

Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

1:00 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of the Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the City of Warsaw Council Chambers. **Voting members in attendance at City Hall were Lance Grubbs, Cindy Dobbins, Captain Joel Beam, Dustin Dillon, Jack Wilhite, and Dave Allbritten. Voting members in attendance virtually via the GOTO Meeting App were Connie Fribley, David Robertson, Jeremy Skinner, and Lewis Fuller.** Ex-Officio members present were Mayor Joseph Thallemer, Chief Scott D. Whitaker (virtual). Additionally, in attendance virtually was James Emans, Aubrea Kobryn (INDOT), and James Turnwald (MACOG).

Lance Grubbs called the meeting to order.

ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes of the May 6, 2020, meeting was approved. The motion was made by Jack Wilhite to accept the minutes; seconded by Cindy Dobbins.

Appointment and Oath for Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission

Oath of Office was given to Dustin Dillon, City of Warsaw Street Department, by Mayor Joe Thallemer

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Parking both sides of road on Pine Cone Lane – Jeremy Skinner advised the standard street design is one car parked on either side with 18 feet to pass. He advised parking only on one side of the road could be looked and researched on what other communities have done. Cindy Dobbins advised going the letter route first (through the city attorney) would be best to ask others to be respectful and to consider there might be a need for emergency vehicles or snowplows to get through the roadway. Dustin Dillon advised he drove through the area and had very similar concerns if parking was allowed on both sides of the street especially on trash pickup day. He further added if residents parked on one side of the street; maybe the trash cans could be placed on the opposite side of the street. Most times a one-armed truck will run through that neighborhood and it does not leave much room to get to the trash cans. Dustin informed the recycling comes on Monday and trash pick-up is on Tuesday. Lance Grubbs advised it would need to be the entire addition and not just Pine Cone Lane.

The motion was made by Cindy Dobbins to have the city attorney draft a gentle letter to homeowners. The letter would ask for their cooperation in being cognizant of where they park especially on trash and recycling days as well as not to impede emergency services. The motion was seconded by Captain Joel Beam with no oppositions.

Traffic control (stop light or roundabout) at Fisher Avenue, Ranch Road, and Kincaide Street – INDOT – There was a concern with traffic around Kincaide Street and Fisher Avenue. Captain Beam advised a traffic study has been done in the past which showed the intersection did not need to be adjusted. However, several intersections are there which is Kincaide and Lake, as well as Ranch Road which all come together at one point.

Aubrea Kobryn advised INDOT pulled crash data for 15 and Kincaide along with 15 and Ranch. There was a traffic count done in 2016; however, there have not been any further traffic counts. Crash data is the first step in looking at the area which includes everything from January 2015 until March 2020.

James Turnwald from MACOG advised they do traffic counting for both the state and individual counties. He advised he does not have an intersection study; however, he stated they could put a video camera at the intersection which would be a free service to the city. He stated MACOG conducted a traffic count in 2018 on Kincaide between Union Street and State Road 15. The annual average daily traffic was 997 vehicles on Kincaide.

Additionally, a traffic count was conducted in 2018 on Ranch Road between Shaffer and Fisher (State Road 15). The average annual daily traffic was 4,524 vehicles. There were two different counts on State Road 15, which was north or south of that general intersection. The traffic count south between Herscher and Kincaide on Fisher (State Road 15) was done in 2019. The annual average daily traffic was 12,264 vehicles. In 2018, a northern traffic count was conducted which is closer to Bass Street. The average daily traffic was 17,587 vehicles. James Turnwald advised if the city were interested, he could speak to the Senior Data Planner and ask him to set up two camera units at the intersection. However, he recommended waiting until school was in session.

Aubrea Kobryn advised she also recommends waiting until school is in session to get the worse case scenario. She stated they have been keeping up with the traffic data and it looks like it is 10% down compared to the typical volume. Aubrea advised the crash data on State Road 15 at Kincaide showed five crashes in five years and three months with no injuries (January 1, 2015, through March 31, 2020).

She advised there was 27 crashes at the intersection of Ranch Road and State Road 15 with not a lot of injuries. Most of the crashes were rear-end crashes due to starting and stopping. Aubrea advised INDOT must identify the most significant safety concerns to allocate the state funds and this would not receive funding. It would be up to the city to consider changing the geometry of the intersection or adding flashing lights for the associated crosswalk.

Mayor Thallemer asked if there were potential changes to lane markings or signage that might reduce the rear-end potential. Aubrea stated lane markings are not good for rear-end crashes. Most of the time the driver's have both stopped and it is not they aren't aware of the stop sign.

NEW BUSINESS:

North Harrison Street (south of KCH to Sacred Heart School) – no sidewalks or bike lanes to and from Beyer Trail, KCH, and Bowen Center – Dustin Dillon advised it is a high traffic road and it is concerning to him. He stated he felt putting a bike lane there would be a safety concern. Cindy Dobbins informed installing sidewalks would work but painting bike lanes in the area would be dangerous with emergency vehicles traveling quickly down the road to KCH.

Captain Beam advised he put a speed board in the area and just driving northbound, approximately 1,600 vehicles per day are traveling through the area. Some of the vehicles are speeding because they are fire trucks, ambulances, and/or police cars. It is a major artery when going to KCH. He further stated it would be a concern having pedestrians walking on the road or riding a bike.

David Robertson stated there are students who live in the vicinity but stated they may be bussed because of Harrison Street. Mayor Thallemer advised there has been talk about extending Sheridan Street to Parker Street. However, that is not being planned at this point.

It was decided if something were to be constructed in the future, it would need to be brought to the Pedestrian Ride/Walk Committee. They would have to provide a recommendation due to high levels of traffic in the area.

Traffic control – Dunkin Donuts (East Center Street) – A concern was brought to the Traffic Commission regarding individuals blocking Center Street to turn into Dunkin Donuts for the drive-thru. Jeremy informed individuals need to realize they can't block Center Street and if they do, they can receive a ticket. Mayor Thallemer asked about the specific violation or ordinance for someone stopping on the road. Captain Beam informed it is blocking the road and it is a misdemeanor. Mayor Thallemer informed maybe a well-placed sign informing the road cannot be blocked should be put in.

Mayor Thallemer asked Lance Grubbs and Jeremy Skinner to meet with Dunkin management and express the concern and if there was something they can do internally to mitigate the problem. The city will work together with Dunkin Donuts and put a sign up.

Request for decrease in speed limit in Rolling Hills Subdivision – A resident requested a decrease in the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph since there are numerous children in the area. Mayor Thallemer advised it would be his suggested to research other neighborhoods and then bring it back to the Traffic Commission at the next meeting. The discussion was tabled.

Speed limit on CR 200 North from Indiana Vac Form east to stop sign at Husky Trail – A resident requested further discussion regarding the speed limit at 30 mph on

County Road 200N from Indiana Vac Form east to the stop sign at Husky Trail. The resident feels the 30 mph is too slow. During prior discussion, Lance Grubbs advised it was brought up there would be additional building in the area and that is the purpose of the 30 mph. Jeremy Skinner advised at some point there will be a roundabout at the intersection which will drop the speed to navigate the roundabout.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

The next regular scheduled meeting – September 2, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.