



# City of Hudson, Ohio

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Workshop

*Craig A. Shubert, Mayor*

*William D. Wooldredge, President of Council (At-Large)*

*Beth A. Bigham, Council Member (Ward 4)*

*Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., Council Member (At-Large)*

*Christopher W. Foster, Council Member (Ward 2)*

*Nicole V. Kowalski, Council Member (At-Large)*

*Katherine R. Schlademan, Council Member (Ward 1)*

*Skylar J. Sutton, Council Member (Ward 3)*

*Jane Howington, City Manager*

*Matthew J. Vazzana, City Solicitor*

*R. Todd Hunt, Special Counsel*

*Elizabeth A. Slagle, Clerk of Council*

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Monday, June 21, 2021

7:00 PM

Town Hall  
27 East Main Street

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### Special Council Workshop

#### 1. Call to Order

President of Council Wooldredge called to order the special workshop of Hudson City Council at 7:02 p.m., in accordance with the Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio, O.R.C. Section 121.22.

**Present:** 5 - Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kowalski, Ms. Schlademan and Mr. Wooldredge

**Absent:** 2 - Mrs. Bigham and Mr. Sutton

*Staff in Attendance: Mr. Sheridan, Assistant City Manager - Professional Services; Mr. Leiter, Production Assistant, Mr. Tabak, Police Chief; and Mr. Wonsick, Assistant City Engineer.*

*Absent: Mayor Shubert.*

#### 2. Discussion Item

##### A. [21-0053](#) Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety within Hudson

**Brief Description:** The City Staff and City Council will report on pedestrian and bicycle safety procedures and future projects within Hudson and listen to public comments regarding and areas of concern in the City that may need improvement.

Attachments:      [Pedestrian and Bike Presentation 6-21-2021](#)

*Mr. Sheridan provided a presentation (attached) and reviewed the following topics: the work of the Hudson Traffic Safety Committee; related studies, reports and projects; Sidewalk and Trail Construction Plans 2021-2025; Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) High Crash Intersections and Sections; and Pedestrian and Safety Study Map (2016-2020). Chief Tabak commented on Police and City updates.*

**Staff provided an update on pedestrian and bicycle safety in Hudson.**

### 3. Public Comments

*Mr. Wooldredge opened the discussion to the audience, and the following residents commented:*

*Mr. Fred Wolking, 5676 Williamsburg Circle, said that distracted drivers and intersection issues at State Route 303/Aterbury Blvd./Milford Dr. make it difficult for pedestrians to safely cross this long crosswalk; vehicles are traveling faster than the posted speed limit in this area, and enforcement is needed; and the "No Turn on Red" sign recently installed at SR 303/Library St. is not recognized by motorists and enforcement is needed, suggested use of electronic cameras.*

*Mrs. Terese Lepelley, 20 Owen Brown Street, said that people using crosswalks need to be educated to not only watch the first car but the following cars; right-turning motorists do not look for pedestrians and cyclists; only crosses streets at the middle due to too much confusion and distraction at intersections; motorists do not yield to pedestrians in crosswalk; suggested that the City educate motorists and pedestrians; cyclists should use the roadways and need to be more aware of motorists; suggested that the City reconsider the Owen Brown St. Sidewalk Underpass Project and not improve this area with a sidewalk and signal, as it is not necessary; and expressed concern that many drivers are from other areas, but at least Hudson drivers could be more informed and educated through local efforts.*

*Mrs. Rebecca Leiter, 134 Aurora Street, said that she likes the flashing crosswalk beacons on N. Main St. and other areas of Hudson, and she would like to see these at additional locations, including Oviatt St., SR 303, and other crossings with large pedestrian traffic; agreed that there are many distracted drivers; cars routinely exceed the speed limit on S. Main St.; widening roads, adding turn lanes and adaptive signals will increase traffic; and the City of Akron has made improvements along S. Main St., decreasing from 4 lanes to 2 lanes of traffic, that have greatly improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists.*

*Mr. Peter Chatigny, 89 Sunset Drive, asked that the City clear the snow from sidewalks on the Veterans Way Bridge; education and enforcement need to be increased in order to change behaviors of pedestrians and motorists; due to distracted drivers and safety concerns, many cyclists do not want to be on the streets, but they need to be educated on how to ride on streets; the crosswalk at E. Main St./SR 303 needs a flashing beacon due to the large number of pedestrians that use this crosswalk, especially during special events on the Green, including the Farmers Market; and suggested the City hire reserve officers to issue citations or use traffic cameras along with an officer to issue citations.*

*Ms. Dana Thompson, 2553 Hudson-Aurora Road, requested that the speed limit on Hudson-Aurora Rd. between N. Hayden Pkwy. and Stow Rd. near the high school be reduced to 25 mph; school crossing are dangerous, and sidewalks are crowded with pedestrians and cyclists; requested crosswalk improvements at Herrick Park Dr./Hudson-Aurora Rd. intersection to help students at this location.*

*Mr. Peter Wiley, 168 Hudson Street, thanked City for efforts to improve safety; noted increased traffic on Hudson St. recently, excessive at certain times; the Hudson St. sidewalks are against the curb, and roadway is not safe; Western Reserve Academy students walk into the streets without looking, and they need to be educated; would like to have Hudson St. closed to through traffic at Aurora St. and if not, then "No Through Traffic" signs on Aurora Rd. at Hudson, College, and Oviatt Streets to reduce excessive traffic.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Jenny and Matt Mitchell, 167 Hudson Street, said that the crosswalk at Hudson St./Aurora St.*

*intersection is difficult and unsafe to cross; reported distracted drivers and frequent speeding on Hudson St. and Hudson-Aurora Road; motorists do not yield to pedestrians at crosswalks; pedestrians are not easily seen by motorists with Middle Schoolers crossing to school; student drivers use Hudson St. as a short-cut to/from the high school; requested flashing beacon signs at Aurora St. intersections of Hudson St. and Oviatt St.; Hudson St. sidewalks are too close to and slope to the roadway, making them dangerous for small children; it's important to allow children to ride their bikes on the sidewalks; the island at the intersection of Hudson St./Aurora St. may need to be removed; and requested the City consider extending the WRA school zone.*

*Mr. James Vitale, 180 Aurora St., expressed concerns regarding the Franklin St./Aurora St. intersection in an email (attached to record copy of these minutes).*

## **Council Comments**

*Mr. Wooldredge opened comments to Council members, and all thanked the public attendees for their input:*

*Mr. Foster agreed that the crosswalk at SR 303/Milford Rd./Atterbury Blvd. is problematic and needs improvements; speeding in the SR 303 corridor is a problem; questioned when the SR 303/Boston Mills Rd. crosswalk will be painted; commented on two unreported accidents; public education regarding the reporting/documentation of accidents is necessary to affect improvements; the Owen Brown St. underpass is unsafe and needs to be improved without impacting traffic flow; public roadways cannot be closed; suggested the City could reduce cut-through traffic by making certain routes inconvenient with speed limit reductions and other traffic calming measures; and the long-term need for a "No Turn on Red" sign at SR 303/Library Street is currently being studied, and the current sign is not enforceable until/unless Council passes an Ordinance.*

*Mrs. Kowalski felt that the most important issues are bike lanes and crosswalk improvements; she requested the Weymouth Dr./Glastonbury Dr. intersection be studied; requested the City consider sidewalks and additional street lighting along Boston Mills Rd. between Lake Forest Dr. and Stratford Dr., noting a large number of EMS vehicles traveling to retirement centers on Boston Mills Rd.; requested crosswalk improvements at the Winterberry Dr./Middleton Rd. intersection; discussed "No Turn on Red" signage at SR 303/Library intersection, requesting a symbol sign (arrow with red-lined circle) versus the current text only sign, noting that motorists may not be seeing the current sign.*

*Mr. DeSaussure said the City needs to educate the public that pedestrians have the right-of-way at crosswalks, yielding to pedestrians in crosswalk is an issue; agreed with adding a flashing light at Aurora St./Hudson St. intersection and crosswalk improvements at SR 303/Milford Dr./Atterbury Blvd.; discussed the N. Main St./Clinton St./Aurora St. intersection as problematic, pedestrian walk signs near Open Door Coffee Shop, drivers do not look right when making a right turn, suggested City consider "No Turn on Red" signs here; increased number of cyclists on sidewalks that should be using roadways; and electric bikes are fast and may not be seen by motorists if on a sidewalk.*

*Ms. Schlademan agreed with other Council comments; requested dedicated timing for the pedestrian crosswalk at N. Main St./Aurora St. intersection; the "No Turn on Red" sign at SR 303/Library St. needs to be reviewed; interested in continued dialogue with the public.*

*Mr. Wooldredge said there's nothing more important than safety, and education is very important; motorists need to reduce their speeds and be more attentive; agreed with dedicated timing for pedestrians at N. Main St./Aurora St. crosswalk; asked for increased enforcement.*

*Mr. Sutton provided the following input via email, as he was unable to attend: requested safer crossings in front of parks (Oak Grove, Hudson Springs Park, etc.), striping and flashing; safer crossings at schools (ex: Winterbury/Ellsworth Hill), striping and flashing; "all red" (or pedestrian leading) on artery roads when signals are activated; as connectivity is expanded, need to consider how people will cross from side of the street without sidewalk to side of street with sidewalk.*

#### 4. Next Steps

*Mr. Sheridan reviewed the next steps with the RFP, the Hudson traffic study, and approval of projects.*

- A. **Staff will be gathering comments and information from the public through website, polling, social media, and other media sources. (June - July 2021)**
- B. **Staff will review all public input and comments and will prepare a Safety Study Request for Proposals (RFP). (July 2021)**
- C. **Staff will return to City Council with a recommendation to enter into an agreement with a consultant for the Safety Study. (August 2021)**
- D. **Consultant to complete the Safety Study. (November 2021)**
- E. **Improvements to be included in 2022-2026 Five-Year Plan with Council approval. (December 2021)**

#### 5. Follow-Up Items

- A. **Items brought forth from the public tonight needing follow-up**

*Staff will respond to all items in the minutes in the coming weeks. Chief Tabak expressed appreciation for the public input, and he commended the cooperation of all City departments regarding safety improvements and public education.*

- B. **Other items**

*None.*

#### 6. Adjournment

*There being no further discussion, Mr. Wooldredge adjourned the Council workshop meeting at 8:14 p.m.*

**There being no further discussion, Mr. Wooldredge adjourned the Council workshop meeting at 8:17 p.m.**

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**William D. Wooldredge, President of Council**

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**Thomas Sheridan, Assistant City Manager, Clerk of Council Pro Tempore**

*Workshop Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council.*

*Upon approval by City Council, this official written summary of the meeting minutes shall become a permanent*

*record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio and video recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Codified Ordinances, Section 220.031 (a), Rules for Workshop Meetings.*