Traffic Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2020 @ 6:00pm

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

Roll Call:

- Members Present: Robert Schroer, Trevor Frerer, Michael Mayer, James Fleischaker, John Bowling, Cassandra Maxfield
- City Staff Present: Dan Johnson, Assistant Director of Public Works; Sgt. Jared Delzell; Dakota Rusk, Civil Engineer

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Discussion Topics:

- East 26th Street speeding concern from citizen
  - Mr. Jim Holden lives on 26th street and has been in contact with Sgt. Delzell about speeding. The construction on that street has caused issues with conducting a speed study.
  - Sgt. Delzell confirms that the numbers have shown a significant issue there with speed. Speed trailers were placed multiple times, but one was stolen, and one was vandalized.
  - Mr. Holden states it is a 25mph speed zone however no one abides by it and most people drive at least 45 mph. He proposes that the City put traffic calming tables in the street, and it would be an excellent time to do it because they are putting new water lines in and already have the street tore up.
  - Mr. Frerer asks if it is timeline-wise even an option to put the speed tables in by the time they resurface the road. Mr. Johnson clarifies that it would not be.
  - Mr. Johnson goes on to talk about the traffic calming policy and the steps that need to be taken.
  - Mr. Holden states that he knows a police officer can't constantly sit there and he believes that traffic calming tables would be the proper solution. He makes the point that across 32nd street in the Sunnyvale neighborhood they have the speed bumps in the residential area.
  - Mr. Johnson says that we have several options that we could use, and we need to choose the safest, most effective, and that fits the neighborhood, so we need to gather more information. He also states that the curves could impact the speed tables due to line of sight.
  - Sgt. Delzell states that they do their enforcement based off injury crashes so if someone calls in a traffic complaint, they will investigate it but, in this situation, it does not warrant extensive patrol.
  - Mr. Johnson says that speed tables on three-lane roads aren't the best and you really need to look into other options.
  - Mr. Rusk brings up that it is a snowplow route.
  - Mr. Johnson says that one of the big keys is a speed study and we will conduct one once the construction is done.
  - Mr. Frerer asks why the speed limit is 25 mph and Mr. Johnson responds that we will have to look into it. Mr. Frerer points out that if you do a speed study and 95% of people are going 35 mph maybe it needs raised to that.
  - Mr. Holden argues that if you raise it to 35 mph then people will speed even more.
  - Mr. Johnson states that at this time we recognize that we need to get something done and we will be able to give the committee more information on reports at the next traffic commission meeting.
  - Mr. Bowling discusses how he feels as though this road is dangerous for cyclists from his personal experience. He suggests that as the roads widen the speeding increases.
  - Mr. Johnson confirms it is a busy street as traffic counts have shown and that many people use it as a cut-through street. He says the cost for speed tables are about $10,000.

- Mr. Johnson is asked if the City has done a speed study on 36th street since the speed bumps were put in and if it was an effective intervention. Mr. Rusk states that the data shows that they were effective, and traffic dropped in that area as well.

- 15th and Murphy Blvd Study
  - Mr. Rusk shows a report showing all the accidents that have happened at this intersection.
  - Most of the accidents were due to individuals stating they did not see any cars coming.
  - As far as injuries, this intersection has a low amount when accidents do happen.
  - The main issue seems to be line of sight.
  - Due to it being low on injury crashes, it isn't a top priority.
  - Mr. Johnson states that we have evaluated this intersection and have came up with some options. One would be to put a cul-de-sac at the end of Delaware which would involve the City having to purchase property and then attempt to realign Murphy.
  - Mr. Frerer says that he would like to know how many accidents there are turning right or left off of Murphy on to 15th street versus going straight across. He proposes they close the section of Murphy that goes from 15th street to Connecticut and turn it into park space.
  - Mr. Johnson says he doesn't know the traffic counts off the top of his head but one of the options would be to realign Murphy so that it isn't at an angle. The other thing they looked at is putting in a roundabout. He also talks about turning 15th street into a three-lane.
  - Mr. Johnson concludes that the City will consider all options and costs.

Other Business:

- Mr. Mayer invites the new members John Bowling and Cassandra Maxton to speak on their concerns.
- Mrs. Maxton states that she was surprised to find on the previous meeting's minutes that 32nd and Schifferdecker was mentioned by the Country Club because that stretch is difficult to get onto the shoulder and speeding issues as well as a lot of traffic. She states that she is surprised it is still a two-lane road.
- Mr. Johnson states it will be a three-lane road.
- Mr. Bowling says he lives on 30th and wall and motorcyclists run up and down the street. He would like the roads to go back to two-ways.
- Mr. Johnson states that the City can conduct a study and see which options are possible.
- Meeting adjourned.

Michael E. Mayer

Michael Mayer, Traffic Commission Chair

Dakota Rusk

Dakota Rusk, Traffic Engineer