Traffic Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2021 @ 6:00pm

602 S. Main St, Joplin, MO 64801, 5th Floor Council Study

Roll Call:

- Members Present: John Bowling, Michael Mayer, Cassandra Maxfield, Trevor Frerer, Shawn Hull
- City Staff Present: Dakota Rusk, Civil Engineer; Dan Johnson, Asst. Public Works Director; Jared Delzell, Traffic Sergeant

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the Minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Topics:

- 5th Street Parking between Main and Virginia
  - Mr. Rusk states that as mentioned in previous meetings, currently we have angled parking on 5th Street in front of the apartment complex.
  - He states that a letter has been sent to the apartment manager/owner to consider switching to parallel parking, but they have yet to respond so our plan is to proceed with converting it over.
  - We will most likely have to completely block 5th street entrances.
  - He goes on to add that there have been ongoing issues with tenants currently not following parking, so fresh striping will be done in hopes of that helping resolve this issue, as the current striping is severely faded.
  - This will allow easier access to the front of the building for emergency personnel, delivery vehicles, etc. being that it is such a narrow, one-way street.
  - This will also reduce the parking from 14 diagonal stalls down to 10 stalls. These would be 20 foot stalls with a 10 foot gap every other stall (like they are on Main St.) staying on the South side.
  - That being said, the apartment complex does have an agreement with the church to utilize some of their parking in their empty lot to the East.
- Joplin High School Traffic
  - The parent of a high school student mentioned that the south bound traffic on Indiana is backing up the intersection, due to students going East out of the school parking lot and turning left.
  - Dan Johnson states that at the last City Council meeting, a high school student brought up the issue of crossing 20th street so Dan went out there the following morning and parked on Missouri Ave and observed the issue they were having. Several kids cross 20th street to get to the high school and when they are crossing there is a lot of traffic and it seems to be pretty dangerous, this student that attended the meeting thought it would be a good idea to install a signal or a rapid flashing beacon.
  - Dan states that Dakota will be going out there as well as our consulting engineers to take a look at the situation and just the overall traffic patterns to take those into account as well.

- Dan says what he observed was about fifteen kids crossing the street at Sunny Jim Ball Field and when they did, they couldn't make it all the way across, and they had to stop in the left turning lane. He believes the solution may be to put a "refuge island" in with some signage there.
- Mrs. Maxfield brought up that there are also several groups of kids crossing the street after school releases in the afternoon, and there is similar congestion.
- Dan states that our consulting engineers will conduct some counts and provide data, do some observation, and work closely with the school district to address this issue.

Other Business:

- Memos and Traffic Complaints
  - Dakota states that since the last meeting, he has a few traffic memos updates. One being a residential handicap sign, in which a resident requested one, we sent letters out to neighboring properties, and got that installed.
  - The other being, Freeman hospital requesting some No Parking Signs. A lot of people park along the South side of McIntosh Circle and it has been causing some issues with ambulance access. Freeman requested that we make that area No Parking.
  - As far as Traffic Complaints, someone brought up wanting to look into the stop and yield conditions at the intersection of Sergeant and 34th street and Jackson and 34th street. Also a couple complaints of speeding, so we might put out a couple speed counters while we are out there to see if that is an issue or not.
  - 22nd street between Main and Maiden Lane had some complaints of speeding there as well so we are looking into that.
  - The City received a letter regarding cars parking along Goetz Blvd. mostly after 5pm, making it difficult for residents living in that neighborhood. Dakota spoke to the apartment manager and he states there is not adequate parking but he understands that safety is a concern and does not have an issue putting out No Parking signs on both sides of the street.

Michael E. Mayer

Michael Mayer, Traffic Commission Chair

Dakota Rusk

Dakota Rusk, Traffic Engineer