



## ROCK HILL TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 10:30 AM  
Rock Hill City Hall, Room 373  
SUMMARY MINUTES

**Members Present:** Kathy Pender – City Council; Jimmy Bagley – City Management; Terrence Nealy – CRH Public Works; Captain Roderick Stinson – Police; Ivan McCorkle – CRH General Services; Rusty Thomason – CRH Utilities; and Clifton Goolsby – CRH Planning and Development

**Guests/Staff Present:** Robert Walsh – Campco Engineering; Jason Weil – CRH Housing & Neighborhood Services; Arthdale Brown – CRH Housing & Neighborhood Services; Michael Sandifer – SCDOT Traffic Engineering; Vic Edwards – SCDOT Traffic Engineering; Frances Edwards – Citizen; Ronnie Abernathy – Augusta Place HOA; Phil Vasey – Laurel Creek; Matthew Grossman – Rawlinson Rd HOA; and Margaret Clarkson – Rawlinson Rd HOA

1. **Welcome:** Ms. Pender called the meeting to order at 10:31 A.M., and welcomed everyone in attendance.
2. **Minutes approval of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019:** Ms. Pender asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions from the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.
3. **Citizen Issues:**
  - A. None
4. **Old Business:**
  - A. Baylor Dr – Mr. Brown reminded the commission that the Bristol Park HOA previously received approval for traffic calming along Baylor Dr pending the necessary support through the petition process. He noted that the new HOA representatives had a few questions regarding the City's traffic calming process. Mr. Brown then added that the representatives of the neighborhood leading the outreach effort were experiencing frustrations due to the relatively large number of property owners included in the petition. As a result, the new HOA representatives inquired if a smaller improvement such as making Baylor Dr and Bristol Pkwy a 4-way stop would be possible. Staff echoed the previous discussions about the same request for the 4-way stop which does not support changing the stop control at this intersection. Staff plans to meet with the HOA representative to clarify the decision.
  - B. Bird St/Garrison Rd @ Anderson Rd – Based from the previous meeting discussions about safety concerns at the Bird St/Garrison Rd and Anderson Rd intersection, Mr. Sandifer reported the results of SCDOT's investigation into the intersection's accident history. He noted that the intersection is atypical with the Anderson Rd legs of the intersection and the Bird St leg all curving as they each approach the intersection accompanied with the Garrison Rd leg approach being skewed. Discussion then occurred pertaining to the existing features of the traffic signal and if other left turn signals would be justified. As a result, SCDOT will further investigate the intersection to determine if a new left turn signal is warranted.
  - C. Laurel Creek Dr – Mr. Vasey highlighted that Laurel Creek Dr experiences some through traffic due to the connection it makes between India Hook Rd and Twin Lakes Rd. He noted that a petition was provided to staff expressing the neighborhood's concerns and interest in implementing 4-way stop intersections along Laurel Creek Dr to reduce speeding. Mr. Goolsby noted the number of signatures included in the petition along with the posted speed limit of 25 mph as well as Laurel Creek Dr's design speed of 35 mph. He explained that the traffic commission is hesitant to recommend the installation of 4-way stops expect

for in distinct situations. He revealed a previous traffic calming plan from 2013 that proposed the installation of speed humps as something that would likely be a better approach to reducing speeds along Laurel Creek Dr. It was noted that other versions of traffic calming could be reasonable to consider. Mr. Goolsby explained that if the neighborhood wanted to consider traffic calming measures as a solution to their speeding concerns, a new petition would be necessary that included the approved traffic calming plan as well as the property owners in the impacted area as approved by the traffic commission. It was noted that to determine if the City would be willing to share in the cost of the traffic calming, a new traffic study is needed. After some more discussion where it was mentioned that three crosswalks were previously marked along Laurel Creek Dr at the locations where the neighborhood trail crosses the road, it was determined that staff would perform a traffic study and discuss the results at the November traffic commission meeting. Furthermore, staff will provide traffic calming plans to be considered along with the results from the traffic study at the next meeting.

- D. Princeton Rd (Spencer Estates) – SCDOT received an anonymous request to install electronic speed signs on Princeton Rd similar to what was recently installed on Spencer St. Mr. Sandifer reported the results of SCDOT's before and after analysis which was performed to determine the effectiveness the electronic speed signs had along Spencer St. Staff discussed the results and other related factors. It was noted that the relatively small reduction in speeds shown in the analysis may not be a permanent effect as drivers are likely to become more accustomed to the presence of the electronic signs. SCDOT recommended that if electronic signs are used, it would likely be best to use in a temporary situation as an educational tool to the driving public. Further discussion followed regarding the details involved with setting up and using such electronic signs. It was decided that no further actions are necessary at this time.

5. **New Business:**

- A. Sumter Ave – Staff received a concern about speeding occurring along Sumter Ave. Mr. Goolsby summarized the concern and described some of the characteristics of the road, noting it is a relatively wide and straight road and that the speed limit is 35 mph as it is unposted and therefore governed by the City's ordinance on speed limits. It was added that the requestor specified that the speeding concerns are amplified during larger events that dictates Winthrop opening the gate allowing access into and out of the Winthrop Lake property. Mr. Goolsby advised the commission that he was able to discuss these concerns with a representative from Winthrop's facilities maintenance department who agreed to make efforts to minimize when the gate is left open. A speed study was performed and the results of the study were shared with the commission. The results did not support lowering the speed limit as was the requestors initial recommendation to address the speeding concerns. Staff then discussed if there was a need to post the speed limit. It was determined to not be a necessity but could be posted if desired by the requestor. Mr. Goolsby noted that if the speed limit is posted, this location may be an appropriate neighborhood to use the supplemental placard under the speed limit sign that specifies the speed limit applies to the whole neighborhood. Mr. Goolsby will report back to the requestor.
- B. Augusta Pl (Laurel Creek) – Mr. Abernathy, HOA president, described the current conditions of the neighborhood where he highlighted that Augusta Place is a part of the overall Laurel Creek community and is divided into 2 townhome phases, one of which is under construction. He then explained that the neighborhood is concerned about the recurring rutting caused by larger vehicles attempting to navigate the roundabout located at the intersection of Chalmers Row and Wrenfield Mill. He further described that the roundabout contains relatively narrow lanes and other features that promote larger vehicles off tracking when needed into the grass strip between the curb and gutter and sidewalk. He then requested the commission consider prohibiting trucks through the roundabout or replacing the rutted sod in the grass strip. Staff then noted that some of the design features of this roundabout differs from others more recently constructed. One of the major differences noted was that the center island is not designed with a truck apron and curb and gutter to allow larger vehicles to off-track into the center island. As a result, the roundabout appears to have been designed to all off-tracking to occur toward the outside of the roundabout. Staff then discussed this situation and the possible remedies to the concern and while doing

so, questioned if prohibiting trucks in the area could be effective. As part of the discussion, the question of who is responsible for this situation and the maintenance of the roundabout was raised. Mr. Abernathy explained that the neighborhood does maintain the landscaping within the roundabout even though both Chalmers Row and Wrenfield Mill are within City right-of-way. He added that when the neighborhood was turned over to the HOA by the developer, it was done so with no reserve funding. The commission asked staff to investigate further and report back at the November meeting.

- C. University Dr – Mr. Goolsby explained he received a concern about truck traffic using University Dr and that this was a topic previously discussed by the traffic commission. He described features of University Dr, mentioning that it was repaved and restriped to include bike lanes in the last year and remains a wide, straight road. Mr. Goolsby reminded the commission of the previous efforts taken to communicate the residents concern of frequent trucks using University to the most likely involved businesses. He added that GPS navigation routes traffic through University Dr between exits 77 and 79 along I-77 and some portions of Cherry Rd. It was further noted that University Dr was initially a residential street years ago, but has grown in use and importance and is now a major collector street. Staff discussion followed and the relation was made to the earlier concern in this meeting (Item 4 B) as much of the traffic using University Dr, travels through the intersection of Anderson Rd and Bird St/Garrison Rd. Due to its classification and use, traffic commission did not see it as appropriate to restrict traffic along University Dr.
  - D. Mabry Pkwy – Ms. Clarkson provided the commission the background into the neighborhoods concern as it relates to speeding along Montgomery Dr and Mabry Pkwy. She noted traffic uses these roads to circumvent congestion experienced at the nearby schools at the intersection of Rawlinson Rd and Main St adding that the situation is worse during the school year. She explained that Montgomery Dr connects to an older portion of the road that is a more rural neighborhood. Mr. Weil described that a speed study was performed along Mabry Pkwy during the summer and that the results were on the verge of meeting the City's policy for sharing in the cost of traffic calming. Staff discussed that based on the results of the study and that more traffic could be anticipated during the school year that this situation would indeed qualify for the City's cost share program. Ms. Clarkson expressed that the neighborhood has funds available for this effort. Staff then discussed the area impacted and thus should be included in the petition. Staff will provide a traffic calming plan to be discussed at the next meeting.
6. **Other Items:**
- A. Celanese Rd @ I-77 – Mr. Sandifer expressed that SCDO'T has received a complaint about the traffic along Celanese Rd, specifically as it relates to the traffic getting onto I-77. It was noted that enforcing the problematic behavior is challenging. Staff then discussed the improvement project currently under construction and how it is intended to improve the situation.
  - B. Traffic Study Equipment – Captain Stinson noted some issue the police have been having regarding the equipment used. Staff discussed alternate options available and was asked to explore other options if necessary.
7. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 10:30 A.M. in Room 373.
8. **Adjourn:** With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.