



Minutes

Town Commission Special Meeting Traffic Issues

Tuesday • April 11, 2017 • 6:30 pm

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1. Call to Order: 6:30 pm
 2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag
 3. Roll Call:
Commissioners Attending:
 - Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Pro-Tem Present
 - Troy Blakely Present
 - Virginia Mance, Mayor Present
 - Timothy Parker Present
 - Mike Roberts Present (came in at 6:35 pm)

 - Steve Lee, Attorney Present
 - Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
 - Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present
 4. Agenda Approval:
A. Agenda Approval
 5. Guests: Acting Major Steve Maynard and Lieutenant David Butscher from Alachua County Sheriff's Department (ASO)
Mayor Mance explained the purpose of the meeting is to discuss traffic issues. Possible slower speed limit throughout the entire town, slowing down out-of-Town speeders, and basically what can be done to slow traffic. Resident David Massey researched online traffic calming measures such as speed tables (expensive but effective), chokers, curbs, streets, curves, and speed-sensitive stop lights which turn red when drivers are speeding. Commissioner Blakely commented on stop signs and the possibility of adding more stop signs, as it would be cost effective. Mayor Mance stated that we try to keep stop signs to a minimum in Micanopy. Mayor Pro-Tem Aufmuth explained the difficulty of following State regulations concerning placement of stop signs, red lights, and speed tables.

Acting Major Maynard thanked us for having ACSO here tonight. Traffic control is a very complicated issue and not unique to Micanopy. Most people think traffic control it is easier than it really is. Installing a traffic light costs approximately ½ million dollars and installation requires a traffic engineering study (mandated by Florida State Statute) and underground utilities before work can begin. Certain types of signs cannot be located within a certain proximity of each other, cannot have a primary road intersecting a secondary road, and a speed table cannot be located within so many feet of that. A flashing light in front of the school is also extremely expensive and difficult to achieve.

Performing law enforcement achieves displacement by writing some tickets and warnings, but it has a short-term affect. ACSO does not have the resources to sustain enforcement. What ACSO typically finds is that the people of the community who complain to them are the first ones to get tickets.

Speeding is a difficult situation to fix, but there are a couple things that can be done to tweak it. Unlike the average citizen, Acting Major Maynard and Lieutenant Butscher are trained to do visual estimates of speeds whereby they can look at a vehicle and make a guesstimate, within 5 mph, of speed based on key markers on the road, time, and distance. Lieutenant Butscher stated that ACSO has a *speed spy* device that cannot be seen by motorists and provides no warning to slow down. Acting Major Maynard suggested deployment of the *speed spy* which shows the speed, time of day, number of vehicles, and at what time of day the most

egregious violations occurred. The speed spy is normally put out Monday through Friday but can be placed longer if desired. Potential *speed spy* locations are SW Whiting St, Chokolka Blvd, SE Tusawilla Rd, Division Street, and Seminary Ave by the elementary school. Acting Major Maynard will try to identify the top three locations to place the *speed spy*. The data will be analyzed, and Acting Major Maynard will come to the May meeting with the analysis, and it will be available to post on the town website. We can expand the locations if necessary. With this information, ACSO will know when and where to allocate their resources. Once the problem areas are identified via the *speed spy* data, ACSO can take the data to a Florida Department of Transportation contact who may be able to interpret the data and give us free, informal advice from an educated traffic engineer on some good, realistic solutions for a particular stretch of highway. The educated advice provided will be well-grounded in State Statute and safety; not anecdotal information.

Mayor Pro-Tem Aufmuth thanked the Sheriff's Department for the services provided. Commissioner Roberts commented on traffic being way better since the by-pass had been installed. Speeding tickets affect peoples' pocket books, and it helps to slow them down. Mayor Mance relayed that she heard that the County had wanted to raise the speed limit on Chokolka Blvd, and she would not want this to happen. Acting Major Maynard stated that Sheriff Darnell would not want this to happen either and please contact her if the subject is raised again. Joe Hight, Evans Ct, commented that there are not very many signs showing the speed limit or detailing blind driveways on Tusawilla Rd. Mayor Mance stated that Tusawilla is a county road and that signage is provided by Alachua County, and we would need to request signage. Captain Maynard is willing to help facilitate the process of reviewing the posted speed limit signs. Commissioner Parker commented that pedestrian signs may be helpful on Tusawilla Rd.

Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Parker) to move forward with the speed spy by the Alachua County Sheriff Department; passed 5-0

6. Adjourn: 7:20 pm

MINUTES APPROVED:

As submitted _____ as amended _____ at Town Commission Meeting _____

Virginia Mance, Mayor

Patty Polk, Recorder