
**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission of the City of Laguna Hills, California, was called to order by Chair Beeuwsaert at 7:00 PM in the Laguna Hills City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Beeuwsaert.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Present: Chair Beeuwsaert, Vice Chair Mark Jones, Commissioner Mike Caputo, Commissioner Greg Staar, and Commissioner Larry Woodruff

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laguna Village Traffic

Patti Casas, a resident of Laguna Village, requested the Traffic Commission review the speed limits and traffic control along Santa Vittoria Drive, Ridge Route Drive and Lake Forest Drive. Ms. Casas requested a traffic signal between Ridge Route Drive and Santa Vittoria Drive.

Susan Christenson, a resident of Laguna Village, requested the City increase the law enforcement presence and review the speed limits and traffic control along Santa Vittoria Drive between Ridge Route Drive and Lake Forest Drive.

2. MINUTES

**THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016, REGULAR MEETING, BY M/COMMISSIONER
CAPUTO, S/COMMISSIONER STAAR.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 5-0**

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no Presentations.

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4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 REQUEST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ON-STREET PARKING CONTROLS ON COMMERCE CENTER DRIVE

Associate Civil Engineer Amber Shah, indicated Staff was contacted by two business owners addressed on Commerce Center Drive, regarding undesired truck and long-term parking on Commerce Center Drive. The business owners stated the vehicles are left on the street for extended periods from days to weeks at a time. Based upon several field reviews of the current site conditions, a review of parking complaints received by the Sheriff's Department and the business owner's complaint, Staff recommended the establishment of a no overnight parking zone from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Commerce Center Drive.

Director of Public Services/City Engineer Kenneth Rosenfield, indicated the affected business owners and property owners were mailed a letter regarding this agenda item and were invited to attend the meeting to provide their input. Due to the lack of response, Mr. Rosenfield stated the Traffic Commission may want to continue the item to the next meeting, and again notify the business and property owners, to provide ample opportunity for their input.

THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION CONTINUE THE ITEM TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING ON JANUARY 18, 2017. M/COMMISSIONER WOODRUFF, S/COMMISSIONER STAAR.

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 5-0

4.2 REQUEST FOR GOLF CART CROSSINGS OF PASEO DE VALENCIA

Director of Public Services/City Engineer Kenneth Rosenfield, indicated a resident of the City of Laguna Woods requested the City of Laguna Hills approve one or more Golf Cart Crossings of Paseo de Valencia to allow residents of Laguna Woods Village to utilize their golf carts to access goods and services within the nearby Urban Village area easterly of Paseo de Valencia. Mr. Rosenfield indicated an analysis of this request was planned to be made in consideration of traffic safety and State laws related to authorizing such crossings. However, the State law review prepared by the City Attorney determined the City does not have the legal authority to authorize Golf Cart Crossings of Paseo de Valencia due to several factors.

Mr. Rosenfield indicated some of the factors included in the City Attorney's findings were; the City may only regulate traffic on public streets and highways to

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the extent the State expressly authorizes local control; the Vehicle Code prohibits golf carts from driving any highway with a speed limit greater than 25 mph; the Vehicle Code prohibits low-speed vehicles from operating on any highway with a speed limit greater than 35 mph; and the only applicable exception is per Vehicle Code 21260 which authorizes low-speed vehicles only to cross a highway with a speed limit greater than 35 mph so long as the crossing begins and ends in speed zones of 35 mph or less.

While also regulated by the Vehicle Code, low-speed vehicles are not subject to the same restrictions as golf carts. Low-speed vehicles are allowed to cross a highway with a speed limit in excess of 35 mph so long as the crossing begins and ends on a roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less and occurs at an intersection of approximately 90 degrees. Since the speed limit on Paseo de Valencia exceeds 35 mph or less, low speed vehicles may use the intersections requested to cross Paseo de Valencia.

The Vehicle Code preempts the City from modifying these regulations unless the City prepares and adopts a Golf Cart Transportation Plan in accordance with Streets and Highways Code section 1950.

Shari Horne, a resident of Laguna Woods, spoke in favor of establishing golf cart crossings on Paseo de Valencia to facilitate access to the Urban Village and promote senior mobility access.

Juanita Skillman, a resident of Laguna Woods, spoke in favor of establishing golf cart crossings on Paseo de Valencia to facilitate access to the Urban Village, and commented the Laguna Woods residents are the City of Laguna Hills best customers.

**THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL
THE CREATION OF A GOLF CART TRANSPORTATION PLAN.
M/COMMISSIONER CAPUTO, S/COMMISSIONER JONES.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-1, CHAIR BEEUSWAERT VOTED NO.**

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORT

Sergeant Prince gave a verbal report updating the Traffic Commission on traffic issues in the City. He reported the Sheriff's Department had just successfully apprehended two suspects involved in a vehicle theft and pursuit on the basis of fixed license plate technology to identify the direction the suspects were traveling.

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On another matter, Sergeant Prince indicated there are many new security technologies now available, and the Sheriff's Department and City worked with Merlone Geier to ensure the security at 5 Lagunas is multifaceted and utilized the latest technology.

5.2 RADAR SPEED TRAILER

Staff submitted the schedule for the radar trailer.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Beeuwsaert wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, and thanked Sergeant Prince for always attending the Traffic Commission Meetings.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Chair Beeuwsaert declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Prepared By:

Kenneth H. Rosenfield, P.E.
Director of Public Services/City Engineer

Approved By:

STEVEN BEEUWSAERT, CHAIR