TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES JANUARY 16, 2008 FINAL

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, January 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
John Diefenbaker
Ted Halsey
Richard Kilmer
Gordon Schepke
Pete Ziegenfelder

ABSENT: Jan Hubbell

Also present: Rick Howard, 507 Misty Brook Lane, Roch. Hills, 48307
Stacy Pilut, 3652 Millay, 48083
and Lori Bluhm, City Attorney
Mark Stimac, Director of Building and Zoning
Marina Farouk Basta, Project Manager, DPW
John Abraham, Traffic Engineer
Lt. David Livingston, Troy Police Dept.
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Dept.
Lt. Robert Matlick, Fire Dept.

2. Minutes – November 28, 2007

RESOLUTION ##2008-01-01
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Binkowski

To approve the November 28, 2007 minutes as printed.

YES: All-6
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Hubbell)
MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #2008-01-02
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Diefenbaker

To excuse Ms. Hubbell's absence.

YES: All-6
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Hubbell)
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 2051 E. Big Beaver

Rick Howard requests a waiver for an 8-foot sidewalk at 2051 E. Big Beaver, on the John R side of the property. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the construction on this parcel. There is an existing 6-foot sidewalk at this location. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

The traffic engineer received an e-mail (copy attached) from David Goodman, InPro Insurance Group, 2095 East Big Beaver. He believes that the sidewalks should meet code requirements to maintain City standards.

Several years ago when the day care facility was added to the property, the 6-foot sidewalk was approved by the City. Mr. Schepke doesn't think the petitioner should be burdened with the expense of tearing out the existing sidewalk and installing an 8-foot sidewalk.

Mr. Howard pointed out that he did install 8-foot sidewalks on the Big Beaver side of the property. However, the rest of the sidewalk on John R is only 6 feet wide, except for in front of the Boys and Girls Club, and in front of a doctor's office which had the extra two-foot strip installed to make the sidewalk 8 feet. Even the Police and Fire Training Center has a 5-foot wide sidewalk. He feels enforcement of the sidewalk ordinance is inconsistent at best.

Mr. Diefenbaker feels it is justified to leave the 6-foot sidewalk, or allow an extra 2-foot wide strip of concrete to be installed. The committee agrees that requiring the existing 6-foot sidewalk to be ripped out and replaced with an 8-foot walk would cause unnecessary hardship.

RESOLUTION ##2008-01-03
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Diefenbaker

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, Rick Howard has requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to construct an 8-foot sidewalk on the property, because there is already a 6-foot sidewalk in that location, 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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee grants a two-year waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 2051 E. Big Beaver, on the John R side of the property, which is owned by Rick Howard.

YES: All-6
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Hubbell)
MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. Install DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION Sign on Rochester Road at Bishop

Sgt. Daniel of the Troy Police Department requests a DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION sign on northbound Rochester road south of Bishop/Troywood. Sgt. Daniel reports that due to Rochester Road traffic congestion, particularly in the afternoons, traffic is often backed up from Wattles Road, and at times backs up as far as the intersection of Rochester and Bishop/Troywood. When vehicles get stalled inside this intersection, motorists on Bishop/Troywood cannot proceed even on green, thus creating a gridlock and long wait times for traffic on Bishop and Troywood. We also have reports that this situation has resulted in many altercations between motorists stalled in the intersection and those on Bishop/Troywood. Sgt. Daniel and the Traffic Safety Unit have tried enforcement, to discourage motorists from entering the intersection if they cannot make through the intersection, and feels that a DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION sign may help warn motorists better and make enforcement more effective.

Stacey Pilut addressed the committee with the above-mentioned concerns. She has been in contact with the Police Department about the continuing problems at this intersection. She lives at the corner of Bishop and Millay, and her house faces the intersection. She said the altercations, horn blowing, and cursing at the corner are so loud that her family is disturbed. She is upset about the effect on her children.

Southbound Rochester drivers are unable to turn left into Bishop, and when cars get a chance to exit Bishop onto Rochester Road, many of them run the red light to avoid getting stuck there indefinitely.

Ms. Pilut has talked to the Road Commission for Oakland County about retiming the signal at Rochester and Wattles to allow traffic to move more freely. They informed her that would cause timing problems at every other intersection up and down Rochester Road.

Mr. Ziegenfelder feels that the No Right Turn on Red signs at Rochester and Wattles contribute to the traffic backups. The Traffic Engineer responded that these signs were put up because of the crash history due to motorists turning on red when green arrows were allowing left turns.

RESOLUTION #2008-01-04

Moved by Diefenbaker
Seconded by Kilmer

To recommend installing a DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION sign with flags on northbound Rochester Road south of Bishop/Troywood.

YES: All-6
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Hubbell)
MOTION CARRIED

5. Visitors' Time

No one wished to address the committee.

6. Other Business

Mr. Diefenbaker mentioned that in his neighborhood, Wright Street and the surrounding area, the pavement is so badly cracked that it creates a very jarring ride. The Traffic Engineer will check with the Engineering Department to see if there are plans to resurface the area streets.

7. Study Item -Discussion of Sidewalk Waivers and Procedures

There was extended discussion among the committee members, the City Attorney, the DPW Project Manager, and the Director of Building and Zoning about the policies and procedures in dealing with sidewalk waivers. The City Attorney will draft new agreements and policies and bring them back to the committee at a future meeting.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chair

Laurel Nottage, Recording Secretary