

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, January 23, 2017
City Hall Council Chambers
301 South LeRoy Street

Mayor Osborn called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The invocation for the evening was the Lord's Prayer and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Draves, Grossmeyer, Jacob, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.

Absent: Smith.

Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager and Christopher Patterson, Legal Counsel.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Markland commented that while tonight's agenda is light, there are several issues coming forward on the next work session agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Lockwood gave an update on recent Art Walk, Beautification Commission and Loose Senior Center meetings. She commented the Community Expo is scheduled for March 4th and 5th and the City will have a booth that will provide information about City services.

McDermott commented this Wednesday, the second two meetings to receive public input on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be held at the Community Center. He stated what is included in the Plan directly impacts the City's ability to pursue grants.

Draves gave an update on the recent Library Board meeting.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT – Patterson commented his office is working on a development agreement with Corlin Builders. He is working on a correspondence regarding Waters Edge Villas and has been in contact with the Police Chief and City Manager regarding the 9-1-1 surcharge.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – Robert Tisch, Thomas Halligan and Lynda Chase asked to speak on the Traffic Control Order 16-02 agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

Osborn reviewed all items that were on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Lockwood and seconded by Jacob to approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$391,194.55.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the November 10, 2016 Oakwood Cemetery Board meeting, the November 22, 2016 Downtown Development Authority meeting, the December 13, 2016 Parks and Recreation Board meeting and the January 3, 2017 City Council work session.

- Approve letter of support for the Shiawassee River Trail application to the National Waters Trails System.

YEAS: Draves, Grossmeyer, Jacob, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Smith. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER (TCO) 16-02

Aro reviewed TCO16-02 which would change the speed limit on South Leroy to comply with the most recent traffic study. He explained there are two ways to adjust speed limits. One is by traffic control order or by the number of driveway cuts in the area where the speed limit is to be determined. In discussions with the City Manager, it was decided to take the extra step and perform a speed study. This would ensure the City had accurate information that would take into account the width of the roadway, neighborhoods, etc. The City's traffic engineer, Pete LaMourie was contacted to perform the study. The results were examined by Mr. LaMourie who made recommendations to change the speed limits as indicated in TCO 16-02. The speed limits were adjusted according to Mr. LaMourie's recommendations. The adjusted speed limits have been in effect over ninety days so the matter is in front of Council for consideration.

Aro stated in response to resident concerns regarding speeding drivers, enforcement was stepped up in the fall of 2016 and a speed trailer was placed on South Leroy. Information from the trailer is less accurate than the speed study but indicated the average speed in the area of South Leroy Street and High Street was 28.5 MPH; the speed limit is 30 MPH. Aro further reviewed the information provided by the street trailer.

Markland commented he provided Council with a document titled "Questions and Answers for Establishing Realistic Speed Limits" which he feels does a good job of explaining the criteria and reasoning for establishing certain speed limits. He, along with Chief Aro spoke to Mr. LaMourie today who indicated he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Aro clarified there are only two legal ways to set a speed limit (not including freeways or schools zones). One is to perform a speed study. The other is determining the number of driveway cuts. In order for a speed limit to be enforceable, one of these two methods must be used. If the driveway cut method was used, it indicated a speed limit of 45 MPH.

Grossmeyer commented that Mr. LaMourie previously indicated that taking the extra step of performing a speed study as opposed to using the driveway cut method gives the City more credibility when it looks at other speed limits throughout the City.

Robert Tisch, 1025 S. Leroy, commented he disagrees with the traffic study and spoke against raising the speed limit, especially because there are no sidewalks in the area. He provided a petition signed by residents affected by TCO 16-02 who disagree with raising the speed limit.

Thomas Halligan, 902 S. Leroy, expressed safety concerns along South Leroy, especially at the intersection of South Holly and South Leroy. He suggested installing sidewalks as there is no opportunity for pedestrians to get off the road and offered to volunteer for a committee if needed.

Osborn stated the special assessment process could be utilized to install sidewalks and directed Mr. Halligan to contact City Administration for additional information.

Lynda Chase, 1266 S. Leroy, commented she walks every day and feels it is very dangerous for walkers in the area. She is disappointed the speed limit is being increased.

Markland commented part of the reason for conducting a speed study is to make a speed limit enforceable. If a speed limit is set that is inconsistent with a speed study, it becomes difficult to enforce the speed limit.

Discussion continued regarding traffic counts, the proposed changes to the speed limit and reviewing information gathered when the speed trailer was utilized. Council also reviewed options for installing sidewalks/walking paths. It was decided to table the topic until the next meeting when Mr. LaMourie will be present to answer questions.

A motion was made by Osborn and seconded by McDermott to table Traffic Control Order 16-02 which installs/changes speed limit signs on South Leroy to comply with the most recent traffic study, to the February 13, 2017 City Council meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 16-03

A motion was made by McDermott and seconded by Grossmeyer to approve Traffic Control Order 16-03 which installs parking hour signs at O'Donnell Park. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – None.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: January 23, 2017