



CITY OF HEMET
Traffic and Parking Commission Minutes
Wednesday, June 9, 2004
8:00 AM

City Council Chambers
450 E. Latham Avenue
Hemet, CA 92543

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Berry.

- 1. ROLL CALL: Chairman Don Berry; Chair pro tem Dan Walters; Commissioner Gareth Modica; Commissioner Roger Wellman; Planning Commissioner Jim Calkins; Council Member Roger Meadows.**

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Gow, Deputy Public Works Director; Streets Superintendent Richard Broos; Police Lieutenant Heidi Roth; Police Corporal Randy Young; Engineering Technician Andrew Melton; Engineering Aide Carly Johansen; Commission Secretary Marilyn Hampton.

- 2. FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Chairman Berry**

- 3. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2004.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wellman and carried 4-0.

- 4. Report of Council Action on May 25, 2004.**

Mr. Gow reported that Council approved the Commission's recommendations. A new Commissioner, Michael Asher, a former Police Officer in San Diego, has been appointed and will attend the July meeting.

- 5. Request for Four-Way Stop - Corner of Oakland Ave. and Santa Fe St. - Staff to Report on Results of Warrant Study.**
(Florence Norgard - Hemet)

Mr. Gow stated that warrants are not met at this time. Staff's recommendation is to keep this on our list and look at the warrants next year after the middle school has opened. He reported that the school district and the City are cooperating in planning ahead for new schools. The School district will make the improvements in front of their property. At the Jacob Weins School, the school district has accommodated more on-site bus and drop-off parking, which will eliminate some of the problems which have been identified previously. The school district is being more proactive than in the past. Commissioner Calkins asked

for clarification as to whether Santa Fe would be left open in the mornings and afternoons for dropping off and picking up students at the Santa Fe Middle School. Mr. Gow stated he will confirm that with Sandy Packham. He said that the school district will make improvements to Santa Fe as if it were a City street and is taking that important step towards making the street open at some time in the future.

6. Preliminary Design, Cost Estimate for Construction of intersection improvements at intersection of Meridian and Park.

Mr. Gow stated improvements to square up the intersection will remove the smooth transition which facilitates higher speeds than normal. Various options and costs were discussed. He stated that residences may have sight distance issues. He recommended selecting the most productive option for traffic flow to take to Council. It was agreed that Option D contained the best of the other 3 options, including a dedicated right-turn lane off Meridian onto Park; modification of one existing residential driveway which currently T's into the corner; and a squaring up of the entire intersection. The marginal increase in cost at \$25,000 would improve the entire intersection. Mr. Gow stated that this project can be started more quickly if it is added to the Royal Holiday and Weston Park projects.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to accept Option D and send the recommendation to Council for approval, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 4-0.

**7. Discussion of Left-Turn Signal at Stanford northbound and southbound at Florida Ave.
(Commissioner Walters)**

Mr. Gow stated Council directed staff to solicit design proposals to cover five intersections. Two are conditions for development, at Kirby and Florida and Sanderson and Acacia. The other three are at Florida and Lyon, Florida and State, and Florida and Yale. The item is going to Council on June 22nd and to the Public Works Committee today, having been approved by the Commission. He stated that if Florida and Stanford is deemed a priority, it could be added to the list. Stanford had been listed as number 7 in importance, but may rank higher than that now with all the new development in the area. The north half of the intersection is in the City and the south half is in the County. Warrants must be met to install left-turn phasing. CalTrans can be asked to participate financially. Mr. Meadows stated that when improvements were made on the major intersection at Sanderson, CalTrans fought it hard and the City wound up paying for it entirely. He said the City is committed to maintaining traffic flow. The cost involved for placing the left-turn arrow was said to be in the range of \$70,000, including design, new signal arms, poles, wiring, but no new conduits, for two northbound and southbound left-turn phasing onto Florida. Mr. Gow stated no budgets have been established, but there are potentially programs available.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to include this item in the current work, seconded by Commissioner Wellman and carried 4-0.

8. Temporary Stop Sign at Johnston and Buena Vista During Storm Drain Construction.

Mr. Gow stated construction is in process on Stetson and will proceed eastward down Buena Vista, to the south down State Street, and to the north toward Johnston on Buena Vista. It is expected that driving patterns will change, as people use Johnston as an alternate route. As construction moves toward Buena Vista, a temporary stop sign can be included as part of traffic control. There are challenges with removing it, as far as driver expectations. Staff recommends installing a temporary stop sign on Buena Vista Street at Johnston Avenue during construction.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wellman to add a temporary stop sign at Buena Vista and Johnston during construction, seconded by Commissioner Walters and carried 4-0.

9. Directional Signs to Library on Florida Avenue and State Street.

Mr. Gow stated that Council requested placing directional signs pointing to the library on Florida and State. Staff can produce the signs at a low cost using the typical blue background reflectorized signs with white lettering for placement on Florida at Carmalita and on State at Latham.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wellman to accept staff recommendation to place directional signs pointing to the new library on Florida Avenue and State Street, seconded by Commissioner Walters and carried 4-0.

10. Review of Street Names for Tract # 30560

Mr. Gow stated the names have been approved by the Post Office and 9-1-1. The Commissioners felt some of them may be confusing when dispatching emergency services.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to change Ligustrum Way to Dandelion, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters to change Catapa to Cornflower, seconded by Commissioner Wellman and carried 4-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Walters to change Yew Drive to Hemlock, seconded by Commissioner Modica and carried 4-0.

Motion to approve the remaining names was made by Commissioner Modica, seconded by Commissioner Wellman and carried 4-0.

Mr. Gow commented that this development will construct the traffic signal at Sanderson and Eaton.

11. Riverside County TIP update.

Mr. Gow was unable to attend the last meeting so there is no update. It will be included in July's meeting.

12. Action Item List.

Informational.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michael Shafer, 307 Pamela Court, stated that his neighborhood is based on 100 homes, a church, and a school and is becoming very active. He reported that Lake and Florida has had several deaths recently and residents are very concerned. He inquired whether a traffic flow/traffic light study is underway for that area. Mr. Gow stated there is currently no specific study looking at that intersection. Past studies resulted in a stop sign being installed at Lake and Lincoln and a signal placed at Soboba. The item can be placed on the next agenda. Mr. Meadows stated that the City will build a fire station in that area to improve emergency response time. He said that Council passed a resolution that all new developments will pay \$300 per home for public safety funds.

Sue Fox, 3800 W. Thornton Ave. said she learned that 480 homes are going in on Sanderson and 3200 in the Rancho Diamante project. She felt that the majority of the expected 2-3 vehicles per household will be traveling through her neighborhood. She shared concerns about safety for children and for homeowners getting out of their driveways.

14. Future Agenda Items.

- A. Signal phasing times at Stetson and Sanderson.**
- B. "No Passing at S Curves" signs placement northbound and southbound on Kirby near railroad tracks.**
- C. Stop signs in Seven Hills at Silver Oak Way and Brentwood Way; Jasmine and Silver Oak Way.**
- D. Medians on Sanderson from Acacia to Florida and from Florida to Devonshire.**
- E. Medians in general and a general description of the City's funding for street improvements and traffic issues.**
- F. Process of making State Highway 74 a City street.**
- G. Discussion of traffic at north Lake and Florida area.**

Mr. Gow stated that staff received direction from the Public Works Committee to meet with property owners for their thoughts on medians on Sanderson from Acacia to Florida and Florida to Devonshire. Two developments just south of Devonshire want medians. Commissioner Wellman responded that planted medians project image, identity, and pride to a community and felt there should be extraordinary consideration given to putting in beautification.

Mr. Meadows stated that improvements involving Florida Avenue must go through CalTrans. As funds are available, improvements are made. He stated that CalTrans wanted to put in medians on Florida. The City added law enforcement and the accident rate went down, but with more motorists, it is rising again and needs attention.

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15. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 AM, Wednesday, July 14th, in City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Cannon
Commission Secretary