



Agenda Item: Resolution

Title: Resolution 2019-64, Enacting a Temporary Suspension of Traffic Commission Activities Until Revision of Laramie Municipal Code 10.08

Recommended Council MOTION:

I move to approve Resolution 2019-64 enacting a temporary suspension of Traffic Commission activities until revision of Laramie Municipal Code 10.08, to allow staff time to review, evaluate and recommend changes to City Council and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

Codes should be regularly reviewed, evaluated, modernized and amended if necessary to establish clear and relevant standards.

Background:

Laramie Municipal Code 10.08 – Official Traffic Commission (TC), is a very old section of code that has not been updated in at least 40 years. The current code refers to “hackney and dray stands” which can be traced back to the times of the horse drawn trailer. The original code was most likely written prior to the City employing Professional Engineers and prior to any traffic engineering standards. In fact, the code conflicts with the more recent Wyoming Statute §33-29-401: Professional License required.

Staff currently receives applications from the public for modification to traffic or parking requests. Those applications are brought before the Traffic Commission for a ruling. The current code is actually silent on the application process and whether an individual resident may even make a request to the TC.

The current code does not establish skills or proficiencies for TC appointees. The code does not recognize the role of the City Engineer, public notification requirements, or procedures for electing a Board chair. The code is administratively inefficient and consumes an inordinate amount of staff and governing body time.

For decades, both TC and City Council decisions about traffic control, traffic safety and pedestrian safety were made based on two key factors: data collection and measurement and established national rules/regulations and standards (i.e. MUTCD, ASHTO Green book for Roadway Design and the Laramie Engineering Design Manual). The recent trend of TC decisions appears to be placing greater importance on other factors such as personal judgement and public pressure. This trend is in conflict with professional staff, elected officials and national standards. Over time, this movement away from data-driven decisions and performance-based design standards will increase traffic congestion and reduce safety.

To keep the TC consistent with other Boards and Commissions, staff may recommend the adoption of by-laws to formalize public notification requirements, application procedures, fees, the role of staff, and procedures for elections.

During the moratorium, staff would continue to review handicap parking requests and traffic safety concerns from the public.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

W.S. 15-1-103 (xxxviii) and LMC 1.01

BUDGET/FISCAL INFORMATION:

This item has no budget impact

Responsible Staff:

Janine Jordan, City Manager

Bob Southard, City Attorney

Malea Brown, Chief Operating Officer

Brooks Webb, Public Works Director

Eric Jaap, City Engineer

Eric Milliken, Civil Engineer

Attachments:

Resolution 2019-64