

****MINUTES****
MAYOR'S ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

The Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission met at the James J. Eagan Center, Room 2, on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., with Don Adams presiding.

Members present were: Don Adams (Ward 2), Greg Keil (Ward 4), Teri Reiter (Ward 5), Pete Fischer (Ward 6), Zach Schneider (Ward 7), and Kim Redden (Ward 9). Also present were Officer Perry, Police Department; Gary Meyer, Street Department; and MaryAnn Fitzpatrick, Recording Clerk. Donna Smith-Pupillo (Ward 1) and Mike Mott (Ward 3) were excused. Allen Bluiett (Ward 8) was absent.

A quorum being present the chair declared the Traffic Commission was in session for the transaction of business.

Minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting were approved as published. The October 9, 2018, November 13, 2018, December 11, 2018, January 8, 2019, February 12, 2019, March 12, 2019 and April 9, 2019 meetings were canceled due to the lack of Agenda items.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

All old business was addressed and dropped from the Agenda at the September 11, 2018 meeting.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

**01/19 REQUEST ORDINANCE BE REWRITTEN TO PROHIBIT COMMERCIAL
VEHICLES FROM PARKING ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS
Approved
All Wards**

Request was made to rewrite the ordinance to prohibit commercial vehicles from parking on residential streets within our city limits. Don Adams said he believes the police want this done. Officer Perry said the Police Department has been receiving code enforcement officers' complaints, complaints from council people, and from residents about large tractor trailer cabs. For vehicles licensed over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton the current ordinance says: "Vehicles licensed over $\frac{3}{4}$ tons may not be parked on any city street between midnight and 6:00 a.m." So the loophole there is from 6:00 a.m. until midnight they can be parked on the city street. He said when the police get complaints from the council people and from citizens they have to tell them they are allowed to park there. Officer Perry said the other ordinance states that vehicles under 12,000 lbs. can be parked on private property at any time as long it's behind the set-back line on an improved surface. He said they don't have a problem with that because the Police Department can address it if it is over 12,000 lbs., or if it's on private property they can send a warning and/or issue a summons. Officer Perry said they just don't have anything addressing parking on city streets during those hours of 6:00 a.m. until midnight. He said that's where the complaint is coming from. People get up in the morning and see them and call the police, but if it's after 6:00 a.m., they are not in violation. If it is before 6:00 a.m., and they call the police, then a night officer, if they get around to it, and if they understand these words, they can write a summons. Officer Perry said he would like to propose that the ordinance be amended or

rewritten to say that except for deliveries, vehicles licensed over $\frac{3}{4}$ tons may not park anywhere in the city on any city street at any time of the day or night. If a violation occurs then a summons can be issued and/or towed at the owner's expense. He said just because they can write a ticket doesn't mean that will alleviate the problem. Kim Redden said some of the Ameren trucks are very large. What if there is an emergency situation – where are they supposed to park to be able to do their work if they have to go into a residential area. She asked if they would be exempt from this. Officer Perry said if they are working they're working. Kim Redden said but they have to park. Officer Perry said they can contact Mr. Meyer in the Street Department to ask where they can park and he can direct them where they can put their vehicles. He said sometimes they are doing construction on the streets and they are parked out of the way. They are not just residents driving their 18 wheeler cab and just parking on the street. He said there are exemptions to that, but they have to go down the right avenues to get there. Officer Perry said when the contractors come in to do our streets and stuff, they park where they need to park. Gary Meyer said he usually tries to contact the Police Department to let them know that there are going to be contractors in town and will need a place to park. He said sometimes the contractors ask if they can park in our yard. He said the city does not allow them to park on our property for insurance reasons. He said sometimes the contractors drive backhoes and large pieces of equipment and they need some place for them to park. He said they don't want to drive a backhoe back and forth everyday from O'Fallon or somewhere. He said the police will know not to ticket them because they have to do that for a certain period of time. They are not just going to leave it there. They are doing a job. Kim Redden asked why these trucks are parked on the street. Officer Perry said because people live in the residential

area and they are over-the-road truck drivers. It is convenient for them, instead of paying to park on a lot at another location, it is cheaper for them to just park it in front of their residence on the street. He said all they have to do is look up the City ordinance to see that it's okay to park there during certain hours. He said if it's in the driveway, the police go up there and tell them they can't be in there. He said the police show them the general orders and the general orders state nowhere in the City. But the ordinance doesn't say that same thing. So they found a loophole. He said some of them, as we know, are still parking overnight and things like that. He said it would be easier to address it if they couldn't park at all. Officer Perry said there is a Tow truck driver that has a flat-bed and he is a 24 hour on-call tow truck driver over off of Tremont. He said he is now parking two trucks on the street and they are 19,000 lbs. He said they keep getting complaints about that. He said overnight they can write a summons, but during the daytime you can't do anything with it if they are legally parked on the street.

Kim Redden stated the ordinance now reads, "No person shall park or store a motor vehicle or trailer requiring truck or trailer license under motor vehicle registration, including without limitation, a truck trailer or truck rig or cab or bus, on any street in the City between the hours of 12 midnight and 6:00 a.m ." She asked Officer Perry if he wants to change that verbiage to at no time. Officer Perry said yes – change it to no time. Pete Fischer asked if that was for $\frac{3}{4}$ ton. Officer Perry said that's what the original ordinance reads, although they're requiring a license over $\frac{3}{4}$ tons. He said all the ordinances that are written in reference to vehicles are based on weight limit – 12,000 lbs. in your driveway, $\frac{3}{4}$ tons or 15,000 lbs. on the street. Teri Reiter said if we are going to do this, where will they park. Officer Perry said there are truck lots out there.

He said that is not really our problem to say. Kim Redden said that in the City of St. Louis they are not allowed to park anywhere. Officer Perry said that's because the streets are so small. It was stated that in St. Charles they have free lots. Officer Perry said that was for the truck owners to investigate, not for us to direct them. He said they used to be able to park by the Quick Trip at Lilac and I-270, but he recently heard that they are not allowed to park there anymore. He said these guys know where they can go because they have contacts within their realm of business to tell them where they can and can't go. It was stated that one guy parks behind Dierberg's. Sometimes he leaves his truck there and they're not supposed to be there. Kim Redden said they don't have a lot of room behind Dierberg's to park. Officer Perry stated that they are not supposed to be there. He said Officer Schlottach used to handle those issues, now Officer Cameron, a new officer, will be handling the commercial vehicle issues. He said 18-wheelers parked on commercial lots without permission will be handled by Officer Cameron. He said Officer Schlottach used to do that. He would go around in the mornings and deal with those issues. Kim Redden said most of those businesses have warning signs that state that if you park here overnight your vehicle will be towed at your expense. Officer Perry said they don't enforce it. They leave it up to the police to enforce it. Kim Redden said the police don't know if there is a violation unless someone calls it in. Officer Perry said exactly, but they should be able to manage their own property, but they don't. They leave it to the police to manage their property. Don Adams said some of the workers for the utility companies used to bring their trucks home. If there was an emergency, they had people in the area. Are they allowed to park in their driveways? Officer Perry said if it is over 12,000 they can't. He said he received complaints from Councilman Siam in reference to 3310 Hambletonian. That guy had a boom

truck from Charter. That was his take-home vehicle. He said that is not allowed. He said the guy is going to have to find some way around parking at his job and then driving to his job to pick up his vehicle. He said it may take him 30 more minutes, but he can't park it in front of his home. Gary Meyer said most people aren't going to be complaining about a van or something; they are going to be complaining about a big rig or boom truck. It is pretty ugly sitting out in the street in front of your house. He said that's a commercial vehicle and they shouldn't be parked there. He said if it's parked there in case of an emergency, how often is that going to happen. He said if it's that big of a storm, they are going to have crews in the area anyway.

Motion was made by Kim Redden to make a recommendation to rewrite the ordinance prohibiting commercial vehicles from parking on residential streets within our city limits.

Ordinance to possibly read:

Except for Deliveries, Parking Prohibited on Residential Streets

No person shall park or store any motor vehicle or trailer on any residential street of the city at any time which has a licensed weight exceeding three-quarter tons, including but not limited to tractor-trailers, attached or unattached, tractor-trailer cab, attached or unattached, bus, dump trucks or bump type trucks.

Motion was seconded by Don Adams. On the roll call the commission voted:

Don Adams – yes, Greg Keil – yes, Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, Zach Schneider – yes, and Kim Redden – yes. Motion carried. Item 01/19 was dropped from the Agenda.

02/19 REQUEST STOP SIGN AT THE EAST END OF ST. DENIS
Denied
Ward 6

Request was made to place stop signs on the east end of St. Denis near Boone and Clark Streets. Don Adams said there is a four block stretch there that does not have a stop

sign. It was stated that this has been on the agenda before. It was several years ago, but it has previously been on the agenda. Pete Fischer said St. Antoine is basically the same way. He said he basically lives at Lafayette and St. Antoine. He said he walks all over the place. He said he is all over Old Town. He said it doesn't need a stop sign. He said, sure, you are going to get cars here and there that are flying, but if there is a stop sign, it is not going to get them to slow down. Half the time they just go through it. Kim Redden said she lives near the corner of Parker and Paddock and she said she can't say how many people she watched just breeze through that stop sign. Teri Reiter said she was born and raised in Florissant. She lives in the house she was born in. She said it used to be you could go all the way from Lindbergh to Dunn Road on Lafayette with three maybe four stop signs. Now it is every block. She asked why we need so many stop signs. Gary Meyer said the first thing he noticed was they didn't even give us an exact location. He said it reads St. Denis near Boone. He said he drove it. He said there is already two-way stop signs on St. Denis at Boone, and also on St. Denis and Clark. He said if you are travelling on St. Denis you already have a stop there at each of those. Teri Reiter asked if you are driving down St. Denis, there are stop signs. Gary Meyer said no. It is when you are crossing St. Denis. He said that is the way it is supposed to be. You should be able to move along St. Denis, but to not have an accident you already have to stop at those side streets. He said first of all, the person making the request is not giving the actual intersection. He said as far as being the Street Superintendent's view is concerned, it would be ridiculous to put a stop sign there. Teri Reiter said they are looking for a four-way stop because it is already a two-way stop intersection. Kim Redden said the person making the request wants stop signs

there to slow the traffic down. The complaint was people are speeding and he wants to stop them from speeding. It was stated that's not what stop signs are for. It's an enforcement issue. It was stated that it does not meet any of the criteria of the stop sign warrant. Greg Keil said stop signs don't stop speeding. Kim Redden said there are no obstructions there. There is nothing to impede your view. Gary Meyer said they want a stop sign at every intersection and when you do that, they end up speeding between the stop signs. Officer Perry said here is the take from the Police Department when you talk about stop signs. Stop signs are not meant for speed control. That's not what they are there for. Stop signs are meant to control the flow of traffic at an intersection. He said they can put speed enforcement up there to check, but if you put a stop sign here, you may be creating more violations than what you are trying to eliminate. So that's what we have to make sure when we talk about stop signs, the intent is not to control or reduce speed. It is to control the flow through intersections. It was also stated that when you have too many, they don't stop at any of them. Officer Perry said It can also cause a hostile or road rage situation to where people are taking off spinning tires because they are frustrated. They slam on brakes and now you have a noise complaint coming from the citizens about revving engines, spinning tires and screeching. Again, are we creating more of a problem by trying to introduce stop signs rather than trying to address the problem by using speed enforcement at some of these places. Kim Redden asked just what exactly would be speed enforcement mean. Officer Perry said they could put the speed limit flashing signs up there. He said they would be there for a limited amount of time. What that does is collect data so they can know what times the higher speeds come through so they can try to pick those times for enforcement. He said they can park decoy cars in a spot of legal parking where there is police

presence. When they see a police car most people slow down until they get past it, and then they take off. Teri Reiter asked if this resident is new to the area or does he have small children or something. Pete Fischer told her that he is new to that area, but he is a life-long Florissant resident. He said he thinks he has small children but doesn't think they live there full time.

Teri Reiter said she likes those children playing signs. Several of the committee members said NO. She was told first of all, no one pays attention to them. Second of all, it makes it more dangerous for the kids. It gives the kids a false sense of security. When the kids see that sign they think they can play in the street and they think cars are going to watch out for them. Since no one pays attention to the signs, it makes it more dangerous for the kids because they're not paying attention watching for cars. St. Louis County refuses to put those signs anywhere on their streets for that reason. Kim Redden said she started doing some research on some of the things they can do to help slow things down for the children. Sometimes children may run out into the street to chase a ball or whatnot. She said they have come up with these little bright green guys that look like construction guys holding up an orange flag. She said those did deter people from speeding. She said they had the slow children signs on her street, and at the time there were little kids, and people still sped up and down the street. They didn't care. She said she is sympathetic with his request for the stop sign, and she understands his concerns, but people are crazy. She said she just doesn't think that is going to solve his problem.

Zach Schneider said he likes the officer's recommendation of putting the speed limit flashers up. Let's find out when the violations are occurring most often and let's have the decoy car there during that time. Teri Reiter said she doesn't think Old Town needs any more stop signs. Everyone agreed with that. Don Adams said society has become too desensitized to signs. He

Don Adams said there is a sign for everything because people don't have common sense anymore to do things right. He said if you put up a sign that says don't fall off the step when you're walking up the steps, they're not reading that sign. They are still going to fall off the steps. People just don't pay attention to signs anymore. It was also stated a couple of times that this just doesn't meet any of the criteria of the stop sign warrant. Officer Perry said to keep in mind, stop signs are not used to control speeding.

Motion was made by Kim Redden to make a recommendation not to place stop signs on St. Denis since it does not meet any of the criteria of the stop sign warrant, and to use enforcement to try to control the speeding. Motion was seconded by Don Adams. On the roll call the commission voted: Don Adams – yes, Greg Keil – yes, Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, Zach Schneider – yes, and Kim Redden – yes. Motion carried. Item 02/19 was dropped from the Agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Teri Reiter was introduced to the Traffic Commission as the representative for Ward 5.

Zach Schneider was introduced to the Traffic Commission as the representative for Ward 7.

Kenny Green, representative from Ward 7, has resigned from the Traffic Commission.

Next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2019.

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ADJOURNMENT

No other items were brought before the Commission this evening. The meeting was adjourned.

For the Chairman
Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission

MaryAnn Fitzpatrick
Recording Clerk