

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the Traffic Commission of the City of Lake Jackson met on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. for regular session at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, in City Hall Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Michael Cloeter, Chair
Shannon Biar, Secretary
Travis Pate
Jessica Rogers
Ravi Singhanian

Modesto Mundo, City Manager
Milford John-Williams, Assistant to the CM
Anamaria Acuña, Asst. City Secretary
James Cromeenes, LJP
Sabrina England, Public Works Director
Nicholle Wilson, Asst. City Engineer
Council Liaison – Matthew Broaddus

ABSENT:

Jay Foster
Doug Smith, Vice-Chair

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cloeter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 8, 2023

On motion by Mr. Pate, seconded by Mr. Biar with all present members voting “aye,” the August minutes were approved.

VISITORS’ COMMENTS

There were no comments.

DISCUSS AND REVIEW SPEED HUMPS POLICY – MODESTO MUNDO

Mr. Mundo briefed the traffic commission on the city council’s recent request. They would like the commission to review the traffic calming manual, specifically the speed humps section.

A resident requested one speed hump on Any Way Street to be removed in July. The city council discussed the removal throughout several months’ meetings and at their last meeting on October 2, 2023, they agreed to remove it. Staff attempted to relocate the speed hump and notified residents. Staff could not find residents agreeable to having the speed hump placed in front of their houses.

Council and staff noted the flaws in the system, especially after veering away from the engineering’s recommendation. Although Any Way Street’s traffic study did not meet the 85th percentile as an actionable item, the issue was pushed forward to council due to the accident. After receiving the request to have the speed humps removed, council wanted to add specific stipulations to have in place.

Staff has brought forth supporting documents for the traffic commission to review.

Mr. John-Williams brought an example of Beverly Hills' speed hump application. The requirement for a speed hump in Beverly Hills is for the requestor to complete a survey for both the addition and removal.

Mr. Mundo noted the purpose of this meeting was to inform them of council's request, and to provide the commission with documents and exhibits. This discussion can be brought back to the next agenda so they can input their suggestions. Neither the city council nor staff have set a specific deadline for them to make changes to the traffic calming manual. He mentioned he would like to have an easy-to-follow policy for a resident specifically for speed humps since the traffic calming is used primarily for staff and the traffic commission.

Mr. Cloeter asked what the resident on Any Way Street's complaint was. Council Liaison Broaddus briefed them about Mr. Hampy's concerns. He noted the noise was either the cars revving back up after they slowed down or them running through the speed hump. He also added the traffic engineer did not recommend adding the speed humps, and one of the associated negatives mentioned was noise.

Mr. Mundo noted the speed humps did help reduce the speed by 4-mph. Mr. Hampy also mentioned his bedroom is near the front of the house, closer to where the speed hump is located.

Mr. Mundo explained there was already a traffic calming device at the median of the curve. The reason the traffic engineer was contacted was to get advice on the placement of speed humps.

Mr. Mundo stated staff wants to be prepared and have a survey and standard policy for speed humps.

Council Liaison Broaddus noted council agreed on a trial period for the speed humps on Any Way. He mentioned it would be simpler if they received a consensual agreement from the residents, so they don't have to have the trial period. This would avoid the hassle of adding and removing them.

Mr. Mundo mentioned he would like to see a definition of the types of streets in the traffic calming manual, so it is easier for residents to understand. He explained the differences: where a residential street would be better suited versus an arterial street would automatically not qualify for speed humps.

Council Liaison Broaddus also agreed that he would like a definition added to the traffic manual. There has been a recent increase in speed hump requests for arterial streets. He believes the definition would help explain to residents that speed humps are not a choice for those specific streets.

Mr. Cloeter asked what the traffic engineer's recommendations were.

Mr. Mundo answered that the traffic engineer noted the street did not need a speed hump. The follow-up study was intended to get data on the before and after speed humps. The after study demonstrated that it did not change the traffic pattern, meaning it is used regularly and not as a cut through.

Mr. Biar asked if there was an estimated date of removal for the speed hump.

Ms. England stated that it is on the schedule, but her crews are occupied with other emergency projects. She hopes it will be taken care of by the end of the week.

Mr. Cloeter expressed his concerns about the high speeds on the traffic counts being accurate. He noted the maximum speeds were excessive and asked if there were other systems or technologies.

Ms. England noted that her traffic counters were compared to the traffic engineer's data, and the numbers were about the same. The only other technology she could recommend is a radar gun.

Mr. Cloeter requested that Ms. Acuña send the exhibits to the traffic commissioners for review and this item to the upcoming agenda for more discussion.

Mr. Mundo asked if any traffic commissioners had any recommendations or exhibits, they would like to share to submit to Ms. Acuña for distribution.

Ms. Rogers asked if the traffic commission could consider adopting an application similar to Beverly Hills. She asked if that would have to be drafted by the traffic commission or how that would be discussed. Mr. Cloeter noted that any commissioners could share suggestions that could be discussed at the next meeting.

Council Liaison Broaddus noted the council understands that this discussion may take some time, and it does not have a deadline for making submissions.

Ms. Rogers expressed concerns about the verbiage of the item and how much could be discussed. Mr. Mundo stated that the traffic commission could discuss all suggestions with the current verbiage regarding revising the policy. He added to avoid cumbersome discussions, the traffic commission could break into a subcommittee to discuss.

Mr. Cloeter noted that they could keep the verbiage as is for the next meeting and try to discuss it without breaking into a subcommittee.

STAFF UPDATES – SABRINA ENGLAND

Ms. England reminded the Traffic Commission about the Lunch and Learn discussing traffic calming with Kimley Horn that will be held next Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. She asked if they had any

questions to have them ready for Kimley Horn to address.

Mr. Cloeter asked if there were any updates from TxDOT. Ms. England noted that TxDOT has not responded to any emails.

Mr. Singhanian asked if all the downtown lights were working. Mr. Mundo noted that all pedestrian and streetlights are on and working.

Mr. Cloeter asked if there were any updates on Cubic ITS. Ms. England noted that staff is waiting to arrange a meeting to discuss with Cubic ITS regarding the installation and any other inquiries.

ACCIDENT REPORTS – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes read over the accident reports. He noted there was a significant drop in accidents from last year. There were no fatalities in the past month, nor were there any serious injuries.

Mr. Cloeter thanked him for his reports.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Singhanian praised the relocation of Timber Creek Park and noted the increased use.
- Mr. Singhanian noticed lots of golf carts crossing by the park as well.
 - Mr. Mundo noted staff has sent a mailer as a reminder that golf carts are not permitted in the City of Lake Jackson
- Mr. Pate asked if there was an ordinance against golf carts.
 - Mr. Mundo stated staff will get the ordinance and information emailed to the traffic commission explaining why golf carts are not permitted.
- Mr. Mundo announced that Seabreeze Landfill has been closed due to an emergency. The city is currently directing garbage to Pearland’s location, and this will not affect recycling.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Michael Cloeter, Chair

Shannon Biar, Secretary