

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2009**  
**Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

*“Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community.”*

**Members**

**Present:** Chair Michael Simpson      Jennifer Dawson (Vice Chair)      Doris Brandt  
Bryce Jones      Neal Klein      Dick Meyer  
Lesley Woodruff      Ronald Sult

**Members**

**Absent:** Andrew Cookson (excused)

**Ex Officio**

**Present:** Mayor Bob Andrews

**Staff**

**Present:** Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer  
Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant  
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

**Others**

**Present:** Ed Bartholemey

**CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM.**

**A) Review and approve minutes for January 12, 2009**

<p><b>MOTION: Brandt/Jones</b> to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for January 12, 2009 as amended. (7 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.</p>
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**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Ed Bartholemey, Newberg Business Center, asked to offer testimony this evening since business obligations might prevent him from making the scheduled hearing date on March 9 2009. He stated he owns a building on Industrial Parkway and is in support of a 4-hour parking limitation there; he believed anyone parking longer than that would be using a public street for their own private use. He spoke of building requirements and the need for businesses to build according to their parking needs, not using the streets for storage.

Chair Simpson asked if he had encountered any problems at this business due to trucks parking overnight.

Mr. Bartholmey mentioned he had some difficulties when completing a half-street improvement with moving equipment around the truck trailers and with school buses traveling through the area. He said there are particular employees that park in the same spot everyday for some of the

businesses because the onsite parking is being used as storage for other things. He felt this was unfair to other businesses that built to accommodate their business needs as well as employee parking. He did not feel four hours would be an unreasonable period for business to be conducted.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff stated it would be prudent for staff to provide the commission with applicable City codes concerning parking requirements and the length of time they have been in affect before the hearing next month. Staff replied he would contact the Planning and Building department to provide this information beforehand.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A) Request for handicapped parking space for a passenger transport vehicle (TSC-08-020)**

TIME – 7:12 PM

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, presented a brief staff report offering background on the situation and referred to representatives from Mid-Valley Rehabilitation for testimony and questions. He stated there was merit to consider this request based on the needs and the current parking availability.

Ms. Kathie McMahon, Assistant Program Manager for Mid-Valley Rehabilitation, discussed their problems with parking a twenty passenger oversized van (small school bus) for use at their facility. They use the van to transport ten clients and nine staff members to and from residences, the facility, and activities within the community on a daily basis. Because of the size of the vehicle and the needs of the passengers (many with physical and/or mental disabilities), they desire a parking spot close to the facility where backing up or turning around will not be necessary, for safety and driver visibility issues. Of the several places, they have attempted parking this bus; there have been reported visibility issues for other drivers exiting and entering parking lots for the various businesses. Parking within the facility parking lot during business hours is not possible (though they can park their on the weekends) and parking too far from the facility poses safety issues for staff. They are looking for a spot to designate as handicapped bus parking to ensure a safe place for this transport vehicle as parking demands in the area increase without causing danger to other drivers. She added the bus does drop off and pick up clients in front of the facility.

Chair Simpson asked where she would like the designated parking spot to be.

Ms. McMahon said she was not picky, but the spot at the far east entrance to Wilco, where they have been parking for a month and a half now has not caused any complaints.

Alternate parking availability in the area was discussed and whether or not there is a City code opposed to creating a private parking designation in a public parking space. Staff did not see a

problem with the creation of a handicap parking spot, but it would also be available to any handicap driver, so the designation would have to be specific to a "disabled bus parking zone" to limit the type of vehicles that can park there; further research would be necessary.

Mayor Bob Andrews suggested asking the property owner of an adjacent and unused piece of land next to the facility if they would mind the bus being parked their temporarily. Concerns were discussed about backing the bus up and the ability of the Traffic Safety Commission to negotiate with a private owner to resolve a private parking issue.

Chair Simpson asked staff to continue research and asked Mayor Andrews to explore the privately owned land option and report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Neal Klein expressed concerns for liability for damages to property owned by someone else if they are using the property under the City's recommendation.

**MOTION: Brandt/Klein** to table **TSC-08-020** requesting handicapped parking space for a passenger transport vehicle until March 9, 2009 for further research. (7 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

Commissioner Woodruff suggested the City consider a parking lot fee for new building in light industrial areas as a possible solution for the need for a truck park. Staff replied it would be a costly consideration, which may prevent new businesses from coming to the area, especially if they do not have a need large truck delivery.

Mayor Andrews agreed it would be difficult to ask developers to subsidize a parking area when they may have nothing to do with the businesses there; he felt there would be merit into looking into the idea by contacting other communities to see how they are dealing with large truck parking and encouraged continued brainstorming for this dilemma. He spoke of issues such as streets that cannot handle the weight of these trucks.

Commissioner Klein suggested using Fred Meyer empty parking spaces for truck parking or the City providing incentives for off street parking in commercial areas not otherwise being used.

Sergeant Weaver replied there would be issues, as there already are, with residents complaining about trucks parking and loading all hours of the night. He also mentioned the concern for liability as brought up in the previous discussion.

Chair Simpson encouraged each member to approach at least one business before the next meeting as a survey to see if they would be willing to allow trucks to park overnight if they were not held liable.

## **STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A) Police**

Sergeant Weaver discussed new officers in basic police academy and other new hires. He gave an update on the damage motorcycle being covered by the maintenance shop's insurance that experienced the fire that damaged the bike. He spoke of building improvements for dispatch and

gave statistics on DUII arrests. He also spoke of the car being used as a visual educational tool of a crash caused by drunk driving and offered some background information on that situation.

## **B) Engineering**

### **• River – Fourth 4-way stop (TSC-08-018)**

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, stated there has been no opposition to the decision at River and 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the 4-way stop that he is aware of so far. He spoke of a new informational tool where a map can show crash data around the City of Newberg to help identify dangerous intersections. He spoke of possible stimulus money maybe becoming available for street overlays and possibly using this in the Mountainview Road area where bike lanes can be a soft solution to the traffic speeding discussed in that area. Construction to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Hwy 219 and Springbrook Road is to start later this summer.

## **C) Items from Commissioners**

Chair Simpson stated the head of ACTS Oregon wanted some ideas for the next conference and the possibility to have a team building seminar if members were willing to take a Saturday to work on this and become more proactive.

Commissioner Doris Brandt suggested incorporating schools in a disaster drill as an educational opportunity for DUII's using the crashed car as a tool.

Commissioner Jennifer Dawson stated she recently joined CERT Community Emergency Response Team of volunteers and that they only need two more people to take the ten-week training program. They meet on Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:00 PM at the Springbrook fire station.

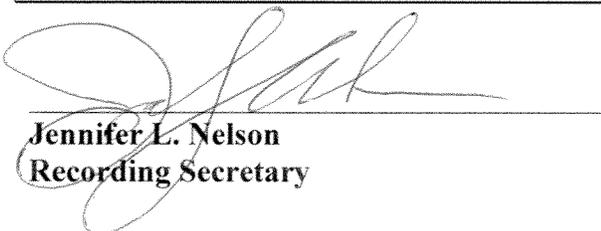
Mayor Andrews discussed the possibility of the Traffic Safety Commission to include a student member. Details of the requirements were discussed.

**MOTION: Klein/Brandt** to prepare a letter requesting the Mayor and City Council to consider an additional tenth, non-voting, high school student member on the Traffic Safety Commission. (7 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

Mayor Andrews discussed funding for additional police officers through a public safety fee on the water bill.

## **ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING**

**MOTION: Sult/Jones** to adjourn at 8:28 PM until the next meeting on March 9, 2009. (7 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]). Motion carried.

  
**Jennifer L. Nelson**  
Recording Secretary

  
**Michael R. Simpson**  
Traffic Safety Commission Chair