

TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Agenda
612 North Main
Mitchell SD 57301
September 19th, 2016

Chairman Lyndon Overweg called the meeting of the Traffic Commission for the City of Mitchell to order at 6:30pm on Monday, September 19th, 2016 in the Mitchell City Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman Lyndon Overweg Councilperson Dan Allen Councilperson Steve Rice
Councilperson Dave Tronnes Ex-officio Dick Figland

NOT PRESENT

Councilperson Jeff Smith Assistant Chief Koster

AGENDA

Chairman Overweg requested approval of the **Agenda** for this meeting September 19th, 2016. Councilperson Allen made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilperson Rice seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. The Corn Palace Challenge Bull Ride is requesting the following closures for their event to be held in the Corn Palace on October 21st & 22nd, 2016.**
 - **The closure of the East portion of the City Hall Parking Lot from 5 am on Wednesday, Oct. 19th through 5 pm on Monday, Oct 24th.**
 - **The entire City Hall Parking Lot from 7 am on Friday, Oct. 21st through 7 am on Sunday, Oct. 23rd.**
 - **The 600 block of N Main Street from 7 am on Friday, Oct. 21st through 7 am on Sunday, Oct. 23rd.**

Chief Overweg informed the group that this has been done in the past and that there would be no parking except event parking.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to approve the request. Councilperson Tronnes seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

- 2. The Outkast Car Club would like to amend the special event permit previously approved in council. Dave Linke requests to add the 100blk of south main closed for the car show. First & Railroad would remain open. In addition, it is requested to reduce 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th closure down to a half block on both sides of main instead of the full block as to leave alley's open for business use.**

Chief Overweg informed the group that the closures work best this way.

Councilperson Rice made a motion to approve the request. Councilperson Tronnes seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

3. Request for 4-Way Stop at 1st & Foster.

Chief Overweg informed the group that there was a traffic study completed for this intersection again. Chief Overweg discussed the results with SD DOT and the data does not warrant a 4-Way Stop. The data did indicate that the stop signs should be placed on 1st rather than on Foster Street. Chief Overweg commented that there were a couple of options which could possibly include removing the first two entrances/exits at 1st & Arnies to alleviate traffic near the intersection and the other option would be to do another study after 5th Street is re-opened. Chief Overweg has not yet discussed this with 1st & Arnies.

Nathan Hofer addressed the group. Nathan lives in this area and thinks this intersection should be looked at for a 4-Way Stop because of the entrances at 1st & Arnies and also due to the kids that cross the street to go to the pool during the summer as there are no crosswalks. Mayor Toomey commented that he had recently visited with neighbors in this area that would like a 4-Way Stop as there is a constant stream of traffic which makes it difficult to back out on to 1st and they are concerned about safety. Stephanie Ellwein, City Administrator, stated that she has traveled this route for two years, four to seven times a day, to and from work and for children's activities. Stephanie commented that the traffic hasn't changed since the construction at 5th & Burr and that it has remained busy. Stephanie also informed the group that she has seen several almost accidents and kids almost being hit. Stephanie commented that she was surprised that the stop signs had not been switched when data from traffic studies indicated that the stop signs should be located on 1st. Chief Overweg informed the group that the intersection does not meet crash criteria; however, if data had numbers with east and west traffic and north and south traffic fairly close in an eight-hour period, it could warrant for a 4-Way Stop. This study did not meet that criteria.

Several Councilpersons mentioned that they had received calls in favor of changing and others stating to leave the intersection the same. It was also discussed that there are certain times when the traffic is heavier at this location.

There was discussion as to whether to go to a 4-Way Stop, switch the stop signs to be on 1st and leaving them as is due to a big learning curve for drivers.

There was also discussion in regards to liability since two traffic studies have shown that the stop signs should be on 1st and not on Foster. Justin Johnson, City Attorney, asked if the federal guidelines are binding and also asked Chief Overweg what would be the deterrent of changing the intersection. Chief Overweg stated that a national study has shown that if a 4-Way Stop is not warranted and the guideline is not followed there can actually be an increase in accidents. It was mentioned that a 4-Way Stop could slow people's speeds down; however, Chief Overweg stated that it is never recommended to place a stop sign to control speed.

It was decided to conduct another traffic study at 1st & Foster once 5th Street has been reopened for a period of time.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to table the request until a new study can be completed after the reopening of 5th Street. Councilperson Tronnes seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

4. Request from Palace Transit for two temporary Palace Transit parking spots to the west of the driveway on 7th Ave at Firesteel Healthcare located at 1120 E 7th due to construction (see attached pdf's).

Jessica Pickett, Community Services Director, informed the group that the parking lot at Firesteel will not be available for pickups until construction is complete, which may continue on into next year. There was a discussion in regards to how congested the parking is in this area. Jessica will inform the group when the parking lot is available again.

Councilperson Tronnes made a motion to approve two "15 Minute Bus Loading & Unloading" temporary parking spaces, one on each side of the driveway located at 1120 E 7th during construction. Councilperson Rice seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm. Councilperson Rice seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

The next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17th, 2016. The time will be announced at a later date.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Titze.