

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, January 12, 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)  
Andrew Cookson      Bryce Jones      Neal Klein  
Dick Meyer      Lesley Woodruff      Ronald Sult

**Members**

**Absent:** Doris Brandt (excused)

**Ex Officio**

**Present:** Mayor Bob Andrews (arrived at 7:52 PM)

**Staff**

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

**Others**

**Present:** Mike Willcuts, Susan Lundquist, Steve Gronli, Rick Olson, Tristan Hartfield, Michael Hartfield

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

Each Traffic Safety Commissioner gave a brief statement of introduction for the benefit of the newest member, Commissioner. Neal S. Klein.

**A) Nomination & election of 2009 Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission**

**MOTION: Jones/Cookson** to nominate Michael Simpson as the 2009 Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission. (7 Yes/0 No/1 Abstain [Simpson]/1 Absent [Brandt]) Motion carried.

**B) Nomination & election of 2009 Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission**

**MOTION: Simpson/Jones** to nominate Jennifer Dawson as the 2009 Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission. (7 Yes/0 No/1 Abstain [Dawson]/1 Absent [Brandt]) Motion carried.

**C) Review and approve minutes of November 10, 2008**

**MOTION: Simpson/Dawson** to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for November 10, 2008 as amended. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]) Motion carried.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A) Planning request, parking related to new development (TSC-09-001)**

TIME – 7:54 PM

Mr. Steve Olson, Assistant Planner, presented the staff report with proposed changes utilizing PowerPoint for TSC commentary (see official meeting packet for full report).

Mr. Mike Willcuts, Coyote Homes, Inc., indicated he was available for questions.

Chair Simpson said he liked that affordable housing was and asked if there have been any problems with onsite parking or the proposed staff changes.

Mr. Willcuts stated he had not heard of any problems, they built with visitor parking in mind. He did not have any problems with the staff's recommendations.

Commissioner Dick Meyer commented on difficult economic times bringing grown children back home and the problems caused by several cars parked in front of the homes and the police department having to respond.

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, stated the problem does not usually come with the family that moves in initially but with the tenants they rent to later, usually a group of college students with multiple cars taking up parking. He said the other problem is abandoned cars in the midst of repairs and he would foresee a problem if fire trucks needed to get to these areas with congested parking.

**MOTION: Jones/Sult** to endorse **TSC-09-001** proposing amendments to the Newberg Development Code as presented to the TSC related to parking requirements for a new development. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]) Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A) River – Fourth 4-Way Stop Request (TSC-08-018)**

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report noting River Street has three times the amount of traffic than 4<sup>th</sup> Street and discussed background (see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Simpson brought up the increased use of the boat ramp.

Sergeant Weaver spoke about the history of the use of these roads because of a prior landfill, which closed in the 1980's and as a main school route, which are not in play anymore.

Mr. Chiu stated the data did not quite warrant a 4-way stop at this intersection at this time and proposed a 2-way stop on 4<sup>th</sup> Street to meet the existing situation, removing the stop signs already in place on River Street. He spoke of an adjustment period that would most likely occur.

Mayor Bob Andrews asked staff what they would recommend for the intersection at River Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street after looking at River and 4<sup>th</sup> Street since they would have the same traffic counts and could have the same basic reasons for a change. Staff stated they have not looked at that intersection, and could not give a well-informed answer. Staff discussed that the request came from Zion Lutheran preschool.

Chair Simpson opened public testimony.

Ms. Susan Lundquist, a teacher at Zion Lutheran preschool and kindergarten, spoke of her years standing outside greeting children at this intersection and the frequent incidents she has witnessed. She spoke of the new playground, the school's enclosed play structure and the need for crosswalks with the larger volume of pedestrian traffic. She stated there are 56 students at the school and 15% walk through this intersection each day. She said speeding was a problem as well as the on-street parking making visibility difficult.

Mr. Chiu again stated that although he could not make a recommendation for a 4-way stop at this intersection based on the data there were other factors to consider and crosswalks would be good at that location for the pedestrian crossings.

Commissioner Neal Klein asked staff what the criteria would need to be to warrant a 4-way stop at this intersection.

Mr. Chiu explained that the traffic volumes on the two streets would need to be closer in number or there would have to be enough documented accidents.

Commissioner Klein expressed concerns for pedestrians crossing from the east to the west side of River Street having a harder time maneuvering through traffic without a stop sign on River.

Chair Simpson agreed the weekend traffic to the boat ramp would make pedestrian crossing extremely difficult.

**MOTION:** Jones/Klein to approve TSC-08-018 requesting a 4-way stop at River Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street including the installation of four crosswalks as a limited decision. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson recessed at 8:20 PM and reconvened at 8:25 PM.

**B) Request for public hearing on Limited Decision for 4-Hour Parking Limit on Ninth –Industrial Parkway (TSC-08-019)**

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report, noting there were letters received in opposition to the limited decision requiring a public hearing to be set and notifications made (see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Simpson explained the process to the citizens present and stated that testimony would be accepted this evening for consideration during the hearing.

Mr. Michael Hartfield stated he owns an industrial building in the area and spoke of an implied agreement with the City of Newberg that the parking there would remain unencumbered in front of his building. He stated the business there relies heavily on the on-street parking and it would cause problems to have employees leaving work every four hours to move their cars.

Chair Simpson explained this was a proposed solution to a request made by other businesses in the area to resolve issues caused by large trucks parking for extended periods and causing property damage.

Mr. Hartfield said he understood but felt a four-hour parking limit would be too restricting. He would like other options to be explored. He said they do not currently have any problems with trucks parking overnight in their area.

Chair Simpson expressed concerns that it would become a problem if parking was limited on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and the trucks would migrate to Industrial Parkway. He asked if an eight hour limit would be easier for the employees there.

Commissioner Bryce Jones asked how many employee-parking areas were needed.

Mr. Tristan Hartfield approached the commission to answer questions because he owns the business that occupies the building being discussed on Industrial Pkwy. He stated he has 17 employees per shift through the summer and one spot is left empty for handicap parking as well as others for compact parking. He stated he met all City parking requirements and alleged a 24-hour parking ban already existed on that road. He did not think there would be a problem with an 8-hour restriction but did not believe there should be any posted parking limits within an industrial district at all.

Sergeant Weaver questioned the supposed 24 hour parking limit and asked if it was posted.

Mr. Steve Gronli stated he received a ticket for such a violation twice on his vehicle.

Sergeant Weaver spoke of the TSC's interest in protecting residents from safety issues and the continued problem with trying to find a place for commercial drivers to park their trailers without causing problems for residents and businesses.

Mr. Rick Olson stated his reasons for the original request to limit the issue of truck parking on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, which is a no outlet street with damage in the turn around caused by these trucks. Originally, he requested "no overnight parking" signage, not a 4-hour limit.

Mr. Steve Gronli stated he owns a body shop/botanical shop on Industrial Parkway with nine employees and while he understands the reasoning behind the 4-hour limit now, he does not feel it resolves the long-term problem.

Chair Simpson agreed with the need for a long-term solution and discussed some of the reasons why landowners would not wish to create a truck parking area in Newberg. He reminded the audience that a decision would not be made this evening.

**MOTION: Woodruff/Cookson** to approve the request for a public hearing on **TSC-08-019**, a limited decision for a 4-hour parking limit on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Industrial Parkway, to be held on at the March 9, 2009 Traffic Safety Commission meeting. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]) Motion carried.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff expressed a desire to explore a more permanent solution to the need for truck parking in Newberg. Discussions followed about the pros and cons associated with this.

Chair Simpson asked staff to research the un-posted 24 hour parking limit brought up during testimonies this evening.

**C) Request for a handicapped parking space for a passenger on E Hancock, east of Sitka Avenue (TSC-08-020)**

Sergeant Weaver stated he did not request the presence of a representative from the Mid-Willamette Valley Rehabilitation Group in a timely manner for this evenings meeting.

**MOTION:** To table **TSC-08-020** approving the request for a handicapped parking space for a passenger on E. Hancock, east of Sitka Avenue until the next meeting with directions for staff to contact a representative from the Mid-Willamette Valley Rehabilitation Group to attend.

**STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION**

**A) Police**

Sergeant Weaver discussed a hit and run accident on Wynooski Road during the snow storms and the lack of leads on the case as of now. He discussed several DUII arrests during the Christmas season as well. He stated there has also been fire damage to one of the police motorcycles that was in for repair when the shop experienced a fire. The cost to replace the damaged saddle bags, gas tank, and tires on the motorcycle will be approximately \$4,500. He also discussed several new hires.

Mayor Andrews asked if there were any statistics on how many DUI's are local vs. passing through.

Sergeant Weaver stated it was about half and half and most of the arrests are made when police are called by other drivers on cell phones reporting erratic driving. Brief mention was made as to the danger of driving while on cell phones as well, which is the equivalent of .10 impairment.

**B) Engineering**

- River – Eighth vegetation & crosswalk (TSC-8-02)

Mr. Chiu reported the concerns with the vegetation at River Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street are no longer an issue. The crosswalks at 6<sup>th</sup> Street cannot be installed until the weather permits; warmer temperatures are necessary.

**C) Items from Commissioners**

None.

**ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING**

**MOTION:** Sult/Cookson to adjourn at 9:22 PM until the next meeting on February 9, 2009. (6 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]). Motion carried.



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**Jennifer L. Nelson**  
Recording Secretary



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