

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 10, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:03 PM on June 10, 2015, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Mejia presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Javier Mejia
Vice-Chair Gina Biri (Arrived: 7:07 PM)
Commissioner Dave Emerson
Commissioner Thomas Lindsey
Commissioner Daniel Patz
Commissioner James Wilhelm

Absent: Commissioner Jason Seaman

Present: Staff: Dave Hunt, City Engineer
Dawn Sallade, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Mejia.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Mejia opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

There being no speakers, Chair Mejia closed Oral Communications.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 8, 2015.
Motion/Second: Patz/Wilhelm
Carried 6/0/0: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Special meeting of April 8, 2015.

B. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2015.
Motion/Second: Patz/Lindsey
Carried 6/0/0: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of April 8, 2015.

6. STAFF REPORTS

City Engineer Dave Hunt requested a change in the order of discussion of agenda items, and further requested that Item 6B followed by item 6A on the agenda be

discussed at this time. There were no objections to the requested change of order of discussion items.

B. RATIFY INSTALLING A 3-WAY STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHERRY STREET AND CATALINA STREET.

At their meeting of April 8, 2015, the City of Los Alamitos Traffic Commission recommended to install All-Way Stop control at the intersection of Cherry Street and Catalina Street.

City Engineer Dave Hunt summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein and indicated he's prepared to answer questions from the Traffic Commission.

Chair Mejia called for discussion.

Commissioner Lindsey made a motion that this item be postponed until the traffic light on Walnut is corrected to get traffic across Katella Ave. which he feels is more pressing.

Chair Mejia asked if there was a second to that motion. There was not so the motion died for lack of a second.

Chair Mejia asked for a roll call vote as to the ratification of installation of a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Cherry Street and Catalina Street.

Carried: 5/0/1 (Commissioner Lindsey abstained): The Traffic Commission ratified the installation of a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Cherry Street and Catalina Street.

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST TO CHANGE EXISTING 2-HOUR PARKING LIMIT ON SERPENTINE DRIVE TO REAGAN STREET FROM 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM TO 7:00 AM – NOON.

This is a request to consider changing existing 2-hour parking limit on Serpentine Drive to Reagan Street from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM to 7:00 AM – Noon.

City Engineer Dave Hunt summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein and indicated this item was brought up by Shea Wood who is present tonight to speak, and Mr. Hunt is prepared to answer questions from the Traffic Commission.

Shea Wood indicated she brought this item forward because of the very busy parking lot and would like to enforce the tenants parking on the street to leave the parking lot open for the customers.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Mr. Hunt indicated that this item was noticed 500 feet around the subject property both last month and this month and have received no comments.

Chair Mejia asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak on this item. There being no further speakers, Chair Mejia closed the item to discussion.

Motion/Second: Lindsey/Emerson

Unanimously Carried: The Traffic Commission approved changing the existing 2-hour parking limit on Serpentine Drive to Reagan Street from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM to 7:00 AM – Noon.

Mr. Hunt indicated he would be forwarding this item to the City Council in July because they are the body that can approve changes in restriction of parking with the Traffic Commission's recommendation.

C. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FOR FY 2015-16 THROUGH FY 2021-22 FOR THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS.

In order to remain eligible to receive Measure M Turnback funds, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) requires that all local jurisdictions comply with a variety of requirements, including a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2015-16 through FY 2021-22 for the City of Los Alamitos. This information has gone to the budget sub-committee and then to the City Council for approval.

City Engineer Dave Hunt indicated he's had individual workshops with each Council Member on this along with the City Manager and the Community Development and Parks Directors. Mr. Hunt proceeded to go through the CIP item by item and answered questions directed to him by the Commissioners.

With regard to Item 13 (Parking Meters), Mr. Hunt indicated that Mr. Mendoza will be reviewing the proposals on that program and some of the firms put in that they fund everything up front so it won't cost the City a dime. He indicated Mr. Mendoza is reviewing that proposal currently along with some of the others and will probably bring it forward to the Council next month.

Responding to a Commissioner's question, Mr. Hunt indicated that that parking meter project probably will not come before the Traffic Commission again. He said that Mr. Mendoza gave the Commission an update and he is moving forward with the project.

Chair Mejia indicated that he is a little disappointed with that whole process as the City put together an Ad Hoc Committee and they didn't make a single decision on it and it's then been pushed right on by and they were led to believe that they would have some input into some of the selection process so it's a little discouraging.

Vice-Chair Biri said she agreed with Chair Mejia's comments and asked if they could voice their thoughts to someone.

Mr. Hunt indicated that the City Manager and Mr. Mendoza would be the two to talk to.

Commissioner Emerson asked if it was the City Manager's or Mr. Mendoza's decision.

Mr. Hunt indicated he did not know that answer but he said he would let Mr. Mendoza know that the Commission is disappointed in their decision.

Commissioner Patz pointed out that none of the Commissioners (on the Ad Hoc Committee) have not been able to make a meeting or not shown up to any of the special meetings that Mr. Mendoza has called on this. They've been working very diligently with him at least for the times that they have been included. He said he agrees that this is a little disappointing.

Mr. Hunt said he would let Mr. Mendoza the Commission's feelings.

7. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A. Traffic Commission Status Log

Nothing new to report.

Mr. Hunt indicated that the Traffic Count project came in and he will present that to the Commission next month.

Responding to a Commissioner's question regarding the HOV lane on the freeway, Mr. Hunt indicated he sent a letter to Caltrans and have not yet received a response as yet.

Mr. Hunt reported that if his contract is approved by Council next month, Ruth Smith who is a Traffic Engineer from his firm will be introduced to the Commission and will replace him at the Commission meetings as decided by Mr. Mendoza and the City.

Commissioner Lindsey said that there seems to be a lot of Mr. Mendoza just kind of doing things on his own and maybe that needs to be addressed and we can shorten the term of Steven's employment here.

Mr. Hunt explained that Mr. Mendoza will be receiving a new job title soon commensurate with his job duties and because he does so many different things. He also explained that Mr. Mendoza just doesn't do things on his own; he reports to the City Manager and works with him quite closely to make the decisions that have been made.

Responding to a Commissioner's question regarding a very congested Katella Avenue and Walnut Street, he said the problem is that after all the parents take their children to Oak Street Middle School, they head back to Rossmoor to the elementary schools in that area. Cars will back up many blocks because only two or three cars get through the signal on a green light.

A Commissioner felt that maybe the Commission needs to look at the timing and review the traffic pattern there and perhaps agendaize this item for a future meeting because obviously the timing may need to be increased.

Mr. Hunt explained that the first priority was Katella Avenue going east and west because kids are crossing the crosswalk and the button gets pushed. The second priority is the north direction. The last phase of the signal is the southern direction and it has to make up the time, thus there is a short green light. He indicated he will bring it back to the Commission at the July meeting.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Emerson

- Said he has been hearing considerable concern from residents about the traffic impacts on our City streets of the planned 405 expansion creating a massive logjam where it meets the 605 freeway and the non-expanded 405 in L.A. County. He said he would like to have some Caltrans people at the next meeting to explain what they are doing and how they are anticipating mitigating this concern.

Commissioner Lindsey suggested contacting State Assembly Member Travis Allen to have him present at the same time.

Mr. Hunt said he would try to get someone from OCTA to come to the next meeting to address the Commission.

Commissioner Lindsey

- Reiterated that he wanted his comments regarding Mr. Mendoza to be included in the minutes.

Chair Mejia

- Would like to look at the Cherry/Katella crosswalk on the Status List; it shows completed but they wanted to have the crosswalk moved to the west end of the intersection. He asked for feedback on this.

Mr. Hunt said he didn't put this on the 7-Year Plan but will add it.

- F-2 on the Status List (Bloomfield & Katella pedestrian signal), is a problem as well. He also wanted to report that cars are parking right in front of the assisted living facility there right to that corner; line of sight around that curb is terrible. He recommended that the City have at least ten to fifteen feet of red curbing put there or, whatever the City Ordinance dictates.

Mr. Hunt indicated he would put out a Work Order to have the red curbing done at Katella Manor.

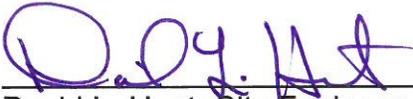
- Asked about the No Parking restriction signage that went into Laurel Park and was going to be updated with the Ordinance Information.

Mr. Hunt indicated it had been requested but he would follow up on that.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 9:03 PM.

ATTEST:



David L. Hunt, City Engineer