

TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
612 North Main  
Mitchell SD 57301  
September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Chairman Lyndon Overweg called the meeting of the Traffic Commission for the City of Mitchell to order at 5:58 pm on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Mitchell City Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Chairman Lyndon Overweg	Councilperson Jeff Smith	Councilperson Dan Allen
Councilperson Steve Rice	Councilperson Kevin McCardle	Ex-officio Dick Figland
Assistant Chief Koster		

**AGENDA**

Chairman Overweg requested approval of the **Agenda** for this meeting September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Councilperson Allen made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilperson Rice seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Justin & Janelle Thiesse own an 8-plex at 1705 South Rowley and request the speed limit be changed on Rowley Street to 25 mph all the way to Spruce Street. Traffic is exceeding 35-45 mph in the 25 mph zone and they are unable to turn out of the complex. (see attached request).**

Chief Overweg informed the group that Rowley St. turns to 35 mph on the south side of Pine. Justin Thiesse addressed the group and explained that Rowley St. is 25 mph north of Norway Avenue. Justin mentioned that he had spoken to Miedema and they have the same issue pulling out of their driveway. It was mentioned that the additional traffic could be driver's avoiding the Burr Street construction. Justin informed the group that Grassland brings more traffic too. There was discussion in regards to the Grassland traffic causing a short backup time. Chief Overweg did mention that if the hospital moves out by Grasslands there may be a need to put a traffic light at Rowley and Spruce. It was asked if the speed change request was all the way to Spruce and Rowley. Chief Overweg informed the group that they could go 25 mph to the interstate, to Spruce St. or leave it as is. Justin mentioned that the area is close to a school and it could prevent accidents. Chief Overweg was asked how many accidents were in this area. Chief Overweg stated that there have been very few accidents. It was asked if a speed board could be used; however, the speed boards have been moved into the school and park zones at this time and there not any extra speed boards. There was discussion in regards to this being a speed issue and that instead of changing the speed, there should be speed enforcement. This request was tabled until the December meeting, as the Burr Street construction project will be done and this will allow time to evaluate whether the situation resolves itself after the construction is over.

Councilperson Allen made a motion to table the request until the December Traffic Commission meeting. Councilperson Rice seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

2. **Dan Beukelman requests to change 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> street from the current configuration (two-way one block off of Main, then one way after that) to be two-way streets from Lawler to Minnesota Street. With the upcoming construction coming on North Sanborn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> we will have to change the blocks east and west of Sanborn to be two-way during the construction time anyway, or many people won't be able to drive to their homes. (see attached proposal on one-way streets in Mitchell for detailed request information.)**

Dan Beukelman addressed the group and informed them that he lives in the neighborhood and hasn't seen any problems since changing part of the one-way streets to two-way streets; however, thinks it is confusing to drivers when the streets go back to one-ways. Dan described his proposal for the two-way streets with the upcoming construction on Sanborn and stated that he felt that switching back after construction will just confuse driver's again. Dan felt at the minimum the two-way streets could be two-way from Lawler to Minnesota after the construction as this would just be leaving it that way after construction. Councilperson Allen asked City Attorney Justin Johnson if this would have to be voted on as it was for the one-way streets. Justin stated this would not be a conflict as something like this in state law doesn't require a vote. Justin stated that it would be cleaner if traffic acted on it temporarily and to approve a traffic plan either way. If the Traffic Commission doesn't act, then it would automatically go back to how it was. Dan mentioned that he had spoken to several people including City Administrator Stephanie Ellwein in regards to the proposal. Stephanie commented that she understood Dan's concern on the eastside of Sanborn. Councilperson Rice stated that there had been a Sanborn Construction proposal submitted and what is being asked is being done during construction. Jeff McCormick with SPN addressed the group and stated that side streets are closed other than to residents and detours for the public are routed to follow one-ways as they are. Councilperson Smith commented that it would be similar to the Burr Street signage. A discussion was held in reference to evaluating the one-way streets to two-way streets at the end of this construction phase.

Councilperson Rice made a motion to approve this proposal during the construction phase for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from Lawler to Minnesota and re-evaluate in Traffic Commission before the end of construction as to whether to leave it the same or change it back. Councilperson McCardle seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

3. **Kevin Adams from the DWU Physical Plant requests consideration of adding a crosswalk from Koka Hall across to Dakota Hall. DWU would also like curbs painted yellow in all five locations on the west side of Dakota Hall. The middle three curbs on the attached drawing would be all painted and the end two curbs would be painted six feet out (see attached request and drawing.)**

Chief Overweg commented that he did not have any problems with this. Councilperson Rice did ask about the crosswalk at LB Williams Elementary School on Norway Avenue. He mentioned that drivers pull their cars all the way up to the crosswalk and block the north/south road (S. Wisconsin St.) and this seems to be pinching the kids and crossing guard in the crosswalk. Chief Overweg stated that the white stop mark is on the west side of the crosswalk at this location and that the signage is there and that drivers just cannot drive into the crosswalk while individuals are in the crosswalk. Chief Overweg commented that a flasher could be put on the sign.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilperson Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm. Councilperson Rice seconded the motion all members voting aye.

The next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The time will be announced at a later date.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Titze.