

CITY OF PEKIN TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2017 @ 8:30 a.m.
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT: Kurt Nelson, Tony Carson, John Dossey, Mike Guerra, Bob Henderson, Sarah Newcomb, Bob Shaw, Dennis Zimmerman

Also present: Dan Newcomb, Brett Olson

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Motion by John to approve the agenda, seconded by Bob H. All in favor.

Motion by John to approve the July 7, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Bob H. All in favor.

Old Business:

1. Traffic Control – Forest St. @ Glendale St.

A Speed Spy Study was done in this location in response to a citizen concern. The study indicated that there was no excessive speed in this location during the time the study was conducted. The study results indicated that there was an average of 95.1 cars per day, average speed 14.6 miles an hour. The highest speed recorded was 36. There is no accident history in this location. There was no response to the letters that were sent out to residents in the neighborhood. It was noted that eastbound Glendale is the only traffic control in place at this intersection. John made a motion to leave this location as is at this time based on the data indicating no need for traffic control and no responses to the letters sent to the residents in the neighborhood. Bob S. seconded the motion. All in favor.

New Business:

1. Downtown Parking

Present at the meeting for this agenda item:

Debra L. Barnard (309) 347-5270 (debrad7@hotmail.com)
Bill Fleming (309) 346-2706 (bill@pekinchamber.com)
Baylee Gambetti (309) 241-7700 (bayleegambetti@gmail.com)
Todd Hasty (309) 657-8089 (todd.hasty@lpl.com)
Nora Lovell (309) 253-2289 (peekinpotttery@aol.com)
Dustin Maquet (309) 361-8282 (djmaquet@yahoo.com)
Dallas Pettingill (309) 645-1727 (dpetting@gmail.com)
John Riley (309) 642-5677 (treasuresandmoreofpekin@gmail.com)
Liz Rogers (309) 643-5464 (classicaldanceacademy@yahoo.com)
Jim Schramm (309) 346-3255 (jschramm59@gmail.com)
Tom West (309) 512-3406 (tgwest1@excite.com)

City Manager Tony Carson asked for the Traffic Safety Committee to consider making a recommendation to City Council for a 6-month trial period of eliminating the 2-hour parking restriction in the downtown area. Since the beginning of June, he and Police Chief Dossey have received numerous phone calls and complaints concerning parking

tickets, especially customers of the downtown businesses. He is seeking a solution that would be a positive way to encourage people to spend the day in Pekin patronizing the downtown businesses instead of placing a time restriction on them.

The City Manager, the Administrative Services Director, a Deputy Chief of Police, and a group of business owners met to discuss what could be done. A few alternatives were discussed, including expanding the parking restriction to 3 hours or implementing zone parking, there were concerns with those choices. The suggestion of a 6-month trial period with no parking restriction is being brought forward for consideration knowing that there is no way to satisfy everyone, but the majority agreed to give this a try as a starting point to a solution. To get a true sense of how it would work, the 2-hour parking signs will be taken down during this period. Any recommendation made by the Traffic Safety Committee will have to be presented to City Council for approval.

Input from business owners in attendance -

Debra Barnard, Salon Renaissance, 515 Court St – She stated that her business has been located in downtown Pekin for the past 22 years. She rents parking spots from Ace Liquor so her employees don't park on Court St. She is in favor of this recommendation.

Bill Fleming, Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St. – He thanked the committee for being open to trying something new. He inquired about parking in the lot behind the 300 Block of Court St. It was noted that this lot is a mix of reserved and open parking spaces. He indicated that it will be successful if employees and business owners don't park on Court St. keeping those spaces available for customers.

Dallas Pettingill, CJ'S Café, 404 Court St. – He stated that he appreciates the effort and this is a step in the right direction. He noted that open parking may create more issues.

Todd Hasty, Muse Salon, 429 Court St. – He stated that he is in favor of the trial period to see how it works out.

Dustin Maquet, Maquet's Rail House, 221 Court St. – He has a parking lot in the rear of his business, parking hasn't been too much of an issue for his business. He is concerned about vehicles being left on the street overnight. He would like to see something in place to address vehicles being left on the street for a couple of days or more. He further noted that the parking lot to the east of Third St. has a number of reserved parking spaces that are being utilized only 5 to 10% of the time. He doesn't feel there is a parking shortage, but rather an issue with people not parking where they should be.

Nora Lovell, Peek In Pottery Ceramics and Art, 421 Court St. – She stated that she had conducted a phone survey with the businesses on Court St. She reported that the majority would be happy with 3-hour parking, but are willing to try the no restriction option. She suggested that if Tazewell County isn't going to use their parking lots, could they be made available for businesses.

The City Manager met with the Tazewell County Administrator a couple of months ago and notice was put out to all Tazewell County employees reminding them to park in the county lots. There is no way they can mandate their employees to park in the designated lots. He noted that Tazewell County had been invited to attend this meeting. He further noted that city employees have a parking lot and do not park on the street in the downtown area.

Mike noted that he has had a discussion with Tazewell County. Their lot is open to the public after 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and the entire weekend.

After this extensive discussion, John made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council for a 6-month moratorium on the 2-hour parking restriction in the downtown area with removal of all parking restriction signs. It was further noted that the public bus parking area will remain as is. The motion was seconded by Bob H. All in favor.

The committee further discussed options. A hybrid was suggested to restrict parking on Court St. with no restriction on side streets. To reduce confusion, the City Manager prefers the entire downtown area be the same regarding parking. The business owners will notice if there are issues. It was suggested that during this period, business owners make note of vehicles that consistently park on Court St. It was noted that in bad weather it is likely to be more of an issue. The time frame of September 1st to February 1st was suggested that would include winter weather. There was a suggestion to invite business owners back in four to five months to provide feedback on whether open parking is working and to share with the committee suggestions of possible alternatives.

There is a city owned parking lot next to the United Way that has open parking. It is a couple of blocks away from Court St. but could be utilized by employees of downtown businesses.

There was discussion regarding what is currently in place to address vehicles that are left parked on the street for an extended period of time without being moved. There is nothing in place specific to vehicles if they are operable, abandoned trailers and large RVs have a 72-hour parking limit. At one time Pekin had an overnight parking restriction in place from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. unless the vehicle had a flashing yellow light displayed in it but that ordinance was removed a number of years ago. Feedback from business owners regarding the number and frequency of vehicles left overnight would be needed in order to justify addressing that. Dan brought up the idea of a downtown parking map, possibly electronic, that could be accessed through the city website to guide people to available parking. Another suggestion would be signage to guide people to available parking lots. There was discussion of moving all reserved spots to a certain area that could be identified on the map. It is uncertain if the reserved spaces can be moved, or if renters specify the reserved parking space they choose to rent.

This will be presented to City Council at the August 14th meeting. Kurt stated that if it is approved by City Council, there is a 10-day waiting period before it would go into effect and the signs can be removed. It was noted that this is the first step.

The committee invited people to take the opportunity to attend the City Council meeting to express their view on this item.

2. Speed Limit Sign Request – Alley 200 Block Court St.

This request was submitted by Dustin Maquet, Rail House, 221 Court St. (361-8282). He is concerned with the speed of traffic in the alley. He stated that businesses in this block have rear entrances at the alley. It was noted that the alley has been asphalted. There is nothing in the City Code regarding speed limits in alleys. After discussion, Mike made a motion to put the Speed Spy in this location to collect data and to make drivers aware of their speed in this location. Dennis seconded the motion. All in favor. It was noted that most traffic in the alley is traveling westbound. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

3. Downtown Handicapped Parking

Mike stated that this has been discussed in the past. There are guidelines in place regarding the number of handicapped accessible parking spaces that are to be in place based on the number of available on street parking spaces. There are currently some blocks in the downtown area with on street parking where no handicapped parking spaces are in place. The Courthouse block is well covered. There is one space by Union Mission. The recommendation is to have one handicapped accessible parking space in place per 25 available parking spaces in a block perimeter. This isn't law yet. The recommended location is at the end of the block nearest the ramps. Mike is recommending not putting them all on Court St. He marked a map with ideas for locations that would spread them out throughout the downtown area in usable locations. This will be on the next meeting agenda with the actual proposal and map. Mike will get maps out to the committee for review before the next meeting.

4. Removal of Parking Restriction – 600 Block Market St.

Alan White, 912 Mary St. (253-5709) made this request. He owns rental property at 628 and 625 Market St. The parking restriction in this location was put in place when West Campus was open. He is asking for consideration to remove this parking restriction. Mike made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council to remove the parking restriction in this location. John seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. No Parking Request – Washington St. (Between Court St. & S. 10th St.)

Gary and Nancy Haller, 1014 Washington St. (642-4184) were in attendance at this meeting for this agenda item. It was noted that part of this block currently has 2-hour parking in place. It is difficult to exit a driveway in this block due to the congestion of vehicles parked on the street, large trees, and delivery trucks. They also presented photos of the congestion in this location. John made motion to make a recommendation to City Council for no parking on the south side of Washington St. between S. 10th. St and Court St. The motion was seconded by Bob H. All in favor. Letters of notification will be sent to all addresses in this block.

6. Deaf Child Sign Request

The Committee received a signed Deaf Child sign request for 2507 Tazewell Rd. John made a motion to install two signs in this location (one going each direction). One sign to be posted on Tazewell Rd. 100 ft. west of Oakdale. The other sign to be posted on Tazewell Rd. 100 ft. east of Sunrise. Dennis seconded the motion. All in favor. It was noted that these type of requests should be reviewed on a yearly basis to verify that the person still lives at the address.

Around the Table

Brett stated that he was contacted regarding the deaf child sign on Susan-Hope. He was told that the deaf child no longer lives there. The sign in this location can be taken down.

Mike reported that the 4th St. street project will begin soon. He is still working on the traffic plan. There will be some restricted access for traffic during this process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Wrhel

NEXT REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 @ 8:30 A.M.