



TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION MINUTES April 28, 2015 – 9:30 AM

City Council Chambers
450 E. Latham Avenue
Hemet, CA 92543

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Led by Commissioner Oltman

ROLL CALL

- Commissioner Oltman
- Commissioner Covington
- Commissioner Cecchi
- Commissioner Fowler
- Commissioner Funkhouser

EXCUSE ANY ABSENT COMMISSIONERS

- No absences to excuse

1. Reorganization of Commission - Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Oltman requested nominations or volunteers for appointment of Chair. Commissioner Cecchi volunteered. Commission unanimously approved.

Commissioner Oltman requested nominations or volunteers for appointment of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Covington and Commissioner Fowler both volunteered. Commissioner Covington stepped down and the commission unanimously approved appointment of Commissioner Fowler to Vice-Chair.

2. **Approval of Minutes** - December 9, 2014.

Commissioner Oltman motioned approval. Chairperson Cecchi seconded. - Approved

Receive and File

3. 2014 Street Speed Surveys.

2014 Speed Survey Summary showed the recommended speed in Seven Hills to be 30mph, but commission will keep it at 25mph. Commissioner Funkhouser stated the Seven Hills HOA is working with the City Council to purchase four (4) speed limit signs. The purchase will be cleared by the police department.

Chairperson Cecchi showed a laminated 2009 map of Hemet streets that he is currently working on. When completed, the map will show all speed limits within the city. Chairperson Cecchi will meet with Sergeant Dan Reinbolt to obtain a list of all major accidents over a certain time frame to add to the map for future reference.

Discussion/ Action Item

4. Support the ATP (Active Transportation Grant). Nancy Beltran to present.

Nancy Beltran, Engineering Technician from the City of Hemet Engineering Department explained that this is the City of Hemet's first year applying for the ATP Grant. The grant is to propose a bike route ultimately connecting with San Jacinto. A public outreach is to be conducted at 10:00 today, April 28, 2015, to count pedestrians and bicyclist for the support data and documentation. Chairperson Cecchi would like to discuss it further at the May RTA meeting.

Interim City Engineer, Habib Motlagh, asked the commission to please extend their support of the project. Traffic and Parking Commission unanimously support the ATP Grant proposal.

Nancy Beltran also stated the City of Hemet Engineering Department will be applying for an SB821 Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Grant that will improve sidewalk and ADA conditions in Downtown Hemet.

Commissioner Funkhouser asked if the Solar Project taking place on Sanderson will be doing anything for sidewalks. City Engineer stated they will comply with City Standards.

5. C.W. Cecchi proposal of turning the parking lot behind the Train Depot into 2 hour parking.

Chairperson Cecchi proposed turning half of the parking lot behind the Train Depot into 2 hour parking. The carwash and restaurant are struggling to share the mutual parking lot. Interim City Engineer, Habib Motlagh, stated the difficulty in 2 hour parking would be to enforce it and suggested this be discussed with Hemet Police Department, also shall be included with the Downtown Specific Plan discussion.

Judith McPherson, local property and business owner, stated she was in full support of the improving the parking situation in Downtown Hemet. She also expressed the need to upgrade sidewalks on the North side of Florida Avenue for clear ADA accessibility. Commissioner Oltman reminded Ms. McPherson that Florida Avenue is a state owned highway. Commissioner Covington stated he would abstain from the issue as he also owns property in the area. Commissioner Oltman said that the city did a survey several years ago regarding the parking and the study showed the majority of the cars belonged to employees of the businesses.

Chairperson Cecchi recommended the commissioners to look over the property and personally assess the situation. The assessments will be evaluated at the next meeting.

Communication from the Public

6. Residents of Sierra Dawn would like to request a speed trailer discourage the speeding of the through way traffic.

Dale Gillum, a resident of Sierra Dawn, is concerned about the speed of the traffic on San Marcos Drive between Palm Avenue and Elk Street. San Marcos Avenue is currently a 25mph zone and the cars drive at an average of 50-60mph. Mr. Gillum stated there are currently no Miles per Hour signs in the area and in addition, he would like to request a stop sign. Mr. Gillum believes most of the traffic are not Sierra Dawn residents, but people using San Marcos Drive to avoid Stetson Avenue.

Commissioner Oltman said that it was recently stated that 25mph zones are "speed traps" and tickets given in the zones will be dismissed. For police officers to enforce the speed, the limit has to be 30mph or above. If the speed limit is raised to 30mph in the area, golf carts will not be allowed on the street. Mr. Gillum said he would agree to the changing of the speed limit, but he would also like to request a stop sign and a speed trailer. Interim City Engineer, Habib Motlagh, will order a stop sign warrant study as well as a speed survey. Traffic Sergeant, Dan Reinbolt, said he would order a speed trailer for the area.

Duane Camp, a resident from Sierra Dawn, seconded the Dale Gillum's concerns. Mr. Camp is also concerned about the speed of traffic when residents are backing out of their driveways.

7. Public Comments

Anyone who wishes to address the Commission regarding items not on the agenda may do so at this time. When you are recognized, please give your name, spelling of last name, and address for accurate recording in minutes.

- Karen Stewart, Kirby Avenue, stated the volume of traffic on the intersection of Florida Avenue and Sanderson Avenue on Friday and Saturday afternoons is excessive. Ms. Stewart would like the commission to evaluate the timing of the traffic lights. Commissioner Oltman said the intersection is the responsibility of Caltrans, not the City of Hemet. Ms. Stewart requested the commission study the area anyway, in addition to the safety of traffic turning left into the Stater Bros. parking lot from Florida Avenue. Commissioner Funkhouser believes the recent excess of traffic is due to the seasonal Snowbirds visiting Hemet and that in the summer months, traffic will lessen. Chairperson Cecchi said the commission will review the situation.
- Melissa Smith, Janquil Street, has concern for the speed of traffic on the corner of Garland Avenue and Kirby Street. In the past cars reaching high speeds lose control when they go over the railroad tracks and crash into her yard. Ms. Smith has experience three (3) accidents ending in her backyard and four (4) into her wall over the last ten years. Chairperson Cecchi said the commission requested the speed limit be lowered in the past, but they were turned down. Ms. Smith asked if the commission could request a stop sign for the intersection. Commissioner Oltman asked Interim City Engineer, Habib, to order a stop warrant study in the area. Commissioner Oltman explained that the street has to be at a 90 degree angle for the curve and the railroad tracks belong to Riverside County Transit Commission. Commissioner Oltman believes the tracks are condemned. Chairperson Cecchi will research.

- Traffic Sergeant, Dan Reinbolt, introduced himself to the new commissioners as being in charge of the Traffic Bureau for the City of Hemet Police Department. Sergeant Reinbolt explained that the Police Department has been going through a transition and currently has only half of a staff for traffic. However, the department is on an upswing and they are assigning more motor officers this year. Sergeant Reinbolt stated the department is doing their best to address everyone's concerns.

8. Commissioner Reports or Comments

- No comments or reports

9. Future Agenda Items

Commissioners and City Engineer will review and research the following:

- Parking lot behind the Train Depot in Downtown Hemet
- The speed of traffic in Sierra Dawn
- The excessive traffic on the intersection of Florida and Sanderson
- The railroad tracks on Kirby Avenue

10. Adjournment: 10:10 a.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is to be determined. Commissioners will be informed of the date and time via e-mail.