendation would be to install the signs in both directions. The businesses at that intersection have median openings that allow access to them so they would not require a U TURN to access them.

MOVED BY: Somerlott; **SECOND BY:** Owens to accept staff recommendation to install NO U TURN signs for East and Westbound traffic on Lee Blvd. at 52nd Street. **AYE:** Dentler, Ezerski, Kelso, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

- 4) Consider a request **(17-7)** from Isaa Witten to install a STOP or YIELD signs at the intersection of NW Lady Marna and Debracy.

Wolcott stated that this is currently an uncontrolled local, 4-way, intersection. Based on sight distances it does warrant installation of stop signs. Recommend installation of STOP signs on the east west approaches on NW Lady Marna at Debracy.

MOVED BY: Dentler; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to accept staff recommendation to install a STOP sign at the intersection of NW Lady Marna and Debracy. **AYE:** Dentler, Ezerski, Kelso, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

- 5) Consider a request **(17-8)** from to install signs on SW 10th Street between McKinley and Roosevelt to slow traffic.

Wolcott stated that Ms. Miller wanted CHILDREN AT PLAY or other signs to slow traffic. This is a local street and there are a lot of kids playing near her address. She was told the CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGNS are reserved for City parks or other areas where there are playgrounds. Right now there are no speed limit signs coming off of 11th Street onto McKinley or Roosevelt, so staff recommends installing 25 MPH speed limit signs on Roosevelt and McKinley at SW 11th Street.

Kelso stated that he could not locate Roosevelt on Google maps.

Wolcott stated that it has a special designation as N H Jones.

MOVED BY: Owens; **SECOND BY:** Somerlott to accept staff recommendation to install signs on SW 10th Street between McKinley and Roosevelt to slow traffic. **AYE** Dentler, Ezerski, Kelso, Owens and Somerlott; **NAY:** None

VI. Audience Participation

None

VII. Adjournment

4:31 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.