



Prosperity & Livability Committee

(Virtual Meeting)

Chaired by Councilman Hudson

Committee Members: Hudson, Holmes, Jefferson, and Peters

August 5, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

3rd Floor, Council Chambers

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER (Virtual Roll Call)

Chairman Wesley Hudson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Following a virtual roll call, the following attendance by Committee Members was duly noted.

Physically

Present (2): Chairman Wesley Hudson, and Committee Member Monica Peters

Remotely

Present (2): Committee Member Holmes, and Committee Member Cyril Jefferson

Staff Present:

Randy McCaslin, Interim City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Mike McNair, Director of Community Development & Housing; Officer Justin Fleming, Police Officer, Master III; Officer Kyle Teschke, Police Officer, Master III; Matt Carpenter, Transportation Engineer, Sr. Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Staff Participating Remotely:

JoAnne, Carlyle, City Attorney

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2020-301 Discussion-Hamilton Street Traffic Complaints

Randy McCaslin, Interim City Manager, introduced Kyle Teschke, Police Officer, Master III; and Justin Fleming, Police Officer, Master III; with the Traffic Unit; and Matt Carpenter, Transportation Engineer, Sr. to discuss the results from the traffic study conducted by the High Point Police Department on Hamilton Street.

Officer Teschke said the radar speed signs (signs) were deployed at the intersection of Hamilton Street and Farris Street; they were put up on June 24th and removed on July 2nd; said they were up for 9 calendar days and 8 full 24 hour periods of recorded speed; 13,847 vehicles were recorded; 7,059 vehicles from that total were recorded going over the set speed limit of 35 miles per hour (mph); and provided a breakdown of the results as followed:

- *4,700 vehicles at 1-5 mph over the speed limit of 35 mph*
- *2012 vehicles at 6-10 over the speed limit of 35 mph*
- *254 vehicles at 11-15 over the speed limit of 35 mph*
- *67 vehicles at 16-20 over the speed limit of 35 mph*
- *30 vehicles recorded going 56 mph*
- *Peak speed recorded was at 86 mph*

Officer Teschke said the overall average speed recorded was 31 mph; the 85 percentile speed was 41 mph, which was what the Department of Transportation's (DOT) engineering number used when determining factors for the roadway; said 97.5% of the vehicles were doing 45 mph or lower; 351 were doing 46 mph that equated to 44 traffic violations a day; and that there were 12 crashes over a 3 year time frame on East Farris and Hamilton.

Committee Member Jefferson inquired on the details of how the radar signs operated; how long the signs remained on the street; using them as long term solutions in historically high speed areas; and said the residents in Ward 1 felt the signs had a traffic calming effect on Dayton St.

Officer Teschke explained how the signs recorded speed; said recording would begin when the vehicle were within 700 feet of the sign; it recorded the peak and the average speed; said the signs remained on the streets around 7 days; spoke to the manpower used to keep the batteries charged for the signs; the signs were only used when there were traffic complaints; and the data collected from the signs were forwarded to control units or the Transportation Department.

Committee Member Jefferson inquired on price comparisons for signs being used for traffic calming versus other speed control devices such as speed bumps; and its financial impact. Interim City Manager McCaslin replied that the signs cost around \$6,000 each; spoke to using solar powered signs or using a direct connection to the electric system; and spoke to the process of having long term/permanent traffic calming solutions.

Mr. Carpenter spoke to the determination process on permanent fixtures in roadways; said they typically looked at the percentile from traffic studies to see the offset of speed limits; to the HPPD assisting with traffic enforcement; and spoke to other options to improve problems areas such as fixing sight distance issues; and parking zones.

Chairman Hudson requested staff to investigate options discussed for traffic calming.

Committee Member Holmes inquired on the request process for the deployment of the signs; and on long term traffic calming solutions. Officer Teschke replied that the signs

were deployed based on complaints from citizens; data from traffic accidents; for historically problem areas for speeding; and signs were deployed based on priority.

Mr. Carpenter spoke to determining long term solutions based on the Traffic Calming Policy; and working with the HPPD on deploying signs in needed areas.

Interim City Manager McCaslin said there were currently between 5 and 6 petitions for traffic calming devices with a budget of \$100,000; and spoke to the possibility of grouping requests together under one contract.

Committee Member Peters inquired if Kensington was among those petitions. Interim City Manager McCaslin replied “yes”.

Chairman Hudson mentioned the Traffic Calming Policy was created 2 years ago by this committee; and could be revisited if needed.

Sub-Committee- Special Events Policy Review & Downtown Marketing & Branding

Chairman Hudson requested the committee to revisit the Special Events Policy; and report back at a future meeting with ideas for a definitive definition for the policy; spoke to creating a sub-committee on downtown marketing and branding; and recommended the following to serve: Committee Member Holmes-Chair, (who would report back to the Prosperity and Livability Committee); Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Ray Gibbs, Forward High Point; a representative from the Market Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Convention & Visitors Bureau. The sub-committee would consist of no more than 8 members.

Committee Member Peters expressed interest in being a part of the sub-committee, being a liaison for Forward High Point.

Committee Member Holmes expressed gratitude to be involved with the sub-committee; and inquired on the formal process, for citizens, to request a sign.

Officer Teschke replied that a link on the HPPD website would be provided at a future date; and that the current process for citizens was to call the non-emergency phone number.

Committee Member Jefferson expressed excitement for the new sub-committee; and asked if the sub-committee would have a representative from the Marketing or Human Relations Department. Interim City Manager McCaslin replied that Jeron Hollis, Communications & Public Engagement Director, would be an advisor for the sub-committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity & Livability Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Brooks,
Deputy City Clerk

Wesley Hudson, Chairman