

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

July 11, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Council Chamber - City Hall

Members Present

Rick Hope, Chairperson
John Reese
David Gentry
Ray Schildknecht

Others Present

Steve Henrichson, Fire Department
Brady McKinley, Public Works and Transportation Department
Eric Protzman, Police Department
Chris Crain, Public Works and Transportation Department
Keven Schneider, Public Works and Transportation Department
Scott Gatewood, Public Works and Transportation Department
Andy Clements, Public Works and Transportation Department

Chairperson Hope called the meeting to order. Member Reese motioned to approve the June minutes and Member Gentry seconded the motion. **By general consent the minutes of the June 13, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.**

Request to vacate Monterey Street between 6th Street and 8th Street.

The Public Works and Transportation Department received a request from St. Joseph Renewable Fuels LLC to vacate a portion of Monterey Street. Notification letters were mailed to affected property owners in the area on June 15th.

Rick Graves, with Riverbend Biodiesel LLC, who spoke on behalf of St. Joseph Renewable Fuels, clarified that the request was to close Monterey Street from the railroad tracks west to 6th Street; not the entire 2 blocks to 8th Street. He also indicated that as an alternative to closing the street, the company would be willing to consider building a bridge over Monterey Street or having some type of railroad crossing gate at the tracks. Mr. Graves stated that they anticipated the trains at the facility could be in the 100 car range and were expected two times a week.

Area resident, John Montena, expressed concern for public safety if the street was allowed to be vacated. This would cause emergency vehicles to detour to reach locations within this area as Monterey is the only through street remaining. Steve Henrichson, representing the Fire Department, and Eric Protzman, from the Police Department, also in opposition, agreed that if Monterey Street was closed the response time for emergency personnel would be increased. Responders would be forced to use Olive Street to the north or Hickory Street to the south adding an extra mile to reach this area.

Brady McKinley, Assistant Director of Public Works and Transportation, explained that even if Monterey was vacated, there were utility easements that would need to be maintained and could not be built on. He also agreed with the need to keep this main arterial street open for emergency services.

Member Schildknecht motioned that the Traffic Commission oppose the request by St. Joseph Renewable Fuels LLC due to the potential impact on public safety. The motion was seconded by Member Reese and the Commission voted unanimously to oppose the request

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Member Gentry moved that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Member Reece. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled Traffic Commission meeting: August 8, 2018.