

**CITY OF LOS BANOS  
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 1, 2008**

*ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict action taken  
for agenda items presented to the Traffic Safety Committee.*

**CALL TO ORDER:** Police Chief Gallagher called the Traffic Safety Committee Meeting to order at the hour of 2:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENT:** Greg Pimentel, Public Works Operations Manager (Public Works Department); Chris Gallagher, Police Chief (Police Department); Norm Donovan, Planning Commission Representative; Absent: Chet Guintini, Fire Chief (Fire Department).

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Assistant City Clerk/HR Technician Sousa.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Donovan, seconded by Pimentel to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all committee members present; Guintini absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Donovan, seconded by Pimentel to approve the January 15, 2008 Traffic Safety Minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all committee members present; Guintini absent.

**PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO A FIVE (5) MINUTE PRESENTATION.** Shirley Napolitano, Los Banos, requested to speak during Item E – Consideration of a Request for “No Truck Parking” Signs on the South Side of Pioneer Road Beginning at the Canal Bridge and Extending West to Cresthills Park. No one else came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR A WESTBOUND LEFT TURN LANE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET AT H STREET (NORM DONOVAN).** There was committee member discussion, and it was explained that 2<sup>nd</sup> street is not currently wide enough to accommodate the turn lane request. It was stated that once the Northeast corner of H and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was developed, the committee would like to require a realignment of lanes on H Street to accommodate turn pockets.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR AN EASTBOUND LEFT TURN LANE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET AT I STREET (NORM DONOVAN).** There was committee member discussion, and it was stated that there is currently not enough room on I street to install a turn pocket at this time. It was stated that the committee would like to look at possibly installing a traffic circle at this intersection when future funding became available.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF THE SECOND & H STREET INTERSECTION (DAVID ANDERSON).** It was stated that the request was regarding vehicles traveling at high speeds on H Street. Chairman Gallagher suggested additional patrol enforcement in the area to monitor speeding.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR “KEEP CLEAR” STREET MARKINGS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE MERCED COUNTY FIRE STATION LOCATED ON H STREET BETWEEN 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> STREETS TO PREVENT STACKED TRAFFIC FROM BLOCKING THE ENTRY AND EXIT OF THE FIRE STATION (MERCED COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT).** It was stated that during high traffic hours, vehicles are stacking in front of the Fire Station and sometimes prevent Fire trucks from exiting the Fire Station during emergency calls.

Motion by Donovan, seconded by Pimentel to paint the words “Keep Clear” on H Street directly in front of the Merced County Fire Station in the eastbound traffic lane only. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all committee members present; Guintini absent.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR “NO TRUCK PARKING” SIGNS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PIONEER ROAD BEGINNING AT THE CANAL BRIDGE AND EXTENDING WEST TO CRESTHILLS PARK (SHIRLEY NAPOLITANO).** Shirley Napolitano, Los Banos, stated that large trucks sometimes stay parked and loaded on Pioneer Road for up to a week; vehicles exiting onto Pioneer Road from Holland Avenue, cannot see due to trucks obstructing the line of sight; concerned with children, pedestrians, or dogs possibly being struck when crossing Pioneer Road because the cannot see the oncoming traffic.

There was committee member discussion regarding the sight distance issue. It was stated that “No Truck Parking” signs have been posted throughout the City, and soon truck drivers would not have anywhere to park in Los Banos. It was stated that the committee should look at developing a truck route in the near future.

Motion by Pimentel, seconded by Donovan to post “No Truck Parking” signs on the south side of Pioneer Road beginning at the Canal Bridge and extending out to 200 feet west past Holland Avenue. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all committee members present; Guintini absent.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR ONE (1) TWO-HOUR PARKING SPACE AND ONE (1) 24-MINUTE PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF HIS & HERS SALON LOCATED AT 619 J STREET (JIM ADAMSKA).** There was committee member discussion regarding possibly changing all of the downtown parking to 2-hour in the near future.

Motion by Pimentel, seconded by Donovan to install two (2) 2-hour parking spaces in front of His & Hers Salon located at 619 J Street. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all committee members present; Guintini absent.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO INSTALL TWO-HOUR PARKING SIGNS AT ALL PARKING SPACES ON 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET FROM M STREET TO H STREET.**

There was committee member discussion, and it was stated that any requested parking changes for the downtown area would need approval from the City Council. It was decided that the committee would conduct research to add 2-hour parking on 6<sup>th</sup> Street from M Street to H Street, on I Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to J Street, and on J Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The committee agreed that any research should include details such as how many parking spaces are currently on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, how many available parking lots are located in the downtown area, ect. It was stated that 2-hour parking signs would not need to be posted at each parking space, but could instead be posted at mid-block. It was suggested that the committee conduct a handicapped parking stall survey for the downtown area and also initiate a one-way proposal for 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Chairman Gallagher requested that the results of the proposed research be presented for discussion and recommendation at the next Traffic Safety Meeting in July.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS.** Chairman Gallagher stated that he received a thank you from Bob Niemond for replacing the 4-way stop signs at the intersection of Ward Road and San Luis Street.

**ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 2:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

/ s / Christopher Gallagher  
Christopher Gallagher, Chairman

ATTEST:

/ s / Jana R. Sousa  
Jana R. Sousa, Secretary