

An electronic meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held remotely using GoToMeeting software on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Don Johnson
Richard Kilmer
Cindy Nurak
Pete Ziegenfelder
Alankar Shende, Student Representative

Absent: Al Petrulis
Sunil Sivaraman
Cynthia Wilsher

Also present: Shyamsundar Kelamangalam Ramaiah of 788 Palermo
Sgt. Justin Novak, Police Department
Bill Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Proposed Resolution to Conduct Electronic Meeting

Public bodies may conduct public meetings remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Public Act 254 of 2020. The suggested resolution must be approved at the start of the meeting.

Resolution # 2021-01-01
Moved by Ziegenfelder
Seconded by Johnson

RESOLVED, that the Troy Traffic Committee hereby allows all members to participate in public meetings by electronic means as allowed by Public Act 254 of 2020, since an in person meeting could detrimentally increase exposure of board members and the general public to COVID-19, and would also be difficult to facilitate in light of the recent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services epidemic orders protecting public health and safety.

Members participating electronically will be considered present and in attendance at the meeting and may participate in the meeting as if physically present. However, members must avoid using email, texting, instant messaging, and other such electronic forms of communication to make a decision or deliberate toward a decision.

RESOLVED, that the Troy Traffic Committee hereby establishes public participation rules to provide for two methods by which members of the public can be heard by others during meetings. Email sent to HuotariWJ@troymi.gov and received by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read during the public comment period of the meeting. Voicemail left at 248.524.3387 and received by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read into the

record during the public comment period of the meeting. Both email and voicemail public comments will be limited to three minutes each.

Yes: Johnson, Kilmer, Nurak, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petruilis, Sivaraman, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

3. Minutes – November 18, 2020

Resolution # 2021-01-02
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Nurak

To approve the November 18, 2020 minutes as printed.

Yes: Johnson, Kilmer, Nurak, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petruilis, Sivaraman, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 795 West Wattles (Sidwell # 88-20-21-101-025)

Shyamsundar Kelamangalam Ramaiah of 788 Palermo requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 795 West Wattles (Sidwell # 88-20-21-101-025). Shyamsundar states *“the site is in the corner lot of Wattles Road and Finch Drive. There is already a sidewalk for this site on the Wattles Road side, i.e. NORTH side of the site and there is also a sidewalk for this site on the other side of the Finch Drive, i.e. EAST side of the site. Also, there is no sidewalk for this site next to this site along the Finch Drive and may need to cut quite a few trees to lay over the sidewalk. Hence, we request for waiver for Sidewalk running through our site on the Finch Drive side, i.e. EAST side of site”*.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) recommends approving the waiver request and not requiring the installation of sidewalk *“Due to the lack of sidewalk on the surrounding parcels, the open drainage ditches and grading of the area”*, contingent upon the submission of a cash deposit for future construction and to assure consent and participation in any future sidewalk installation.

Shyamsundar Kelamangalam Ramaiah of 788 Palermo was present at the meeting. Mr. Ramaiah stated that the sidewalk waiver is for the area on the west side of Finch. He added that a new sidewalk would lead to nowhere and connect to no other sidewalks. He has concerns about a pedestrian using a new sidewalk from Wattles and walking south only to have to stop at the south end of the property and then have to cross Finch to the east to get to the existing sidewalk on the east side.

One (1) phone call and (3) emails were read into the record as public comment:

Ken Muskin of 3869 Appaloosa called to state: *That he opposes the sidewalk waiver and would like to see sidewalk installed on the Finch side of this property. Finch is the approach to Wattles and sidewalk should be installed. Mr. Muskin is strongly opposed to the waiver. He would like to see sidewalks installed at all locations in the city where it is required. The Wattles/Crooks intersection is becoming commercialized and residents would like to be able to walk or bike to the area.*

Rose Ann Brasille stated: *I received notification on this matter and oppose this request.*

Caryn Hall of 710 Seabiscuit stated: *I live in the Weston Downs condo community, where the entrance is at Finch & Wattles. I fully oppose granting the waiver. A sidewalk is necessary. Too many people walk along Wattles to reach the 7-11 at the corner. The summertime traffic with families and kids on bikes is especially high. People on a sidewalk are safer than people on the road. If there is no sidewalk, are we to assume grass? And if a new homeowner plants and mows grass, will they not be upset by foot traffic on their lawn? If avoiding a sidewalk was such a priority, the new homeowner should have sought out a different piece of property upon which to build.*

Barbara Conway of 710 Seabiscuit stated: *Troy residents walk on Wattles Road all the time. I do not agree to no sidewalk there. It is needed.*

Mr. Ziegenfelder stated that he is in favor of sidewalks everywhere as they will connect to sidewalk in the future.

Mr. Kilmer stated that the sidewalk should be connected to Wattles Road.

Mr. Johnson stated that some of the public comment appears to be confusing the proposed sidewalk on the west side of Finch with the existing sidewalk on Wattles that will not be removed. He does agree that placing a new sidewalk on the west side of Finch, only along the corner property, may create a situation where a pedestrian could get stuck at the south end and have to cross Finch to get to the existing sidewalk on the east side.

Ms. Nurak agrees with Mr. Johnsons' statements.

Resolution # 2021-01-03

Moved by Johnson

Seconded by Nurak

WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, allows the Traffic Committee to grant waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Shyamsundar Kelamangalam Ramaiah has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based on lack of sidewalk on surrounding parcels; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined the following:

- a. A waiver 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 795 West Wattles (Sidwell # 88-20-21-101-025) contingent upon the receipt of a cash deposit commensurate with the cost of sidewalk construction.

Yes: Johnson, Nurak, Ziegenfelder
No: Kilmer
Absent: Petrulis, Sivaraman, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

5. No Regular Business

There were no Regular Business items.

6. Public Comment

There was no further public comment at the meeting.

7. Other Business

Traffic Committee members discussed speed humps.

General discussion of I75 construction. 3 lanes in each direction are open on I75.

Big Beaver DDI is anticipated to re-open by mid-March 2021. 14 Mile DDI is anticipated to re-open in June 2021.

A landscape phase is in the works by MDOT for I75 Segment 2 (13 Mile to Coolidge). Plans will be submitted for a March bid letting by MDOT. Plantings are anticipated to start in the fall of 2021.

Mr. Johnson noted that his appointment to the Traffic Committee expires at the end of January 2021. He has not requested re-appointment. The Traffic Committee members expressed their gratitude for his work over the last four years as a member.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Peter F. Ziegenfelder

APPROVED

at 8:50 a.m., 18 March 2021

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

APPROVED

By William J. Huotari at 8:19 am, Mar 18, 2021

William J. Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer