

## LaPorte City Traffic Commission

The June meeting of the LaPorte City Traffic Commission was held on June 7, 2011, at City Hall. The following members were present:

A.C. Pressler, Chairman	Terry Scherer
Rob Sabie	Jim Simon
Mike Frazee	Jim Maurer, Secretary

The following items summarize the meeting:

1. The minutes of the April 5, 2011 Traffic Commission meeting were further corrected by e-mail from Julie Smith (copy attached). Jim Simon made a motion to correct the minutes accordingly. A.C. Pressler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. A.C. Pressler will revise the minutes for the file.
2. The minutes of the May 28, 2011 Traffic Commission meeting were approved.
3. The Traffic Commission recommendations regarding eliminating 50% of the restricted parking in the City's Monroe St. parking lot and reconsidering all of the 2 hour parking restrictions in downtown LaPorte have been presented to Mayor Chrobak and will be considered at the next Downtown Parking Committee meeting.
4. No action has been taken by the Board of Public Works concerning the Traffic Commission's recommendation for children playing signs on each side (2) of the intersection of Greenleaf and Fairfield.
5. The local residents' request for stop signs on "K" St. at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street intersection, to reduce traffic speed, were discussed again, specifically:
  - a. Stop signs are not to be used to control traffic speed.
  - b. There have been 5 accidents at or near this intersection since 1-1-05 and none since January, 2008.
  - c. "K" St. has more traffic than 4<sup>th</sup> St. and therefore, the stop signs should not be switched from 4<sup>th</sup> St. to "K" St.
  - d. Dale Clingerman, LaPorte City Engineering Director, advised that the credit union at 4<sup>th</sup> and "J" St. is planning to expand and has purchased 2 lots on 4<sup>th</sup> St., between "J" and "K" St. Dale will provide further information on this expansion when drawings are submitted for this project.As a result of the preceding items, Rob Sabie made a motion to table this item until the effects of the forthcoming credit union expansion on 4<sup>th</sup> St. traffic are understood. Terry Scherer seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.
6. Dale Clingerman discussed the possible addition of a left turn lane on Jefferson Ave. at Monroe St., as follows:
  - a. The existing traffic islands are 27 ft. apart which is adequate for a turning lane addition.
  - b. The angle parking on the north side of Jefferson Ave. would have to be eliminated or converted to parallel parking for approximately 60 ft., to accommodate the additional turning lane.

- c. INDOT advised that the City of LaPorte would be responsible for all costs associated with a turning lane addition which are estimated between \$12,000 and \$24,000, depending on whether new traffic sensors are required in the pavement.

Rob Sabie then made a motion to take no further action concerning this matter. Mike Frazee seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

- 7. The recent installation of no parking restrictions on the south side of Ohio St., on each side of the alley between Rumley and Scott St., on each side of the alley for improved vehicle access, was discussed in detail, as follows:
  - a. Doug Saponi, owner of a 4-unit apartment building on Rumley St., discussed the apartment's dumpster in the alley, which is required by Waste Management and requires their trucks to access the alley from Ohio St. Doug suggested that the City of LaPorte request Waste Management to replace the dumpster in the alley with garbage can pick-up on Rumley St.
  - b. Mike Smith, 908 Rumley St., discussed his need to enter or leave the alley from Ohio St. with his work truck and trailer, that he parks in a garage on the alley.
  - c. Zack Gaelic, 505 Ohio St., discussed he and his neighbors' need for parking on the south side of Ohio St. and the effects of the recent parking restrictions at the alley and also in front of an existing fire hydrant.
  - d. Dawn Saponi mentioned that parking on the south side of Ohio St., in front of their pole barn, was available.

After considerable discussion with no apparent solution, Jim Simon made a motion to have the Traffic Commission members inspect this situation and consider it further at their next meeting. Terry Scherer seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Mike Frazee will mark the no parking in front of the fire hydrant on the south side of Ohio St.

- 8. Jim Reeder, President of the Sagamore Condo Association, attended the meeting to request the elimination of the recently installed stop sign midway on Feikes Blvd. Dale Clingerman commented that the stop sign location is not appropriate as the street traffic should have the right-of-way instead of the traffic from the parking lots on each side of Feikes Blvd. It was mentioned that the stop signs for each of the parking lot entrances onto Feikes Blvd. were requested by a Traffic Commission letter dated March 28, 2011 (copy attached) but Feikes Builders has not responded to this request. Jim Simon then made a motion to (1) recommend removal of the stop sign midway on Feikes Blvd. (2) add a no outlet and a U-turn permissible sign on Feikes Blvd. at the Sagamore Parkway intersection and (3) send a copy of the attached March 28, 2011 letter to Mayor Chrobak and City Attorney Don Baugher for their information and action. Rob Sabie seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. A.C. Pressler will e-mail the March 28, 2011 letter to the Mayor and City Attorney.
- 9. INDOT has suggested that the traffic lanes and lights on Jefferson Ave. at Indiana Ave. be revised from a common thru and right turn lane to a common thru and left turn lane. This will create a right turn only lane for right-turn-on-red traffic. If acceptable, INDOT will make the necessary changes in the traffic signals. Mike Frazee made a motion to recommend that the Board of Public Works accept this INDOT suggestion and offer. Terry Scherer seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.
- 10. It was mentioned that the possible change in the direction of traffic on Grove St. be considered again at the next Traffic Commission meeting. Mike Frazee made a motion to

this effect. Jim Simon seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. A.C. Pressler will summarize the previous Traffic Commission considerations concerning this matter.

11. Terry Scherer mentioned that the City police will be monitoring traffic speed on Weller Ave., in the vicinity of Melrose, in response to a local resident's request.
12. It was decided that the next Traffic Commission meeting will be revised from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Police Station, to avoid conflicts with City Council and Plan Commission meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Maurer, Secretary