

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON the 19th day of February, 2014, the Amarillo Traffic Commission met at 1:30 p.m. in regular session in the in the City Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall at 509 S.E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Traffic Commissioners present were D. J. Stubben, Dean Downey, Charlie Graham, Barbara Richardson, Craig Gualtiere, Walt Kelley, Mark Nair, and Steve Rogers. Commissioner Frank Nelson was absent. Staff members present were Jerry Bird, Traffic Engineer, David Szmagalski, Traffic Operations Technician, Lt. Ken Albright, Amarillo Police Department, and Judy Alexander, Recording Secretary.

Commissioner Stubben established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following items of business were conducted:

1. **Invocation & Pledge:**  
Commissioner Kelley gave the invocation, and Commissioner Downey led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Approval of the January 15, 2014, Minutes:**  
Commissioner Gualtiere made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously.
3. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair:**  
Commissioner Stubben reported Commissioner Nair and she had been nominated for Chair at the January 2014 meeting and the vote had been tabled. She called for a vote, and Commissioner Nair was elected unanimously. Commissioner Stubben turned the Chair position over to Commissioner Nair. Commissioner Gualtiere was elected Vice Chair at the January 2014 meeting.
4. **Presentation of Traffic Accident Information:**  
Lt. Ken Albright with the Amarillo Police Department Traffic Investigation Division gave a presentation on a City of Amarillo Traffic Collision Study with data from 2006 through 2013. His presentation showed the total number of collisions, fatalities, and DUI's for each of those years. He included a graph that compared the fatalities in each year to the number of citations written by Amarillo Police Department.

Lt Albright reported that the number of collisions varies from year to year in the study period, but the overall numbers indicate a downward trend. The number of collisions peaked at 6,711 in 2007, fell to 5,605 in 2010, and rose to 5,911 in 2013. He stated that there were 31 fatalities in 29 crashes during 2013. He reported that APD Traffic Squad statistics indicate that alcohol/drugs were a factor in 62% of those accidents. Speed was a factor in 52%, and no seat belt use was a factor in 32% of them. He stated that no helmet use was a factor in 71% of the seven motorcycle fatalities in 2013, and he said statistically perhaps one or two of those could have been prevented by helmet use.

Commissioner Gualtiere questioned if APD reported distracted driving as a factor in traffic citations. Lt. Albright stated that APD is moving forward to electronic ticket

writing and distracted driving can be noted on the citation form. Lt. Albright stated that there are many variables that contribute to traffic collisions, such as impaired drivers, speed, seat belt use, weather conditions, and road construction.

5. **Parking Study: Establish a “2-Hour Parking 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday” Parking Restriction in the 700 Block of S. Taylor Street, East Side.**

Jerry Bird, Traffic Engineer, stated that a Happy State Bank employee requested the parking restriction in the 700 block of S. Taylor Street, East Side, be changed to 2-hour parking instead of 1-hour. The representative from Happy State Bank stated that the one-hour parking time limit was insufficient for their customers and other customers for the building.

Mr. Bird stated the signs had been changed to a 2-hour limit, and a follow-up study indicated the parking limitations were adequate. Employees of Happy State Bank gave positive feedback for the change, and the Traffic Engineering Department has received no complaints.

The Traffic Engineering Department recommends the Traffic Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to establish a “2-Hour Parking Ban 8am - 5pm” parking restriction in the 700 block of S. Taylor, East Side.

Commissioner Gualtiere made a motion to recommend such to the City Council. Commissioner Stubben seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously.

6. **Parking Study: Establish a “No Parking Anytime” Restriction on the North Side of Ventura Drive from I-27 to Bell Street and the East Side and West Side of Viking Drive from Ventura Drive to Hollywood Road.**

Mr. Bird reported that a representative from the Stone Canyon Apartment Homes, 6208 Ventura Drive, requested parking restrictions be placed on Ventura and Viking Drive. The representative said that semi-tractor trailers were parking on both sides of both streets, making the streets impassable at times. Apartment residents are experiencing access problems, especially on the weekends. Furthermore, Stone Canyon is planning to build more apartments on Ventura Drive, and the parked semi-trucks would make it difficult to move heavy equipment and construction vehicles in and out of the area.

He said the Traffic Engineering Department placed “No Parking Anytime” signs on both sides of Viking Drive and on the north side of Ventura on a trial basis. With occasional enforcement by the Amarillo Police Department, there has been good compliance with the restriction and traffic movement is much improved. The apartment representative stated that the parking restrictions are working well, and the Traffic Engineering Department has received no complaints.

The Traffic Engineering Department recommends that the Traffic Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to establish a “No Parking Anytime” restriction on the north side of Ventura Drive from I-27 to Bell and the east side and west side of Viking Drive from Ventura to Hollywood Road.

Commissioner Kelley inquired if Viking was considered a residential or commercial street as he was under the impression that city code prohibited semi-truck parking on residential streets. Mr. Bird reported that Viking/Ventura is considered to be a commercial area with an adjacent apartment development and a restaurant.

Commissioner Gualtiere stated that he thought Viking is too narrow to accommodate traffic, and he suggested the City consider requiring wider streets in future developments. Commissioner Graham asked if the truck drivers were patronizing the adjacent businesses or if they were using the streets as a truck stop. Mr. Bird stated that routine checks by the Traffic Engineering Department indicated the trucks were using the street for long term parking.

Commissioner Stubben made a motion to recommend such to the City Council. Commissioner Gualtiere seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously.

7. **Public Forum:**

Commissioner Nair asked if anyone would care to speak on any traffic engineering issue, but no one came forward to speak.

Commissioner Nair requested Commissioners join him in expressing their appreciation to Commissioner Stubben for her leadership and service as Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09.

  
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Mark Nair