

Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

1:00 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of the Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission was held Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the City of Warsaw Council Chambers. **Voting members in attendance were Cindy Dobbins, Jack Wilhite, Captain Joel Beam, David Robertson, and Jeremy Skinner** Ex-Officio members in attendance were Mayor Joseph Thallemer and Chief Scott D. Whitaker. Also in attendance was Kory Stoneburner-Betts (Ink Free News) and Amanda Bridgman (Times-Union).

Mayor Joseph Thallemer called the meeting to order so Lance Grubbs, the new Traffic Commissioner could be sworn in. Mayor Thallemer asked Lance to talk a bit about the experience he was bringing to the Traffic Commission. Lance advised he began working at the Warsaw Police Department in 1977 and retired after 21-1/2 years of service. After retiring, he stated he began working for the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute as a law enforcement liaison. He advised at the beginning of his employment his position was considered a traffic safety specialist. He further added he has lived in Warsaw all his life. In October 2019, the LEL program was restructured and he stated he was out of a job for four months. He then started working part-time for the Prosecutor's Office and two weeks ago began to work again with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute covering the northeast region.

Mayor Thallemer issued Lance Grubbs the oath of office as a member of the Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission. Joel Beam was nominated to the Traffic Safety Commission secretary position. The motion was made by Lance Grubbs; seconded by Jack Wilhite with no oppositions.

ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes of November 6, 2019, meeting was approved. The motion was made by David Robertson to accept the minutes; seconded by Jack Wilhite.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Handicap Parking – 500 block of Market Street and Fribley Field – Jeremy Skinner advised he sent both Larry Plummer and Captain Beam paperwork regarding the handicapped parking spaces. Jeremy informed Larry advised of a few locations he would like to have the parking spaces located which is what is being presented today. The Traffic Commission needs to approve the locations and the painting will be done in March. Jeremy informed the handicapped parking space at Fribley Field will be placed not far from the concession stand. The parking spot would be just west or east of the entrance to the concession area. Lance informed either side of the cut-out would be a proper parking space. Jeremy advised patrons could then use the ramp to have access to the sidewalk. Jeremy also advised the second handicapped space would be near the shopping area on Market Street.

Mayor Thallemer asked Jeremy if there were standards for parking lots and Jeremy advised there are no requirements for the city to put on street handicapped parking. For off street handicapped parking, he advised he tries to get one handicapped space per block and generally locate them for easy accessibility. Mayor Thallemer asked about the off-street parking lane in the area. He asked if handicapped parking could be placed there so no one is getting out of a vehicle on the traffic side. These spots appear to be all off road which may be better to designate those as handicapped. It is gravel and it cannot be painted and there is no way to mark where the space starts and ends. It may not be enforceable. Jeremy advised he would ask Larry Plummer how that area is utilized and the possibility of figuring out a way to mark it as handicapped. A motion was made by Jack Wilhite to table the handicapped parking until speaking with Larry Plummer; seconded by Cindy Dobbins.

NEW BUSINESS:

Warsaw Police Department Annual Traffic Report – Chief Scott D. Whitaker presented the 2019 Warsaw Police Department annual traffic report pursuant to Warsaw City Code 74-55. The report has comparisons with the 2018 stats. He advised there is a great deal of work put into the reports by Angela Howard, Systems Administrator in the Records Division.

Chief Whitaker advised there were two fatalities in 2018 and two in 2019. The most noted was Gideon Cook on Husky Trail and a fatality on Lake Street which was a hit and run. Mayor Thallemer stated it was noteworthy that on page 3 of the report, accidents on US 30 continue to increase. It went from 166 to 193 in the city's jurisdiction.

Jack Wilhite inquired about the accidents on Center Street. Captain Beam advised there are approximately 13,000 vehicles that travel on Center Street per day and the more cars, the more crashes. Captain Beam also informed there is an increase on US 30 where approximately 30,000 travel through our city per day.

Lance Grubbs asked about the injuries in the crashes. Chief Whitaker advised he located stats from 1992 and the number of injured parties are about the same as this year. Chief Whitaker added in comparison with years past, US 30 traffic has increased significantly. It was also noted that 50% of the traffic at peak time on US 30 was local traffic.

Lance inquired about the accidents in the roundabouts. Chief Whitaker advised that may be something to add to the stats for next year. Jeremy informed there will be a fifth roundabout added in the future. He stated there may be one placed in the future at 100 and 200N by the airport industrial park. Mayor Thallemer added there was a 16% increase from 2018 to 2019 on US 30.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

Cindy Dobbins stated sometime in April or May 2020, a downtown traffic parking survey should be completed to show it is being kept on task.

Captain Beam advised Officer Dobbins passed away on February 1, 2020, and he will be placed to rest on February 6, 2020. He further stated the funeral procession will begin at approximately 12:30 p.m. which will disrupt traffic. He stated he encouraged citizens and business owners to line the streets to pay their last respects to Officer Dobbins and his family. The procession will leave Warsaw Community Church and drive north on Ranch Road, north on Buffalo Street, and then east on Center Street. From there, the procession will turn left on McKinley Street where there it will stop by the police department and give the final 10-42. The procession will continue west on Fort Wayne Street and then north past Lincoln Elementary School and then west on Sheridan Street into the Oakwood Cemetery.

Mayor Thallemer advised he was in a meeting earlier today to discuss railroad crossing north/south improvements from Pope Street to Lyon Street. He advised this will begin in the next few weeks and there will be some short-term lane restrictions and closures. This project will take approximately eight months to complete all the intersections. In May 2020, for approximately six months, INDOT will begin working on making safety improvements on Hickory Street as well as putting in seven new stop lights on highway 15. The lights will be connected to improve traffic flow. There will be press releases sent out which talks specifically about each of the projects and what they are going to do and how they are going to impact our traffic. Jeremy advised this project will resolve many of the safety issues.

The next regular scheduled meeting – March 4, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned.