MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – September 11, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on September 11, 2019 in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Hill presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Hill
Vice Chair Patz
Coxhill, Mejia, Rodman, Singer, and West

Present: Staff: Dave Hunt, City Engineer
Les Johnson, Interim City Manager
Chris Karrer, Captain
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Singer.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Hill opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

Resident Susan Mason lives on Pine Street and requested speed bumps in the alleyway behind Pine Street.

The following residents spoke in regards to agenda item 6A concerning a petition for speed humps in Old Town West. The concerns expressed were the following:

- Resident Jeff H. expressed support for the petition of speed humps or any other solution to control the traffic on the street. He has noticed that traffic does not follow the speed limits and stop signs in the neighborhood and vehicles driving through the neighborhood to avoid traffic on Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue.
- Resident Pam lives on Walnut Street suggested placing machines to track vehicles that speed in the area and does not think that the recommended extra patrol is enough.
- Resident Randy Parker favors the petition to place speed humps in the Old Town West.
- Resident Alfred Robles lives on Walnut Street explained that the issue of more cars and traffic in the neighborhood wasn’t a problem before, but is
now. He would like to have something done to resolve this problem before it gets worse.

- Resident Tera lives on Walnut Street expressed that asphalt speed bumps would be cheaper than having the Police officers try to catch speeding vehicles.
- Resident Antonio G. has noticed cars speeding through the neighborhood and if the Traffic Commission can resolve this issue.
- Resident Lisa lives on Walnut Street expressed that the increase of traffic is due to the traffic signals that have been installed, so having the speed bumps would help.

The following residents spoke in regards to agenda item 6B concerning the update on residential permit parking. The concerns expressed were the following:

- Resident Tyler who lives on Tarawa Drive expressed his request to remove the parking permit in this neighborhood because it is unnecessary and there are no parking permit signs on the street.
- Resident Toni Sawyer lives on Bunker Hill Drive and requested to remove the no parking signs because they do not need parking permits on their street. She also gave a signed petition to City staff.
- Resident Steve who lives on Bunker Hill Drive has received information from Captain Karrer about receiving zero calls for service for parking violations in the last year in Carrier Row and New Dutch Haven therefore this shows there isn't a need for the parking permits in these neighborhoods.
- Resident Julie Decker expressed her opposition to the parking permit. When the survey was sent out [last year] she voted to keep them as is which to her understanding was to leave the signs and don't enforce them.
- Resident Karen lives on Bunker Hill Drive. She asked the Police Department for the survey results [in 2018] and she herself voted to leave it as it is. She recommended to resend a survey or take out the parking program from the neighborhoods (in Carrier Row area specifically).
- Resident Randy Parker lives on Bunker Hill Drive expressed the need to be proactive in regards to parking. His concern is with the new development near Cottonwood Church and how there would be limited parking in that area and they might park over in their neighborhood.
- Resident David Thompson lives on Bunker Hill Drive and would like to remove the parking permit signs in the neighborhood.
- Resident Frank Sanchez lives on Tarawa Drive and hasn't seen any parking permit signs on that street and didn't get the survey that was sent out last year.
- Resident Michael Richards lives on Tarawa Drive expressed support to not enforce the parking permit.
- Resident Scott Walker expressed removing Bunker Hill Drive from enforcement because it isn't needed anymore.
Resident Dennis R. lives on Bunker Hill Drive and Howard Avenue does not want parking permits. He is opposed to it due to the possibility of the enforcement ticketing the older vehicles instead of the newer vehicles (based on personal experience). He questions why it has never been enforced and asked why it is now.

Resident Leslie Rodriguez lives on Tarawa Drive and expressed that there is no need for the parking permits.

Resident Tammy lives on Bunker Hill Drive would like the parking permit signs removed.

Resident Joan Ortiz expressed not needing the parking permit signs.

Resident Brian lived on Mindora Street previously and now lives on Bunker Hill Drive. He wanted an explanation of the cost to have the parking permit signs up especially with the City’s deficit. He also suggested to remove the right turn lane near Paul’s Place to reduce bottlenecking.

Resident Rob Stevens lives on Bunker Hill Drive expressed that there is no need for the parking permit signs nor the enforcement. As for the traffic on Walnut, people will find other ways to take a shortcut.

Resident Diana Stevens lives on Bunker Hill Drive and expressed that there isn’t a parking problem on this street.

Resident Steve lives on Bunker Hill Drive and expressed that he doesn’t have a problem with the parking permits and is just going along with the neighborhood decision.

Resident Fiona lives on Bunker Hill Drive and expressed that they haven’t had any issues with parking on the streets and that there is no need for the parking permit signs to be up.

Previous speaker – Permit parking creating a nuisance for those who live there.

Chair Hill asked the residents in attendance if parking is a problem in the area due to the Joint Forces Training Base aside from the Fourth of July event. Resident Rob Stevens expressed that parking does become an issue during the Weekend Warrior Project.

There being no further speakers, Chair Hill closed oral communications.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   
   A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2019

Vice Chair Patz noted the following changes:

- Page 2, Item 6A – last paragraph, change “be” to “will be”, “at” to “at a”, and add “will”.
- Page 3, top of the page – change “which” to “and that”.
- Page 5, top of the page – change “done” to “removed”.

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Motion/Second – Patz/Rodman
Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of July 10, 2019 with the amendments.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**
   A. Petition for Speed Humps in Old Town West
   On August 5, 2019 the City received a petition signed by 98 residents and two postal carriers. The residents live on Walnut Street, Oak Street and Chestnut Street. Traffic volumes on these streets range from 1,600 to 3,200 cars per day. The Police Department has only received three calls for service from the subject area over the past six months with regard to speeding vehicles.

   City Engineer Hunt summarized the staff report

   Commissioner West and City Engineer Hunt discuss the noise from cars going by with speed bumps and how in the 1970s there were speed bumps placed in Carrier Row and were removed a year later due to noise.

   Commissioner Singer and City Engineer Hunt discussed the City’s budget sequence which is usually discussed during April to June every year. But, if this issue is critical then the Traffic Commission would bring this back to the City Council for an approval then create a budget.

   The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the following:
   1. The variance of traffic volumes in the area.
   2. Orange County Fire Authority not favorable to the speed humps, but generally this wouldn’t be an issue with the first responders in a residential area.
   3. Other options instead of speed humps:
      - Parked Police Department Vehicle in the area
      - Traffic calming sign
      - Mobile trailer boards
      - Roundabouts
      - Bulb curbs
      - Issuing tickets
   4. The cost of speed humps would be $5,000 to $7,000 each, if asphalt.
   5. For the time being, residents should give the Police Department a call to inform them of complaints in order to track them.
   6. Have a study done to collect data for a 24 hour time frame.

   Captain Karrer advised the residents to call in the complaints in order to generate data. He also discussed with residents that he will have officers out in the area for the 90 day timeframe and to gather data.
Chair Hill informed the residents that the Traffic Commission understands the residents’ needs and requests, but there is a process that needs to be done to make an informed decision.

Commissioner Rodman asked about the time period when collecting data becomes a study.

Interim City Manager Johnson suggested to have this item be brought back at the next Traffic Commission meeting. In the meantime, there would be a 90 day patrol in the neighborhood and allow for staff to gather information. He is also concerned about vehicles going through the intersection and possibly having a roundabout to slow them down as speed humps wouldn’t deter the drivers.

Commissioner Mejia mentioned that there are some inconsistencies at the crosswalks and stop bars in the neighborhood. Also, to have the safe routes to school be painted yellow.

Motion/Second – Patz/Singer
Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission voted to direct staff to provide options of photo studies and speed studies that have been discussed and suggestions for traffic calming signs in the Old Town West neighborhood for the October 9, 2019 Traffic Commission meeting.

B. Update on Residential Permit Parking
This staff report is intended to provide general information to the Traffic Commission on the status of this subject. The following is currently underway:

- Informational noticing (via postcard) was mailed out towards the end of August to all residents and property owners within and adjacent to the neighborhood parking program areas in the Carrier Row, New Dutch Haven and Greenbrook neighborhoods. The notices provided general information on the neighborhood parking program and identified that parking enforcement will commence on October 1, 2019.
- Enforcement patrol began September 1st with warning notices being issued to vehicles parked in violation during the month of September.
- After October 1, parking citations will be issued to vehicles parked in violation.

The Police Department will provide an update on feedback they have encountered on the enforcement to date.

City Engineer Hunt summarized the staff report.

Captain Karrer informed the residents that the notices along midblock Tarawa Drive are not a part of the permit parking program.
Vice Chair Patz clarified that the Traffic Commission and City Council do not implement the parking permit program. This comes from the residents (75% of the neighborhood) through a petition process.

The Traffic Commission and residents discussed the following:
- The survey that was completed in 2018 about the residential permit parking review.
- The petition process taking 60 to 90 days.
- A petition can be done street by street.
- The enforcement of the residential parking permit in the different neighborhoods.

Captain Karrer informed the residents that the parking permit application is online, so they can print them out and bring it to the Police Department where they will receive the parking permit.

C. Discussion on Video Recording and Broadcasting Traffic Commission Meetings
During the August 16, 2019 meeting, City Council discussed the possibility of video recording and broadcasting future Traffic Commission meetings. Following discussion, the City Council directed staff to receive input from the Traffic Commission and report back to the City Council.

City Engineer Hunt summarized the staff report.

The Traffic Commission discussed the cost to have the Traffic Commission meetings recorded and broadcasted.

Vice Chair Patz expressed that he doesn't like the idea of impacting city funds, but suggested posting the audio recordings instead of a video recording.

Interim City Manager Johnson added to City Engineer Hunt's summarized staff report in regards to the City council making a recommendation to broaden the meeting minutes.

The Traffic Commission unanimously agreed that the cost for the video recording and broadcasting is not justifiable.

Commissioner West agreed on having the audio recording be posted online.

The Traffic Commission and staff discussed the following:
- The City Council has the ultimate decision if they choose to have the Traffic Commission meeting be video recorded and broadcasted.
- Authorize a more expanded minutes.
• Previously the minutes were detailed, but it took a lot more time understanding what people were saying and that’s why it was changed to be action minutes. Now, the minutes are summarized.
• Clarification of providing not just context to the City Council, but transparency and structure to the community.
• Having the audio recording online would make it more accessible for the general public.
• There is need to use the mic properly in order to capture what was being said.
• Differences between how the City Council runs their meeting in comparison to the Traffic Commission.

Chair Hill clarified the Traffic Commissions stance on the video recording and broadcasting of the Traffic Commission that being they do not support videotaping. Vice Chair Patz clarified that he is not opposed to the video recording, just the expenditure.

Resident expressed his discontentment of semi-trucks going through the City on Katella Avenue and the noises they make.

D. Traffic Commission Status Log
This is a tracking tool used by the Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Commissioner Coxhill discussed the following:
• Item A17 – Change remark to completed
• Item A18 – Change remark to completed
• Item A20 – Change remark to denied and move to be C3

Commissioner Singer asked and received clarification about item A5 from City Engineer Hunt. He explained that it was a study done years ago with the Los Alamitos Unified School District and were no actions done after the study.

6. ITEMS FROM THE DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Hunt informed the Traffic Commission of the following:
• Update on the alley project behind McDonalds to be opened that night or the following morning. The contractors will also be working on the ADA ramps and sidewalks in the area.
• Bid for the Pavement Rehabilitation project opens on September 23rd, 2019. The work that will be completed will be:
  o Farquhar Avenue going from Los Alamitos Boulevard to Bloomfield Street.
  o The Greenbrook Neighborhood.
  o Little Cottonwood Park parking lot.
• The next OCSD meeting will be next week and will present a status to the Traffic Commission at the next Traffic Commission meeting.
• The [50 unit condominiums] on Sausalito Street has grading being completed.
• Grading plans for the Los Alamitos Luxury Apartments have been submitted.
• Contractors working on the [Marriot Fairfield Inn and Suites] will be widening Briggeman Drive, moving a curb back, traffic signal back and installation of underground power poles.

Interim City Manager Johnson informed the Traffic Commission of the following:
• The (Marriot Fairfield Inn and Suites) hotel is on task and hoping to be completed by March or April 2020.
• The October Traffic Commission meeting will include a fiscal sustainability presentation.

7. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Mejia discussed the following:
• Received an email from a resident in favor of the petition to install speed humps at Old Town West.
• The speed bumps in the alleyway have been successful aside from the one mile per hour difference that was found in the study [before and after speed humps were in place].
• Has familiarity with new devices to record data of speeding vehicles.
• Requested for an update on the street signage in the City.
• Parking trailers on the street.

Vice Chair Patz expressed his empathy to those in the Old Town West Neighborhood. He also asked staff what can be done about have speed humps in the alley behind Pine Street (in reference to Susan during Oral Communications). Captain Karrer suggested that the Police Department can take a look into it.

Commissioner Singer discussed the following:
• The driveway at the Chase bank along Los Alamitos Boulevard stating that there isn’t a sidewalk along the driveway and his concern of someone getting hurt. City Engineer Hunt explained that it was built on old standards and parts of it is on private property.
• People camping overnight on a city street. Captain Karrer informed Commissioner Singer that it is currently in the works to be added in the ordinance.
• The changes to state regulations of ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) and how the City should think about the parking situation and what would occur in the future. Interim City Manager Johnson informed Commissioner Singer that the City is following the states mandates.
9. **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion/Second: Coxhill/Mejia
Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until October 9, 2019.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Attest:

Mónica Verónica Enciso, Department Secretary

Randall Hill, Chair