

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – June 8, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:06 PM on June 8, 2016, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Daniel Patz
Vice Chair Gina Biri
Commissioner Dave Emerson
Commissioner Javier Mejia
Commissioner James Wilhelm

Absent: Commissioner Jason Seaman

Chair Patz reported that Commissioner Seaman notified both he and the Department Secretary via email a few weeks ago that he would be out of town on business and would be absent from this meeting. This will be counted as an excused absence.

Present: Staff: Steven Mendoza, Development Services Director
Vanessa Munoz, Traffic Engineer
Sergeant Gallagher, Police Department
Dawn Sallade, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Biri.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Patz opened the meeting for Oral Communications. There being no speakers, the Chair closed Oral Communications.

5. INTRODUCTION

Introduction of Vanessa Munoz as Traffic Engineer, Ruth Smith's temporary replacement.

Development Services Director Steven Mendoza introduced Ms. Munoz and gave a brief overview of her qualifications and her duties at Willdan Engineering.

Ms. Munoz indicated she'll be handling the Traffic Commission meetings until another employee of Willdan Engineering takes the Traffic Engineer duties. She expanded on her experience

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2016.

Chair Patz pointed out a correction on:

- Page 7, Section 8, second line, "...need to come before the Commission...".

Commissioner Wilhelm pointed out a correction on:

- Pages 5, second line from the bottom, "...stipulate that a business must provide the sufficient parking...".

Commissioner Emerson pointed out the following corrections:

- Page 5, fifth paragraph, fifth sentence, "...anything necessary on the right (south) of each exit. He reported that from his own...".
- And on Page 4, fifth paragraph, first line, "...read into record a letter from Ralph Vardabedian...". He said he felt that that letter should be attached to the back of the official Minutes or summarized or something since they were read into record. He said he would like to have it added as it's an important piece of the discussion.
- Page 7, fourth paragraph, third line, "Following discussion, it was determined that the "Limit Lines" and "Keep Clear" on F-9 (Farquhar & Pine) would remain but the "Limit Lines" and "Keep Clear" lines on F-10 (Farquhar & Cherry) will be removed."

Chair Patz pointed out a correction:

- Page 7, second paragraph, first line, "Chair Patz asked what the status...".

Motion/Second: Biri/Mejia

Unanimously Carried 5/0/0 (Seaman absent): The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 11, 2016, with corrections as noted above.

7. STAFF REPORTS

A. Continuing Education – "Setting Speed Limits"

Staff will present the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on setting speed limits.

Traffic Engineer Vanessa Munoz summarized the Staff report and educated the Traffic Commission and Staff on the process of setting speed limits.

Following a long discussion, the Traffic Commission thanked Ms. Munoz for her most informative presentation.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Mejia

- Asked about the parking signs that were put up at Laurel Park as they still have the blank spot where the Municipal Code section should be and wondered if this is a necessity.

Ms. Munoz indicated that Ruth Smith had followed up with the City Attorney regarding this and he indicated that the Municipal Code section does not need to be on the sign.

Commissioner Emerson

- Bloomfield and Cerritos intersection – Would be a logical place for a protected/permissive traffic light.

Mr. Mendoza indicated this is on the 7-year CIP list but it won't be in the first year of that 7-year plan.

Officer Gallagher interjected that from a law enforcement standpoint, it would be an incredibly dangerous situation for this to occur. This is due to the proximity of the school as this tends to be where the greatest threat is due to the driver watching for traffic instead of pedestrians crossing the road.

Commissioner Emerson withdrew his request.

- Protected/permissive traffic light at the two entrances to Rossmoor Highlands which is Rossmoor Way and Bradbury Way. It is a protected light currently.

Officer Gallagher indicated he sees no safety issue with this request.

Chair Patz inquired as to the cost of conversion.

Ms. Munoz answered that the cost would vary depending on what size pole there is currently. She would have to do some research before giving cost information.

Ms. Munoz indicated that from a traffic engineering standpoint, she would have to research the history of why this intersection was fully protected instead of protected/permission. For liability purposes, Staff would have to document it very clearly before downgrading.

Motion/Second: Emerson/Mejia

Carried 5/0/0 (Seaman absent): The Traffic Commission approved the request to agendize the proposed Protected/Permissive traffic light at the two entrances to Rossmoor Highlands on Rossmoor Way and Bradbury Way (south bound left turns only) and also include a rough pricing estimate in the information as well.

Commissioner Mejia asked on a study such as this, wouldn't it be more common to do both north bound and south bound?

Ms. Munoz answered that that is correct. There are some cities that do use the mix of operation and she feels that that kind of operation is such that it confuses the drivers. Most municipalities tend to be consistent (both protected and protected/permissive).

Following discussion, Commission Emerson wanted to amend his motion as follows:

Motion/Second: Emerson/Mejia

Carried 5/0/0 (Seaman absent): The Traffic Commission approved the request to agendize the proposed Protected/Permissive traffic light at the two entrances to Rossmoor Highlands on Rossmoor Way and Bradbury Way (south bound and north bound) and also include a rough pricing estimate in the information as well.

- Reported he would not be present at the July Traffic Commission meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:07 PM.