

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

August 19, 2020 – 03:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Council Chambers – City Hall

CITY CLERK
2020 AUG 25 PM 4:00

	Name	Members' Term Attendance (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	End of Current Term of Office
MEMBERS PRESENT:	David Gentry	(28-02)	05/31/2021
	John Reese	(17-00)	12/04/2022
	Robert Douglass	(11-00)	02/11/2024
	Keith Marriot	(09-03)	08/27/2023
	Randy Parlett	(08-07)	07/11/2023

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clements, Director of Public Works and Transportation
Ashley Parker, Recording Secretary
Scott Gatewood, Traffic Supervisor
James Tonn, SJD Traffic Unit
Chance Gallagher, MPO

Call to Order

David Gentry, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Item 1 - Approve July 8, 2020 minutes. David Gentry motioned to approve the July 8, 2020 minutes, John Reese accepted, and Robert Douglass seconded. By general consent, the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved. **Motion Carried.**

Item 2 - Discuss the use of parklets and review the parklet permitting standard. Chairperson Gentry voiced his concern regarding the multiple rules and regulations that come with parklets. He said he believes the idea of a parklet is a great idea but will cost a person or a business owner a good chunk of change. The business owner will bear the cost of setting up a parklet and following all the rules. Mr. Gentry thinks this is too big of an expense to not have many tables and then to be taken down by November 1st every year. He informed the other members that letters were mailed out to residents and business owners of the Central Business District, as well as 2 classified ads in the paper.

Gentry wondered if we should have postponed this meeting, so that people could have come and voiced their opinion. John Reese mentioned since this was not a City request but a business owner request and thinks it would seem business unfriendly if we postponed. John was also worried about drivers and the safety of people using the parklets.

Andy stepped in and went on to talk about why there are so many rules and regulations in place. It is federal regulation to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, a raised platform flush with the sidewalk may be used or the use of ramps with appropriate handrails. The safety elements of allowing the private use in the street is particularly important, using barriers to protect citizens from traffic. The City could potentially be liable if none of these measures are followed. Andy did agree, while the cost may be expensive,

neighboring business owners are in agreement, they can split the cost. Although, for a parklet to be placed, a majority of the neighborhood must be in agreement, petition and application must be filled out, and all regulations followed. Business owners may apply through the Public Works Department, then the Engineering Division will do the inspection.

John Reese mentioned that several years ago, he felt a majority of the issues presented to the Board were all about the lack of parking Downtown. He believes if we approve the parklets, parking issues will arise again. Andy mentioned that while there are issues with parking already, this was requested by the business owners and if they can get approval of the majority of the block, then they would be fine to do as they please.

John Reese asked James Tonn with the Traffic Unit, the police standpoint in all of this. James says he believes there is not an adequate enough barrier to provide safety to patrons using the parklets without the safety provisions included in the standard. He likes the idea of it but does not believe it is safe enough placed on the side of the street without them – and is concerned about safety even with including the engineered safety elements included in the parklet requirements. Andy Clements added that this is why they have spent so much time putting together the rules and regulations, because safety is the number one priority.

David Gentry asked the board to make a motion regarding this issue. Randy Parlett motioned to vote no on the use of parklets Downtown, Robert Douglass seconded. John Reese asked Keith Marriot why he believes we should approve the parklets. Keith said he likes the idea of the Parklets and believes we should not be the ones to take it away from someone who would like to do it. Andy informed the members that if they were concerned about the safety, a pilot program could take place from April-October of 2021. If enough business owners petition and apply, then they can trial a parklet. After the pilot program in October, depending on how the trial went, it can go back on the agenda to vote for or against. Randy Parlett still believes it is not safe and wants to stick with his original vote. The Board Members agreed to stay with the original vote on not approving the use of parklets. Gentry- aye, Reese-aye, Douglass- aye, Parlett- aye, Marriot- Nay. Ayes- 4, Nays- 1. **Motion Carried**

Item 3 - Request from MoDOT: Consider the removal of the traffic signals located at 3rd and Charles St., as well as 3rd and Edmond St. The signals cover the two ramps for Interstate 229. No motion was needed to be made on this issue, it was applied to the other traffic lights and already approved. Andy wanted to present the Board with the map location and the traffic study of those intersections. The Ordinance to approve the traffic light removal will go in front of Council on Monday, August 24, 2020.

With no other items on the agenda, John Reese motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and Robert Douglas seconded. Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted

/s/ Ashley Parker

Ashley Parker, Recording Secretary