TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES JULY 16, 2008 FINAL

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, July 16, 2008 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Sara Binkowski
Ted Halsey
Jan Hubbell
Richard Kilmer
Pete Ziegenfelder

ABSENT: John Diefenbaker
Gordon Schepke
(Sam) Yanting Jiang
Lt. Eric Caloia, Troy Fire Dept.

Also present: Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer
Lt. David Livingston, Troy Police Dept.
Mike Johnson, 450 E. Square Lake Rd.

RESOLUTION #2008-07-23
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Hubbell

To excuse Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Schepke

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Schepke)
MOTION CARRIED

2. Minutes – April 16, 2008

RESOLUTION #2008-07-24
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Binkowski

To approve the April 16, 2008 minutes.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Schepke)
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 674 Vanderpool

Mike Johnson requests a waiver for the sidewalk at 674 Vanderpool. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the construction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that the neighborhood is already developed with no sidewalks existing, and a sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing. There are utility poles and a ditch which would make sidewalk installation difficult (photos attached).

RESOLUTION #2008-07-25
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Hubbell

1. WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 8(D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant temporary waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

   WHEREAS, Mike Johnson has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk on the property because there are no other sidewalks in the area; and there are physical conditions which would make sidewalk installation difficult; and

   WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined the following:

   a. A variance will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and

   b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and

   c. The construction of a new sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

   NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee grants a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 674 Vanderpool, which is owned by Mike Johnson, until such time as physical conditions change.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Schepke)
MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. Establish Fire Lanes at 1607 E. Big Beaver Road

Section 8.28, Chapter 106, Troy City Code, provides for the establishment of fire lanes on private property. The Fire Department recommends that the fire lanes shown on the attached sketch be provided to allow proper deployment of and travel by emergency vehicles (fire, police, medical).

RESOLUTION #2008-07-26
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Kilmer

Recommend establishing fire lanes/tow away zones at 1607 E. Big Beaver, as shown on the attached sketch.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Schepke)
MOTION CARRIED

5. Establish Fire Lanes at 6475 Rochester Road

Section 8.28, Chapter 106, Troy City Code, provides for the establishment of fire lanes on private property. The Fire Department recommends that the fire lanes shown on the attached sketch be provided to allow proper deployment of and travel by emergency vehicles (fire, police, medical).

RESOLUTION #2008-07-27
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Kilmer

Recommend establishing fire lanes/tow away zones at 6475 Rochester Road, as shown on the attached sketch.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Schepke)
MOTION CARRIED

6. Discussion of Sidewalk Waiver Process

Mr. Huotari has been working with the City Attorney's Office (CAO), and the Building and Public Works Departments, to organize the sidewalk waiver procedures. He summarized the research he has done on all sidewalk waivers previously approved or denied. All information from three databases has been merged into one, and all sites have been inspected and photographed by the traffic technicians. Of the 178 waivers applied for, 39

locations had sidewalks constructed, 32 were approved for an indefinite period of time, 59 were approved for a set time (many of which have expired), 32 were never required per Chapter 34, 14 were denied (six because the petitioner was not present at the hearing), and two are unknown and require further research. Those six may need to be reconsidered by the committee.

The City Attorney's Office will handle contacting the property owners whose waivers have expired, and will negotiate with any new owners of the properties in question. These will not have to be reconsidered by the committee.

Ms. Bluhm has drafted a new "Irrevocable Agreement Concerning Sidewalk Installation" to be executed by each petitioner, notarized and recorded with the Oakland County Clerk.

7. Discussion of Traffic Committee By-Law Revisions

City Attorney Lori Bluhm presented revised by-laws including a few minor changes and some additions requested by Mr. Ziegenfelder. She had these incorporated into a reference book distributed to committee members, also covering the subjects of: Freedom of Information Act, Open Meetings Act, Chapters 35, 34, 41 and 106 of the City Code.

RESOLUTION 2008-07-28
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Kilmer

To approve the revised by-laws as presented by the City Attorney.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Schepke)
MOTION CARRIED

8. Public Comment

No one else wished to address the committee.

9. Other Business

There was extended discussion of procedural issues relating to the Traffic Committee. In the future, new members will be given copies of documents governing their role and responsibilities on the Committee, including, but not limited to, a city map, the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and a copy of the new sidewalk waiver procedures, when completed. Ms. Binkowski will forward some material she put together for the Dearborn Traffic Commission for the committee's possible use.

It was recommended by Ms. Bluhm that if a petitioner for a sidewalk waiver fails to attend the meeting, the issue should be postponed for a month, with a certified letter being sent to the petitioner as a reminder to attend. Additional mailings and legal ad are not required.

Mr. Kilmer asked Lt. Livingston to check Cherry Street between Plum and Hartshorn. He reports that there are cars parking there that impede school bus traffic.

Since Mr. Huotari is already preparing several items for action by the Committee, the members decided to meet in August. One item to be placed on the August 20 agenda will cover new signage at the Marketplace of Troy, at Big Beaver and Rochester.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chair

Laurel Nottage, Recording Secretary