

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING 5/16/2024

Date and Time: 5/16/2024 05:15 pm

Time:

Present: Bill Nigus, Director of Administration Courtney L. Doyle, City Engineer Kyle Bruemmer, Fire Chief Kevin Coffelt, Chief of Police Bill Ladwig, Assistant Police Chief Dall Hedges, Assistant Fire Chief Russell Sing, Mayor Steve Myers, Councilmember Mary Rehkla, Councilmember Bill Hinchie, City Clerk Kathie Ratliff, Deputy City Clerk Marissa Peneston, Planning and Protective Service Manager Casey Bailey, and Park and Recreation Director Clay Caswell

Absent: Jay Hickman

Location: Fulton City Hall

DISCUSSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Safety Commission meeting was called to order at 5:13 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

There were three members present, one member (Hickman) absent. Quorum met.

3. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

There were no comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No formal meetings have been held.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

Splash pad fence review

Park and Recreation Director Clay Caswell handed out an aerial view of Memorial Park focusing on the splash pad and a traffic study from 2023 of vehicle speeds on 2nd Street going by the splash pad. Caswell stated that the Park Board has discussed the possibility of putting a fence around the splash pad. Things to consider added benefits versus any potential liability the city would incur. The Park Board thinks more benches would be a better option than a fence and benches were recently added to the North end to help with parent supervision. Discussion was held, and any ideas for a solution can be emailed to Caswell. The commission would like to see how the new benches help and will review at the next meeting.

Prohibited and Limited Parking Ordinance (streets chosen from March discussion)

City code states that all newly constructed streets should be at least 30 feet wide. Lane, Oliver, Tyler, St. Francis, and Palmer are all less than 30 feet. It is difficult for emergency vehicles and school buses to get through when cars are parked along the road. City Engineer Kyle Bruemmer

proposes his staff determine where fire hydrants are located and make that side of the road no parking. Public notice will be given if the streets are going to be changed to one-sided parking. Bruemmer will put together a more detailed plan of where prohibited parking would be.

Decision Dall Hedges made a motion and Russell Sing seconded to prohibit parking at the following locations:

- Along the east and west side of Monroe Street beginning at the north curb line of W. 13th Street's and ending 120 feet south of said point of beginning.
- Along the south side W. 13th Street beginning at the intersection with Westminster Avenue and ending at the intersection with Monroe Street.
- Along the north side of W. 13th Street beginning at the east curb line of Monroe Street and ended 125 feet west of said point of beginning.

The motion carried with three members voting in favor, one absent.

Angled parking in the 500 block of Court Street (one side of the roadway).

The group touched briefly on this topic as to whether this would be a beneficial move for the city and the area it may serve and agreed to discuss it at a later time.

Stop sign suggested for the intersection of E. 12th St. and West Ave./Circle Dr.

Google Earth view of the street was displayed for members to see. Discussion was held on how to improve traffic in this area.

Decision A motion by Russell Sing was made and seconded by Bill Nigus to replace the yield signs located on Tucker Lane at its intersection with Circle Drive and on 12th street at its intersection with Circle Drive with stop signs. All in favor none opposed, one member absent, motion passed.

Ditch maintenance and ownership.

The city has received complaints of ditches that are collecting stormwater. It was noted that the city does not own every ditch. If a ditch is in someone's backyard and no previous easement has been granted to the city, then the city does not own the ditch.

Councilmember concerns.

A handout was given for the commission to look over and review, discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Signal improvements at 4th & 5th

The traffic signals on 4th and 5th street are outdated and a TAP grant is being used to fund improvements to the traffic signals. The project should be done by the end of the year. The new signals will be push button activated for the crosswalk. Included with this project are several midblock push button activated rapid flashing crosswalk beacons. These beacons are proposed to be placed at primarily school and university crosswalks locations.

A possible crosswalk at State Road Z was discussed since it is a state road the city would have to request permission from MODOT.

Proposal to remove 14 on-street parking spots at Westminster Campus crosswalk locations.

Westminster College is fully on board with removing parking spots near crosswalk locations.

Decision Russell Sing motioned and Dall Hedges seconded to prohibit on-street parking at the following locations.

- Along the west side of Westminster Avenue beginning at the projected north curb line of W. 5th Street and ending 100 feet north of said point of beginning.
- Along the west side of Westminster Avenue beginning at the projected south curb line of W. 6th Street and ending 70 feet south of said point of beginning.
- Along the west side of Westminster Avenue beginning at the projected south curb line of W. 6th Street and ending 70 feet north of said point of beginning.
- Along the east side of Westminster Avenue beginning at the projected south curb line of W. 6th Street and ending 90 feet south of said point of beginning.
- Along the west side of Westminster Avenue beginning 410 feet north of the projected north curb line of W. 7th Street and ending 170 feet north of said point of beginning.

The motion carried with three members voting in favor, one absent.

Requested more on-street parking on St. Louis from Market to Court.

McIntire Flower shop would like additional parking on St. Louis Avenue.

Decision Russell Sing made a motion and Dall Hedges seconded, to allow on the street parking along the south side of St. Louis Avenue beginning 50 feet east of the east curb line of Court Street and ending 100 feet east of the said point of beginning and to allow an on-street freight loading zone along the south side of St. Louis Avenue beginning 25 feet west of the west curb line of Market Street and ending 30 feet west of said point of beginning.

The motion carried with three members voting in favor, one absent.

On-street parking (green space and double-sided parking)

How to prevent people from parking on the sidewalks, curbs, and grass was briefly discussed and will be looked into further at a future meeting.

Long-term plan for the Nichols Street Bridge.

This is an old wooden bridge, to replace this bridge will be very expensive. Kyle Bruemmer, City Engineer, informed the commission that this bridge already has a load limit of 8 tons and believes its useful life for carrying vehicular traffic will be over in the near future. Bruemmer informed the group that MoDOT inspects this bridge along with the City's other bridges every 2 years. Presently it is safe for vehicles under this load restriction. When this bridge can no longer handle vehicular traffic, Bruemmer stated the City should consider not replacing it with another but potentially making the existing bridge a pedestrian bridge only. Bruemmer also informed the commission that just southwest of this bridge the City is planning to improve the at grade crossing of the old railroad (near 10th, Ewing, and 11th Street). This improvement

would allow traffic to cross the old train tracks more efficiently than at present and compensate for the potential future removal of traffic off the wooden railroad bridge.

Condition of the bridge on Westminster near 2nd

This bridge is similar in age to the bridge that was recently replaced on 2nd Street and will need to be replaced in the coming years.

Pending legal review: Trees on the Right of Way: Whose Responsibility Are They?

Generally, if a homeowner mows the grass around the tree in the right of way then the homeowner is responsible for the tree. The only time the city would get involved is if it affects utility work. Planning and Protective Service Manager, Casey Bailey has started working on an ordinance to address this issue and have a written policy in place.

Wood and Route Z Intersection Update

Four-way stop signs with flashing lights have recently been installed. The stop signs seem to be helping and the traffic is getting better and better. Most of the community are happy with this addition.

Other

Brief discussions of the following traffic concerns arose during the meeting. They will be included on the next agenda.

Safety issues on Grand Street by the middle school were noted. During the school year, times of morning drop off and afternoon pick up public safety is severely degraded. This is due to individuals flying through the crosswalk while the line of sight is blocked by other vehicles and buses.

Parking on West 7th Street near Westminster's football stadium was briefly discussed. When cars are parked along the side of the street it becomes very tight and hard for emergency vehicles and school busses to travel through. This area will be further reviewed at future meetings.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Public Safety Commission is scheduled to meet again on June 27, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

8. ADJOURN

Decision Motion was made by Russell Sing and Seconded by Dall Hedges to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried with three members voting in favor, one absent.

Respectively submitted,
Marissa Peneston
Deputy City Clerk