



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
May 22, 2014
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Traffic Commission monthly meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. Present were Captain Robert DiBari, Traffic Commissioner, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, Ken Galligan, Mort Schleffer, Councilor Dennis Eaniri and Councilor Moises Rodrigues. Unable to be present was D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson. Also present were Councilor Jass Stewart, a number of residents and Officer Bill Healy.

Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Councilor Moises Rodrigues and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the April 24, 2014 informal Minutes.

As a courtesy to residents present at the meeting, the following items were taken out of order:

ADDISON STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of residents to have the Traffic Commission address the issue of truck parking on Addison Street and to discuss restricting parking and traveling on that street so that commercial vehicles are not allowed.

Councilor Asack was unable to attend the meeting, but forwarded a communication to the Traffic Commission regarding this issue. Captain DiBari stated that the Subcommittee reviewed this issue and Councilor Asack and Councilor Eaniri are going to prepare an ordinance change dealing with the issue of trucks parked on residential streets. The Subcommittee went to the area but the truck was not there when they went. Mr. Huston said that the truck owner starts his truck 3 or 4 times a day. He said that the truck owner has to come right up to his driveway so that if Mr. Huston parks one of his cars in front of his house he is afraid that his car will be hit by the truck. Discussion was held as to the weight of this particular truck and the damage that it is causing to the street, as well as it being a quality of life issue for the residents. Captain DiBari informed the residents that the Commission is trying to figure out what can be done to resolve the situation but that it will take some time. Scott Dwyer questioned why trucks are allowed in that area as it is strictly residential and it is his understanding that machinery is not allowed as it is a different sector and he thought this would classify as the same thing. David Lynch said that it was his understanding that there was no truck traffic allowed on any of those side streets. Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Lynch asked whether a short term resolution could be whether to restrict vehicles over a certain gross vehicle weight. Ken Galligan said that in the past the Commission has looked at restricting trucks over 15,000 gvw from traveling over any residential streets. He stated that the City Council could help every part of the city by making a truck restriction citywide for vehicles parking overnight. Councilor Eaniri said that since summer session is starting soon, a final ordinance change would most likely not take place until late fall. As a short term resolution, discussion was held about restricting truck parking in that neighborhood and the question was asked whether this truck could be ticketed if it was found parked in the man's yard. Captain DiBari said that if trucks were not allowed in that area then they could ticket or tow the vehicle. Further discussion was held about the weight limit, as if the weight limit is too low then it will impact too many vehicle owners or delivery vehicles. The members and residents discussed what might be a reasonable weight limit and it was determined that a standard 15,000 pound truck might be an

F350 Superduty, which is a relatively small vehicle. A FedEx truck might be 33,000 pounds; over 26,000 pounds needs a CDL license, maybe a single axle ramp truck. A school bus might be 33,000 pounds and an 18 wheeler is probably 72,000 to 80,000 pounds.

Councilor Jass Stewart said that an ordinance change would resolve the problem long-term and with a temporary restriction if there were any complaints made, the ordinance might be put into effect prior to a resolution of any complaints on the temporary restriction. Captain DiBari said that it was important not to make the weight restriction too low so that complaints could be made about a pickup truck or FedEx truck coming down the street. Captain DiBari said that they have spoken with the gentleman who owns the truck in question and Deputy Chief Galligan stated that he was involved in the code sweep and the vehicle was towed but at that time he was parked in the street, not in his yard. Ken Galligan questioned whether the traffic enforcement officers would have to catch the truck being driven on the street or whether it can be ticketed while parked in his yard and Captain DiBari said that if necessary he would have a car parked there to see when he left. Ken Galligan said that all of the streets in the area would need to have the restriction. It was decided that the members should go view the area again to determine which streets should have restrictions and to give them time to determine what the weight limit should be.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Moises Rodrigues and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To refer the matter back to Subcommittee for review to figure out the exact vehicle weight and the exact streets to restrict.

(On the motion, Councilor Eaniri said that at the next City Council meeting he will talk with Attorney Gildea and take a look at how the ordinance reads right now and speak with Councilor Asack about starting the process for a revised ordinance. Councilor Eaniri said that they will draft the ordinance to protect the whole city and not just one section of the city. Ken Galligan stated that he would suggest that it be made well known to all the councilors that this problem could come up in any of their wards and Councilor Eaniri said that he will make sure that all councilors have a chance to speak on the issue.)

PRICE AVENUE, RUTLAND STREET, VINE STREET and PORTER STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of the Montello Business Association and the area residents to view the area around Price Avenue, Rutland Street, Vine Street and Porter Street as this area is used as a cut through and people are congregating in this area for illicit purposes.

Councilor Asack was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded a communication to the members regarding this issue. Members of the Montello Business Association Scott Dwyer and David Lynch stated that they have walked this area with Councilor Asack and their concerns are that the fence on Porter Street has been cut; malicious damage has been done to the houses there; people hang around the streets and there is drug activity and cars are dumped onto Price Avenue. There are issues with people running through to Battles Farm Drive and ripping the fence. The area is not well lit. The area is used by prostitutes on Cleveland Street and residents of that area are complaining because their children are observing this activity when the females are picked up and dropped off in front of their houses. If cruisers come down the street, it is easy for them to duck down one of the side streets and avoid the police. Mr. Dwyer stated that Price Avenue could be blocked off as there is no need for it to be a direct route out. The area behind the Home Café is also a problem area with prostitution activity. Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan stated that he spent out an hour in that area with Officer Amaral and visited the residents to discuss the problems. Mr. Dwyer said that it is a quality of life issue. Mr. Lynch said that putting details up at Battles Farm and doing sweeps, there is also zero tolerance in that area. Deputy Chief Galligan said that the fence that blocks off Porter Street is in very good condition except for the one spot that people keep cutting open. He said that Battles Farm is very good about keeping up the area and repairing the

fence when it is cut but it keeps happening. Officer Bill Healy said that he is the Crime Watch Officer and he met with the Battles Farm management the night before and they told him that they have spent over \$20,000 making repairs to that fence. It is believed that there are homeless people living in the wooded area and they are cutting the fence. The walking beats have been up there for the last 2 years and what is happening is that the prostitutes are being displaced from North Main Street to the side streets. Officer Healy said that the officers have now been on the side streets and are doing a good job trying to clean up that area. Ken Galligan asked what the Traffic Commission could do to improve the area and Mr. Dwyer said that more lighting is needed. Councilor Eaniri stated that each councilor is allowed to request 10 lights from the Department of Public Works and that the city installs them but then we have to wait for National Grid to come in and turn them on. Deputy Chief Galligan asked if there were any poles on Price Avenue to affix a light too, but there is not. Discussion was held as to where lighting could be placed that would illuminate the area. Ken Galligan suggested that the matter be placed on the Subcommittee agenda and that one of the options might be a high-intensity light in the area, and cutting the brush out.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Councilor Dennis Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

HOLBROOK AVENUE

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart on behalf of a resident regarding too many cars parked on the street and blocking traffic on Holbrook Avenue. Councilor Stewart would like the Commission to consider restricting parking to one side of the street.

Councilor Stewart stated that a resident called with a list of concerns with the neighbors. What is happening is that there are lots of parties and visitors at one house and they are parking on both sides of the street. This is a narrow street and Councilor Stewart believes that with cars parked on both sides of there is a safety issue and he does not believe that emergency vehicles could get through the street. He would like to have parking restricted to one side of the street.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Rodrigues, seconded by Councilor Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

SUMMER STREET at EDSON STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski to have the Traffic Commission review the intersection of Summer Street and Edson Street with a view towards making this a safer intersection.

Subcommittee recommends making a 3-way stop intersection. We will add two more stop signs - 1 for southbound traffic on Summer Street at Edson St (on the corner); and 1 for eastbound traffic on Summer Street across from the above corner. (Also, check on the approval of the stop sign that is currently at the corner on Edson Street at Summer Street.)

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee. And further to confirm the addition of a Stop Sign for westbound traffic on Edson Street at Summer Street.

BRIDGE OVERPASSES at COURT STREET, CENTRE STREET and CRESCENT STREET

Subcommittee recommends putting up signs that state “Underpass ahead – clearance ___ Ft. ___ In.”

Heading East - 1 on Crescent Street - near Maple Ave - 15'6" clearance

1 on Centre St - near WB Mason - 14' clearance

1 on Court St - just east of Main St at the top of the hill - 13'6" clearance

Heading West - 1 on Court St - just east of the river 13'6" clearance

1 on Centre St - just east of the river 14' clearance

1 on Crescent St - just east of the river

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Rodrigues, seconded by Councilor Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

BROOKSIDE AVENUE

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski at the request of residents to have the Traffic Commission re-review the parking restrictions on Brookside Avenue.

D.P.W. Commissioner Thoreson forwarded a packet of information to the Commission members for review concerning this issue. Councilor Rodrigues suggested that the matter be continued to the next meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Rodrigues, seconded by Councilor Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To continue the matter to the next meeting

WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis Eaniri to have the Traffic Commission install a “No Parking on the Sidewalk” sign on a freestanding pole in front of 199 West Chestnut Street.

Councilor Eaniri stated that this issue was before the Traffic Commission about 2 years ago, as there is a problem with a boarding house located where West Chestnut Street becomes 2-way traffic from 1-way traffic. Transportation coaches arrive every morning to pick up individuals who live there and park on the sidewalk. They are ruining the sidewalk, as well as blocking traffic and blocking the adjoining houses’ driveways. He would like to have a freestanding sign posted there so that the coaches are not allowed to park there. He would like the matter referred to Subcommittee for the members to view the area to determine how to best correct the problem. Ken Galligan asked if the pickups for the individuals could be done on Stewart Avenue and Councilor Eaniri confirmed that they could.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Eaniri, seconded by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

ANGELO SCHOOL

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of residents to have the Traffic Commission view the area surrounding the Angelo Street on North Main Street due to ongoing parking issues.

Councilor Asack was unable to be present but forwarded a communication to the members regarding this issue. Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan informed the members that he went to the Angelo School and spent about 45 minutes there at dismissal time and it is a disaster. Division Street is the worst with parking on both sides of the street and some facing the wrong way. That leaves one lane for travel and there are cars attempting to go each direction. The janitor has put out cones trying to stop people from parking. Deputy Chief Galligan suggested that one side of Division Street be restricted parking for certain hours (maybe 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m), as a full restriction would impact the people living in the multi-family homes on that street. He suggested that the restriction be on the side facing the school, which is the south side. There is already no parking between Coburn Street and the entrance to the school and he thinks that can be continued down the street. He spoke with the principal and the janitors and they asked that if anything was to be done on Ford Street that the south side be made no parking, so that the buses come out they can swing out towards North Main Street and make the turn. Deputy Chief Galligan said that there are also issues on the school grounds and he has a call in to Mike Thomas from Central Administration because there are traffic patterns within the school property that are affecting the street traffic. He believes there needs to be a two-pronged attack with the Traffic Commission and the School personnel to resolve the issue. He would like to have the Subcommittee include Mike Thomas and the school principal view the area together, and possibly have that be at dismissal time. Drop off time in the morning is not as much of a problem because it is prolonged over about a half hour, where the dismissal time has all the children dismissed at 3:15 p.m. He said that North Main Street is bad but the street is wide enough for travel.

Ken Galligan asked if there were any parking restrictions on Division Street now and Deputy Chief Galligan stated that there is no parking on Division Street between Coburn Street and the entrance to the school on the south side. Ken Galligan was concerned that restricting the parking on the south side will force the children to cross the street to get to cars. Captain DiBari agreed and said that the least amount of crossing of streets would be the best solution. Deputy Chief Galligan agreed and said that the school side of each street would be where parking would be allowed. He also stated that the janitors were all very helpful. Captain DiBari said that he would also get in touch with Lt. Donald Mills of the School Police.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

MANHALA GEORGE SCHOOL

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of residents to have the Traffic Commission view the area surrounding the Manthala George School on Colonel Bell Drive due to ongoing parking issues.

Councilor Asack was unable to be present but forwarded a communication to the members regarding this issue. Councilor Rodrigues and Captain DiBari stated that this appears to be the same problem and the suggestion was made that this issue should also be referred to the Subcommittee for similar review.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

Discussion was held by the Traffic Commission members regarding the possibility of changing the date of the Subcommittee review to Wednesdays. Councilor Eaniri stated that he cannot attend these meetings on Wednesday mornings and Deputy Chief Galligan stated that the second Tuesday is not a good day for him. A decision was made to change the Subcommittee reviews to the 3rd Tuesday of each month and the members will meet at the Fire Museum to begin the site reviews.

Ken Galligan informed the members that on Oak Street near the entrance to D.W. Field Park there are reflectors placed on the west and east ends of the median but there is nothing stating that cars have to keep to the right. He recommends that a sign be placed that indicates that vehicles have to travel to the right side and those would either be a sign with a bent arrow with the island in the middle of it or a Keep Right with an arrow to the right. He suggested that they take down one of the two yellow triangular signs and replace it with a Keep to the Right sign and on the east end they can put the sign right onto the traffic signal post, where it used to be.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To install two “Keep to the Right” signs be installed one at the east end and one at the west end of the divided roadway/island on Oak Street.

There being no further business to come before the Commission upon motion duly made by Captain DiBari, seconded by Deputy Chief Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission