JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
JUNE 3, 2019

Mayor Shaw called the June 3, 2019 Informal Meeting of the Joplin City Council to order at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Melodee Colbert-Kean, Keenan Cortez, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Mayor Gary Shaw, Ryan Stanley, and Phil Stinnett. Also, in attendance were Interim City Manager Dan Pekarek and City Attorney Peter Edwards. Absent: Taylor Brown.

Public Works Update: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy

Public Works Director David Hertzberg and Assistant Director Dan Johnson reviewed the traffic calming policy that the city council had received the previous week. The objective of the policy is to improve the livability of our neighborhoods and to minimize adverse impacts of vehicular traffic on residential and pedestrian safety through a system of education, enforcement and engineering.

The goals the City wishes to accomplish with this policy are:

- Reduce the speed of vehicles on residential streets where an engineering study shows there is a speeding issue.
- Increase safety by reducing crash patterns on impacted residential streets.
- Develop and emphasize focused neighborhood educational programs, which address residential traffic problems.
- Implement selective enforcement actions in neighborhoods with traffic problems.
- Eliminate, or discourage, non-local, cut-through traffic on residential streets.

In implementing the Program Goals, care will be taken to:

- Encourage citizen participation throughout the Program by seeking the input of affected residents and non-resident property owners through neighborhood meetings, written communications, open forum opportunities with Traffic Commission, and with City Council.
- Minimize impacts on emergency vehicle response times caused by the implementation of neighborhood traffic calming measures.
- Respond to complaints in a timely manner.

Program Overview
This Traffic Calming Policy has been designed to ensure that each neighborhood with a proven traffic problem has access to neighborhood traffic calming measures. The program will require significant citizen involvement. The policy has been designed to address neighborhood concerns in a timely manner by relying on staff to take the initial steps to address a perceived problem. Final traffic calming measures must be reviewed by the Traffic Commission and approved by the City Council, and the level of traffic control measures, which may be implemented, is subject to available funding.

Process
The process by which a perceived problem is identified, reviewed, and possibly mitigated is a series of education, enforcement, and engineering steps. The process from notification to solution is illustrated using a flow diagram, see Figure 1.

The process is summarized in the following steps:

1. Initial Complaint and Site Review

The initiation of City involvement in mitigating a neighborhood traffic problem begins with a complaint by an individual resident or a group of residents. The complaint generally involves a perception that a significant number of motorists traveling through a neighborhood are violating the law in some way.

2. Site Review by Staff

Staff conducts a field review of the complaint and responds to the complaint within 15 working days.

3. Joplin Police Department Traffic Unit Evaluation

In the case of speeding, staff will request additional traffic enforcement by the police and/or schedule the placement of a radar speed trailer.

4. Traffic Commission Meeting with the Neighborhood

The Traffic Engineer will meet with the Traffic Commission. This meeting is scheduled on a bimonthly basis. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the neighborhood to express concerns, and for staff and the commission to compare neighborhood conditions to the reasonable expectations of traffic volumes, traffic speeds, crash rates, etc.

5. Engineering Analysis

If a petition signed by 60% of the residents (renters or owners), allowing one signature per residence, on the affected street is submitted to the Public Works Department requesting additional traffic analysis. A neighborhood traffic study will be prepared which reviews street cross-section, crash history, speeds, traffic counts, and conducts appropriate studies. The report will be reviewed by the Engineering Staff, Fire, Planning & Zoning, and Police, and will be made available to concerned citizens.

Necessary Criteria for Consideration:

- Streets with no curb and gutter cannot have speed humps; other traffic calming devices will be considered.
- Crash history for previous three years will be reviewed. If there are no vehicular accidents within the three-year history, the street in question must meet all other criteria.
- Speed studies must indicate an 85th percentile speed of greater than 35 miles per hour or traffic calming devices will not be considered. Speed studies will only be conducted once per year per location.
- Traffic count must be over 500 average daily traffic or traffic calming devices will not be considered.
- City Staff will conduct other studies deemed appropriate for the location that could include site distance studies, pedestrian traffic, and vertical alignment.

6. Review by the Traffic Commission

The Traffic Commission and the Public, at a regular scheduled meeting, will review the report outlining the various options and recommendations. If the City Traffic Engineer determines that construction of a traffic calming device meets required criteria, and the Traffic Commission approves, City staff will provide a petition to the concerned Citizens for them to circulate for neighborhood consideration. The petition will describe the appropriate traffic calming device(s) and listing potential benefits and problems associated with the device. The affected area will be determined by the City Traffic Engineer and will not exceed the nearest Arterial/Collector Roads surrounding the affected street N/S and E/W in each direction.

7. Consideration by the Neighborhood/Cost Sharing

If a petition requesting traffic calming device(s) is signed by 60 percent of the residents in the zone defined by the City Traffic Engineer is submitted to the Public Works Department. Preliminary engineering plans and cost estimates for the traffic calming device(s) will be prepared by the Public Works Department. A --%(Residents)/--%(City) Cost Share to be paid by residents requesting the traffic calming device prior to construction.

Traffic Commission Recommendation: A 25%(Residents)/75%(City) Cost Share

Commission members cited availability of funds in the City budget. Per the current pilot project cost of $10,000 and 30 residents on the street, sharing the cost that works out at $83.33 each.

City Staff Recommendation: A 75%(Residents)/25%(City) Cost Share

Staff recommends following the existing ordinance for the assessment process which also includes guidelines for income based assistance for qualifying Citizens. Per the current pilot project cost of $10,000 and 30 residents on the street, sharing the cost that works out at $250.00 each.

8. City Council

The City Council will review minutes from the Traffic Commission.

9. Plans Prepared and Publicly Reviewed

Upon completion, the plans will then be reviewed by the Fire Chief and Police Chief or Designee for Final Approval. Upon approval, the Public, at a regular scheduled Traffic Commission meeting, would review the plans.

10. Traffic Calming Measure Implemented

Construction of traffic calming device(s) will be dependent upon construction season and City budget. Traffic humps will be constructed by City's paving contractor as part of annual paving contract and will be scheduled as such.

11. Follow Up

The implemented traffic calming measures are monitored for effectiveness.

Discussion followed the presentation. There were some concerns about the indication of an 85th percentile speed of greater than 35mph before calming devices would be considered. Other concerns included cost-sharing and whether this issue should be covered under public safety. Council decided to continue the discussion at the June 10 work session.

Boards & Commissions: Reappointments/New Appointments: due to time constraints, this item was moved to New Business at the formal meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted,

Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk