

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON this 21st day of September, 2011, the Amarillo Traffic Commission convened in regular session in the City Commission Chambers in the Municipal Building.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT
<i>Mr. Kenneth Graham</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Mr. Bob Balliett</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Mr. Leon Church</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Ms. D. J. Stubben</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Mr. Dean Downey</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Mr. Charlie Graham</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Mr. Craig Gualtiere</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Mr. Tiller Watson III</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Withrow	Traffic Engineer
David Szmagalski	Traffic Operations Technician
Judy Alexander	Recording Secretary
Lt. Michael Miller	Amarillo Police Department

Commissioner Stubben established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The following items of business were conducted:

ITEM 1. Invocation.

Commissioner Watson gave the invocation.

ITEM 2. Approval of the February 16, 2011, Amarillo Traffic Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Gualtiere made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

ITEM 3. Instructions to Commissioners.

Taylor Withrow, Traffic Engineer, introduced the newly appointed members of the Amarillo Traffic Commission, Dean Downey, Craig Gualtiere, and Tiller Watson. Charlie Graham, also newly appointed, was out of town.

Mr. Withrow stated that Marcus Norris, City Attorney, is scheduled to give a presentation on the Open Meetings Act at the October 19th meeting of the Traffic Commission.

ITEM 4. Traffic Engineering Study: Two-Way Street Study: S. Taylor St. from 13th Ave. to 15th Ave.

Mr. Withrow stated that the Traffic Engineering Department had received a request from Polk Street Methodist Church to change the one-way street to two-way operation on S. Taylor St. between S.E. 13th Ave. and S.E. 15th Ave. South Taylor has been a one-way street southbound since 1960.

S.E. 14th Ave. from Polk St. to Taylor St. was vacated recently to allow Polk Street Methodist Church to begin a building project which will add new facilities and modify parking at the church. The parking/driveway modifications would provide better traffic flow if Taylor were to operate as a two-way street, and the church's traffic impact would be significantly reduced.

On April 6th, the Traffic Engineering Department sent a letter of inquiry to ten property owners in the area. Traffic staff received two replies, both of which favored the proposed change. Since Sanborn Park is located on the east side of the 1400 block of S. Taylor St., Larry Offerdahl, Director of Parks & Recreation, was notified of the proposed change. He approved the change as he felt it would provide better access to the park.

The Traffic Engineering staff believes that returning two-way traffic operation to S. Taylor St. will provide better access for adjacent property owners by making vehicle ingress/egress simpler, less time consuming, and more fuel efficient.

Dr. Burt Palmer, Senior Pastor of Polk Street Methodist Church, appeared and asked Commissioners for their support in changing S. Taylor to two-way operation.

Mr. Withrow said that the Traffic Engineering Department recommends the Traffic Commission forward to the City Commission a recommendation to revise Section 16-3-1001 of the Amarillo Municipal Code, Schedule A, One-Way Streets as follows:

REMOVE:

Southbound One-Way Streets

<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Taylor St.	NE 13 th Ave.	SE 15 th Ave.

ADD:

Southbound One-Way Streets

<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Taylor St.	NE 13 th Ave.	SE 13 th Ave.

Commissioner Gualtiere made such a motion, and motion was seconded by Commissioner Graham. Motion carried 5:0.

ITEM 5. Traffic Engineering Study: Revisions to the Driveway and Parking Manual.

Mr. Withrow stated that Traffic staff is presently revising the Driveway and Park Manual to improve traffic safety within the city, primarily by modifying the spacing requirements of driveways. He requested the revision of the Driveway and Parking Manual be tabled until the next meeting of the Traffic Commission.

Commissioner Graham suggested other modifications to the manual be considered that would encourage intermodal transportation. Commissioner Gualtiere asked what effect the revisions would have on existing commercial property. Michael Rice, Director of Public Works, stated the modifications would apply only to new or refurbished property or when ownership of the property changed. Mr. Withrow stated that city staff has begun closely monitoring driveway spacing and location in recent commercial construction projects within the city.

Commissioner Gualtiere stated that he thought crosswalks should be considered on intersections with heavy pedestrian traffic such as Georgia and S.W. 26th Avenue.

Commissioner Downey made a motion to table the revisions of the Driveway and Parking Manual until the next meeting. Commissioner Gualtiere seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

ITEM 6. Miscellaneous Discussion.

Mr. Withrow reported all cell phone restriction signs were installed in school zones by the first day of the 2011 school year. Lt. Michael Miller stated that approximately 25 citations had been issued since the restriction took effect on August 22, the first day of the school year. Commissioner Graham expressed appreciation for the signs, but he suggested additional locations should be considered for school zones such as Bell St. and Sandie Dr. and Danbury Dr. and Sandie Dr.

Mr. Withrow distributed to the Commissioners a handout of the City of Amarillo red light camera budget. He reported there is \$860,000 in the red light camera budget. Those funds pay American Traffic Solutions for the installation and administration of the program and contribute toward salaries for Traffic Engineering and Police Department personnel who help administer the program. He said that \$230,000 is budgeted for new traffic signal construction and reconstruction of damaged signals.

Mr. Withrow stated that city ordinance only allows the restriction of cell phones in school zones at the present time. The City Commission may address a citywide restriction in the future.

Mr. Withrow reported that funds for the Hike and Bike Master Plan were not approved for the City of Amarillo 2011-2012 budget year. Commission Graham suggested that the bike map should be included on the city website for citizens to utilize on their computers or smart phones.

Commission Stubben requested information about the installation of speed humps on city streets near schools. Mr. Withrow stated that 70% of the property owners within 1000 feet must sign a petition requesting the installation of the speed humps. The Traffic Commission considers the request, and if approved, forwards it to the City Commission for final approval. Property owners are responsible for the cost of the installation of the speed humps.

Mr. Withrow reported the next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled on October 19th. He stated that a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman will need to be elected. Other agenda items will be the four-way stop request on Waldorf Dr. and Gainsborough Rd. and the speed limit on S. Coulter St. between S.W. 45th Ave. and Hillside Rd.

Kelly Whitney, 8401 Lamount Dr, appeared and expressed concern about traffic safety for school children crossing the intersection of Lamount Dr. and Scotty Dr. near Gene Howe School. She had previously contacted the Traffic Engineering Department, and she was told the intersection did not meet criteria for a school crossing guard. She asked that the placement of a crossing guard be reconsidered.

Trina Fournier, 4427 S. Hayden St., appeared and stated she was against a citywide cell phone ban. She stated she thought the ban would be difficult to enforce and cited various other driver distractions. She said she was also against the red light cameras and questioned their effectiveness. Mr. Withrow suggested she contact him after the meeting and he would provide her with information about the red light camera program.

Melodie Weis, 2613 S. Hayden St., appeared and expressed a complaint that her request for a street closure on the 2600 block of Hayden on October 31st, Halloween evening, was not met favorably by the Traffic Engineering Department. She stated that her neighborhood wanted to close the street for vehicular traffic to enable the several hundred anticipated trick-or-treaters to safely walk from house to house. Mr. Rice stated that her application for a street closure was not for a block party as defined by city code. He said he would seek guidance from the City Manager and communicate back with her.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Taylor N. Withrow, Traffic Engineer