



MINUTES
ATHERTON TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:00 PM -
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 94 ASHFIELD ROAD

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL:

Council Members: Elizabeth Lewis and Cary Wiest

Committee Members: Gary Lauder, Michael Lempres, John Ruggeiro, Larry Sweeney,
Mary Widmer

Meeting called to order by Council Member Lewis at 6:00pm.

Committee Member Lauder not present – excused absence.

Committee Member Lempres arrived after the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair positions - Chief Flint

Committee Member Ruggeiro nominated Committee Member Sweeney as Chair. Appointment made on unanimous vote by members of the committee.

Council Member Lewis nominated Committee Member Ruggeiro as Vice-Chair. Appointment made on unanimous vote by members of the committee.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of January 2013 meeting

The Minutes of the January 2013 meeting were approved without objection. No corrections or revisions were needed.

3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

There were no committee reports.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Open discussion items not on the agenda

There were no public comments or correspondence.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: None.

There were no presentations.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS:

6.1 Stop Signs – Chief Flint

Lindenwood Homes –

Concern raised regarding the end of Linden where it intersects with Laburnum. Some drivers come to the intersection without slowing down and where Juniper comes into Catalpa.

City Engineer Siebert explained the criteria for installing “stop” signs.

City Engineer Siebert stated “stop” signs are not to be used for speed control.

City Engineer Siebert said speed enforcement is to be used for speed control.

Committee Member Sweeney brought up the “stop” signs at Greenoaks Drive and Acorn Way, and Catalpa Drive and Acorn Way.

Chief Flint went over the Traffic Complaint Procedure with the Transportation Committee members.

Committee Member Sweeney inquired about the use of "yield" signs.

City Engineer Siebert discussed the traffic laws applicable to "T" intersections without "stop" signs present.

Council Member Lewis asked about Right of Way at the intersection of Linden Avenue and Laburnum Road.

Sgt. Kockler explained vehicles on Laburnum Road had the Right of Way at the above intersection.

The question was then asked who had the Right of Way at the intersection of Catalpa Drive and Juniper Drive.

Sgt. Kockler explained vehicles on Catalpa Drive had the Right of Way at the above intersection.

Committee Member Sweeney asked about "yield" signs on Juniper Drive.

City Engineer Siebert explained the installation requirements for "yield" signs, as well as sight distance requirements. City Engineer Siebert said he needed to do some research on the exact sight distance requirements.

Council Member Wiest requested photographs of the intersection of Juniper Drive and Catalpa Drive.

6.2 Cross Walks- Chief Flint

Concern raised that it is difficult to cross Middlefield at Watkins despite the crosswalk.

Chief Flint asked if this problem was occurring during commute times.

Committee Member Sweeney mentioned the pedestrian sign in the center of Middlefield Road has been knocked down in the past.

City Engineer Siebert talked about the possibility of installing pedestrian crosswalk lights on El Camino Real in conjunction with CalTrans.

City Engineer Siebert said a new hybrid pedestrian signal is available, at a cost of \$60,000, which is pedestrian activated and changes traffic signal colors from flashing yellow to red for vehicles.

City Engineer Siebert said a pedestrian count would be needed to determine if a pedestrian signal is warranted.

Council Member Wiest and Committee Member Sweeney discussed the lighted crosswalks on Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

Chief Flint suggested that no action be taken on the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk light until the results of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan were known.

Committee Member Lempres asked about the impact of traffic when pedestrian crosswalk lights are present.

City Engineer Siebert said the warrant study would address the issue of traffic.

Council Member Lewis asked about the location of the pedestrian crosswalks at the intersection of Middlefield Road and Marsh Road.

The above question was answered by Sgt. Kockler.

6.3 Rules of Procedure – Chief Flint

Transportation Committee administrative procedures (e.g., solicitation of agenda items; agenda formulation; traffic complaint procedures; minutes taking, distribution, and publication; etc.).

City Manager Rodericks went over Resolution 13-08 with the Transportation Committee members. Chief Flint added to City Manager Rodericks' comments.

Each member of the Transportation Committee was provided with two handouts:

- 1) Rosenberg's Rules of Order, and
- 2) A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act

Committee Member Sweeney asked why Transportation Committee members were still receiving binders and papers. Committee Member Sweeney inquired whether the Transportation Committee could go electronic.

Chief Flint stated the Transportation Committee could go electronic if they wanted.

All members of the Transportation Committee were polled regarding this issue.

The decision was made to go electronic with the exception of Committee Member Rugeiro.

The Transportation Committee members discussed who would complete the Meeting Minutes.

The Police Department will continue to complete the Meeting Minutes.

Committee Member Sweeney requested the Meeting Minutes as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Transportation Committee meeting.

7.0 **STAFF REPORTS:** None.

7.1 **Police Traffic Unit:** - Monthly Report for February 2013

Presented by Sgt. Kockler.

Council Member Wiest asked about collisions in January 2013 vs. February 2013 based upon full-time Traffic Officer. Sgt. Kockler reported 10 collisions in January 2013 vs. 6 collisions in February 2013. Sgt. Kockler reported these collision numbers were within a normal monthly range.

Council Member Wiest requested the total number of cars towed for unlicensed drivers and those driving with a suspended driver's license be placed onto the Monthly Traffic Report.

Chief Flint advised this would be difficult to do since many factors go into whether or not a car was towed, including officer discretion and the law.

Committee Member Sweeney asked how residents could communicate safety problems with the police department or other staff members. Committee Member Sweeney asked if some information could be placed into the "Athertonian" advising residents of the proper procedure to inform staff of safety issues.

Chief Flint discussed some things the police department was currently looking at to allow residents to communicate problems, including the "Athertonian" and social media outlets.

Committee Member Sweeney requested members of the community who report traffic complaint areas be contacted at the end of the enforcement period to be advised of the results. Committee Member Sweeney discussed possible telephone contact with the community members.

The above request is already being completed by the police department in the form of a letter. The letter is sent to the reporting community member at the end of the month in which the complaint was received. The letter advises the community member of the results of the enforcement period.

7.2 Public Works Updates: -

Presented by City Engineer Siebert.

City Engineer Siebert updated the Transportation Committee on the street light repairs within the Town of Atherton. City Engineer Siebert reported many street light outages were due to the age of the system, wiring issues, and parts availability issues. City Engineer Siebert is possibly going to look into making the street light system safer.

Other Request: -

Council Member Lewis requested an item labeled "Future Agenda Items" be placed on all future Transportation Committee agendas.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE: May 14, 2013

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergeant Anthony Kockler
Recording Secretary

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