

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON the 26th day of September, 2012, the Amarillo Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Citizen Advisory Committee Work Session was held at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall, in Room 305, on the third floor in City Hall, 509 S.E. 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas, to discuss matters relating to the Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Program.

Members present were Dean Downey, Kenneth Graham, Craig Gualtiere, Mark Nair, and Frank Nelson. Staff members present were Jerry Bird, Michael Rice, Lt. Michael Miller and Judy Alexander.

Commissioner Downey as Chairman established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider and make recommendations to the City Commission for additional intersections for the red light cameras. The original eight proposed locations are as follows:

- McMasters St. at Amarillo Blvd.
- Soncy St. at I-40 North Frontage Rd.
- Fillmore St. at Amarillo Blvd.
- Pierce St. at Amarillo Blvd.
- Taylor St. at S.W. 10th Ave.
- Buchanan St. at S.W. 34th Ave.
- Taylor St. at Amarillo Blvd.
- Tascosa Rd. at Amarillo Blvd.

The following intersections were added to the list of proposed intersections by members of the committee:

- Western St. at S.W. 45th Ave.
- Bell St. at S.W. 34th Ave.
- Bell St. at S.W. 45th Ave.
- Coulter St. at S.W. 34th Ave.
- Coulter St. at S.W. 45th Ave.

Jerry Bird gave an overview of the Traffic Signal Safety Program with American Traffic Solutions. He explained how the cameras are activated and the license plates identified through the vehicle registration records. He said a violation is a civil matter, not a criminal matter, and the owner of the vehicle is the one who receives the violation. All photographs and videos are screened by American Traffic Solutions and the Amarillo Police Department before they are sent out. The fine for a violation is \$75.00 with a due date of 30 days. Violators have an option to have a hearing before the Hearing Officer if requested before the due date. After their hearing, they may appeal to the City of Amarillo Municipal Court. A late fee of \$25.00 is charged if the violation is not paid by the due date. Unpaid violations are ultimately turned over for collection. Mr. Bird showed members videos provided by American Traffic Solutions of accidents caused by red-light running.

Members discussed the red light camera program, including the number of violations issued each year since inception of the program in 2008, financial issues, and collection issues.

Members questioned Lt Michael Miller with the Amarillo Police Department about traffic accident rates and fatalities. He said there were 26 fatalities this year, which is near average. He said fatalities typically fluctuate between 20 and 30 per year, but the overall trend seems to be decreasing.

Craig Gualtiere stated his top intersection for cameras would be Tascosa Rd. and Amarillo Blvd. and Taylor and S.W. 10th Ave., in that order. He questioned staff about how many additional intersections the City Commission intended for the program. Mr. Rice stated that the City Commission does not have a specific number of intersections in mind. He said the committee's job was to take each of the proposed intersections and decide if it would be a good candidate for cameras.

Kenneth Graham stated he is concerned about pedestrian standards at intersections within the city, and he felt improvements are needed to pedestrian signal heads, push buttons, crosswalks, and timing of the signals as well as educating the public about their use. Mr. Bird said that he had requested TxDOT evaluate the intersection of Tascosa Rd. and Amarillo Blvd. for pedestrian issues. Mr. Rice said pedestrian crosswalks are a separate matter from the red light camera issue. Mr. Graham stated the chapter on mobility in the City of Amarillo Comprehensive Plan emphasizes small area planning. He said he thought taking a look at all aspects of safety as each intersection is considered for cameras would be a good start. He stated he would abstain from voting on additional locations for red light cameras.

Members of the committee discussed appropriate locations for cameras considering the traffic count data and accident data provided by the Traffic Engineering Department as well as input from committee members.

The Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Citizen Advisory Committee Work Session was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The City of Amarillo Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Citizen Advisory Committee met immediately following the Work Session in regular session in the same location with the same members present.

Dean Downey called the regular meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. He explained that the purpose of the committee was to decide which intersections of the thirteen proposed would be good candidates for the red light cameras.

Michael Rice explained that during this regular meeting decisions could be made for recommendations for additional intersections for the cameras.

Frank Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the advisory committee of August 22, 2012. Mark Nair seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0. Kenneth Graham made a motion to approve the minutes of the advisory committee of August 29, 2012. Craig Gualtiere seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

Craig Gualtiere made a motion to recommend the cameras be removed from the intersection of Pierce and S.E. 3rd and be relocated to Tascosa Rd. and Amarillo Blvd. Mark Nair seconded the motion, and motion carried 4:0 with Kenneth Graham abstaining.

Craig Gualtiere made a motion to table any action on the other proposed intersections until more direction is received from the City Commission about the number of additional intersections they have in mind. Mark Nair seconded the motion. Motion failed with Mr. Gualtiere and Mr. Nair voting yes and Mr. Nelson and Mr. Downey voting no. Mr. Graham abstained from voting.

Frank Nelson made a motion to recommend the intersection of Fillmore and Amarillo Blvd. be considered for cameras. The motion died for lack of a second.

Craig Gualtiere stated he felt the committee should be allowed to examine each intersection as a whole and address other pertinent safety issues.

Kenneth Graham expressed frustration about the city's reluctance to address pedestrian issues. Mr. Graham stated he intended to resign from the Amarillo Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Citizen Advisory Committee and the Amarillo Traffic Commission.

Frank Nelson made a motion to end the meeting. Mr. Graham seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Dean Downey, Chairman