

**UNAPPROVED
CITY OF BLAINE
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 1, 2018**

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He read from a statement on the agenda regarding the role and responsibilities of the Traffic Commission.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Commission Members: Chmielewski, Hill, Maschke, and Chair Haas

Members Absent: Mahmudi, Skarich, and Wold

Staff Present: City Engineer Jean Keely
Sergeant Joseph Sadler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 3.1 - November 8, 2017, Traffic Commission Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to approve the minutes of November 8, 2017, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 4-0.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT

There were no comments.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Maschke to adopt the May 1, 2018, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENTS

None.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Item 7.1 - Council Authorized Implementation of Traffic Commission Recommendations for 121st Avenue West of Sunset Avenue

City Engineer Keely stated the City Council, at its November 16, 2017, meeting, authorized

implementation of the Traffic Commission's recommendations for 121st Avenue, west of Sunset Avenue. The Traffic Commission had also requested consideration of a three-way stop at the intersection of Lever Street and 121st Avenue. City staff reviewed the request, and the intersection does not meet the criteria necessary for implementation of a multi-way stop. City Engineer Keely reported this to the City Council in the Council action.

Item 7.2 - Council Authorized Implementation of Traffic Commission Recommendations for Arnold Palmer Drive adjacent to London Court

City Engineer Keely stated the City Council, at its December 7, 2017, meeting, approved implementation of the Traffic Commission's recommendations for Arnold Palmer drive at London Court. She added London Court residents attempted to submit a petition for proposed pedestrian safety measures but were unable to obtain signatures from 50% of the neighborhood as required by the City Council. Some London court residents have requested the opportunity to address the City Council on this issue.

City Engineer Keely stated residents requested a curb cut directly across from London Court. She added this was not recommended due to poor visibility on southbound Arnold Palmer Drive, but the City Council instructed City staff to continue to work with the Homeowner's Association. In addition, the City Council recommended consideration of a trail rather than sidewalk. A trail in this location could be matched up to an existing trail in Deacons Park with a mid-block crosswalk closer to the park, where there is increased visibility.

City Engineer Keely stressed that mid-block crosswalks are not recommended in the City's crosswalk policy except where they form a sidewalk or trail connection. She added this issue is currently being reviewed by City staff and neighborhood residents.

Commissioner Hill asked why residents are reluctant to sign the petition. City Engineer Keely stated the project cost estimate of \$40,000 would be assessed to the 28 townhomes in the cul-de-sac. She added the assessment could be spread over a 10-year period, but residents do not want to participate in an assessment. She noted a bituminous trail combined with another project would be more cost-effective, but a petition signed by half of the residents would still be required.

City Engineer Keely stated the Homeowner's Association has expressed an interest in working with the City in some capacity. She added a trail in the right of way adjacent to TPC would potentially require additional approval. She agreed to keep the Traffic Commission updated on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Item 9.1 - 2018 Calendar of Meetings

Chair Haas stated the Traffic Commission's July 3, 2018, meeting should be moved to July 11, 2018, due to the July 4th holiday.

Motion by Commissioner Hill to move the next Traffic Commission meeting to July 11, 2018. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 4-0.

City Engineer Keely stated the Traffic Commission's November 6, 2018, meeting was moved to November 7, 2018, due to Election Day.

9.2 - Update on Traffic Enforcement

Sergeant Sadler gave an update on the City's traffic enforcement efforts since the Traffic Commission's last meeting. He added the Traffic Unit received 2,546 documented traffic complaints in 2017, and as a result, 26 traffic enforcement zones were created to address complaints more efficiently. He noted the Traffic Unit logged 732 hours, during which 1,600 traffic stops were made and numerous citations and warnings were given.

Sergeant Sadler stated traffic enforcement and safety within school zones has continued to be a priority, with 121 hours and 346 traffic stops in 2017. He added the Traffic Unit works closely with the County to ensure that school zones are more visible as well as easier to monitor and enforce. He noted the Traffic Unit has also focused on the construction zone on 105th Avenue, after complaints were received from workers regarding high traffic speeds and insufficient road markings.

Sergeant Sadler stated, in 2018, the Traffic Unit plans to get involved in new driver education, instructing at Blaine High School, answering questions and concerns; addressing parents; and providing traffic safety information. He added the Traffic Unit will continue to encourage local businesses with digital billboards to post traffic safety messages.

Sergeant Sadler stated there are two new traffic monitoring devices in place in the City to measure speeds, monitor traffic direction, provide traffic counts and record vehicle sizes. He added, for instance, there have been complaints near Ball Road at Marmon Street regarding large commercial vehicles in the neighborhood. He noted the new devices can monitor traffic and get accurate data on traffic counts and vehicle sizes.

Commissioner Hill requested clarification regarding the new devices. Sergeant Sadler stated the Jamar Black Cat traffic data collection device is a radar recorder that can provide accurate traffic data without having sensors in the road.

Sergeant Sadler stated the Traffic Unit is involved in the "Arrive Alive" Program at Blaine High School. He added specific enforcement is planned at intersections where there are high numbers of crashes, in an effort to reduce those numbers. He noted the Traffic Unit is working with CVI's to target enforcement areas, and involve Patrol Officers in saturated enforcement.

Commissioner Hill asked whether the majority of traffic complaints come from local residents. Sergeant Sadler stated there are several sources: residents can call Dispatch to file a traffic complaint; a phone app called "Tip 411" allowed residents to make anonymous traffic complaints;

and a traffic complaint button on the Police Department webpage allows residents to submit online traffic complaints. He added social media outlets are another source.

Commissioner Hill asked whether complaints are typically specific or more general in nature. Sergeant Sadler stated the majority of complaints are related to speed or stop signs on neighborhood streets. He added the Traffic Unit focuses on neighborhood traffic complaints, while the Patrol Unit is engaged in traffic violations.

Commissioner Maschke requested clarification regarding local and non-local complaints. Sergeant Sadler stated an incident involving a resident within a 2-block radius of the enforcement zone is considered “local”. He added, for instance, traffic complaints on Lakes Parkway generally only involve residents of the area.

Sergeant Sadler stated the Police Department Facebook page covers school zone information, including where school zones are located, what to watch for and regulations to follow in School Zones during school hours.

9.3 - Local Road Research Board Report on “Addressing Citizen Requests for Traffic Safety Concerns”

City Engineer Keely reviewed a research study sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) that was completed in December 2017. She added the report, prepared by the Local Road Research Board, is a “best practices” approach to addressing citizen requests for traffic safety concerns, such as signage and pavement markings.

City Engineer Keely stated the document will provide a good point of reference for the Traffic Commission. She added the City of Blaine’s Traffic Management Plan is referenced in almost every chapter. She noted the Traffic Commission had received a copy of the Plan in their Commission materials.

Commissioner Hill stated Renae Kuehl, one of the authors of the report, has indicated that she would be happy to give a presentation to the Traffic Commission. City Engineer Keely agreed that could be added to an upcoming Agenda.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018, AT 6:30 P.M.

City Engineer Keely stated the Traffic Commission’s June 5, 2018, meeting agenda will include a review of data collected from the new traffic monitoring devices. She added City staff is reviewing new and recurring enforcement issues involving stop signs and traffic speeds.

Chair Haas asked whether the City has considered an “Adopt a Highway/Street” program to help control litter. City Engineer Keely stated the City Council will be considering a contract with the Minnesota Correctional Facility for roadway clean-up and removal of debris around ponds and stormwater facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 4-0. Adjournment time was 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mullen
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.