

**UNAPPROVED  
CITY OF BLAINE  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 5, 2018**

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on Tuesday, June 5, 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, Maschke, Mahmudi, Skarich, Wold  
and Chair Haas

Members Absent:      Commission Member Hill

Staff Present:          City Engineer Jean Keely

\*\*\*\*\*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Item 3.1 - May 1, 2018, Traffic Commission Minutes

**Motion by Commissioner Wold to approve the minutes of May 1, 2018, as presented.  
Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 6-0.**

**OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT**

Jeff Blaha, 1242 99th Court NE, made a complaint regarding increased traffic and noise in his neighborhood which has been a result of the new location of the Twin Cities Harley Davidson dealer on 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. He added Harley Davidson's customers must use 99th Avenue NE and Buchanan Street NE to gain access to the parking lot. He asked why the parking lot cannot be accessed from Highway 65.

City Engineer Jean Keely stated the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) would not have approved a permit for access from Highway 65, so local roads would need to be used to access the Harley Davidson dealership. Chair Haas agreed, stating direct access to Highway 65 would not have been allowed by MnDOT.

Mr. Blaha stated the increased motorcycle traffic, turning onto eastbound 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE from northbound Highway 65, causes traffic back-ups disruption, and motorcycles make more noise than regular traffic. He added something must be done about the traffic noise levels, which is stressful and unfair for local residents.

Chair Haas requested that City Staff contact the Police Department to begin monitoring this area. He thanked Mr. Blaha for his comments, and asked him to leave his contact information with City Staff for follow-up.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Commissioner Maschke to adopt the June 5, 2018, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Skarich. The motion passed 6-0.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENTS**

None.

### **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Item 8.1 - Introduce Sgt. Jeff Warner - Newly assigned to Traffic Commission

Chair Haas stated Sergeant Jeff Warner was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but plans to attend the Traffic Commission's July 11, 2018, meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 9.1 Local Road Research Board Presentation - "Addressing Citizen Requests for Traffic Safety Concerns"

City Engineer Keely stated City Staff received a report prepared by the Local Road Research Board (LRRB) and sponsored by MnDOT. She introduced Tom Sachi, SRF Consulting Group, one of the document's principal authors.

Mr. Sachi reviewed the LRRB's Traffic Safety Concerns report, which provides guidance for local agencies when addressing traffic safety issues. He stated many factors contribute to a lack of consistency in how municipalities address safety concerns, including differences between rural and urban conditions, population size and growth, and changes in City and County staff. He added the report's intended audience is City and County traffic staff and commissions. He noted the report provides guidelines for responding to residents' concerns by determining specific core issues and ways to address them.

Mr. Sachi stated the most common traffic-related concerns are speeding, volume, safety and sightlines. He added the guidelines will help City Engineers to determine whether stop signs or regulatory signs are the appropriate solution, and specify ways to convey decisions to residents. He noted the resources used by the City of Blaine are the best that he has found, and were used as a model in the report.

Chair Haas thanked Mr. Sachi for his presentation.

### 9.2 Update on Traffic Enforcement

City Engineer Keely stated Sergeant Warner was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a review to be presented to the Traffic Commission.

The Traffic Enforcement unit addressed complaints of speeding and drivers ignoring stop signs on 119th Avenue between Highway 65 and Radisson Road. This issue was reviewed by the Traffic Commission at a 2017 meeting. The speed trailer was located in this area from May 9-16, 2018, and the 85th percentile speed was 31 miles per hour (mph). The Traffic Enforcement Unit has spent over 23 hours at this location and made 21 traffic stops, mostly related to stop sign violations.

City staff has received complaints of speeding at 11871 Jamestown Street NE, and the speed trailer was located at Jamestown Street NE and South Lake Boulevard from April 24-29, 2018. The 85th percentile speed was 26 mph. This information was provided to the complainant, who stated the traffic speeds had improved recently.

Complaints have been received regarding speeding on Cloud Drive from Radisson Road to West Lake Boulevard. The speed trailer was located in this area from May 9-16, 2018, and the 85th percentile speed was 26 mph.

These “hot spots” are on a list of locations being monitored by the Traffic Unit. The list also includes Lakes Parkway.

The Traffic Enforcement Unit is addressing complaints about traffic speed on Harpers Street NE, north of 125th Avenue. City staff will provide an update for the Traffic Commission regarding this issue at their July 11, 2018, meeting.

The Traffic Enforcement Unit participated in Driver’s Education class instruction at Blaine High School before the school year ended, which was very successful. The Traffic Enforcement Unit intends to participate in Driver’s Education classes at Centennial High School in the 2018-19 school year.

A resident complaint regarding speed on the 1600 block of 121st Avenue was reviewed by the Traffic Commission at their September 2017 meeting. Two additional complaints have recently been received, and the Traffic Enforcement Unit spent approximately 9 hours in that area, resulting in 9 traffic stops, and continues to monitor the area. Data from the speed trailer will be available at the Traffic Commission’s July 2018 meeting.

Sergeant Sadler has been given a new assignment, and Sergeant Warner will be the new Traffic Commission liaison. A 6-month summary of Traffic Enforcement Unit activity will be provided at an upcoming Traffic Commission meeting.

City Engineer Keely stated the City Council recently authorized a grant funding application for a dedicated DWI Officer. She added the 2-year grant would cover a full-time Enforcement Officer's salary between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. She noted an update would be provided at the Traffic Commission's July meeting.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 6-0. Adjournment time was 7:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mullen  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*