

Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee

April 4, 2022

Following Finance Committee Meeting at 6:00pm

City Hall Council Chambers

Chairman Bacidore called the Meeting to order at 6:07pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Bacidore, Alderman Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Ptak (arrived at 6:26pm)

Excused Absence: NONE

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Superintendent of Public Works Patrick Watson, Economic Development Director Leah Inman, Alderman Demes, Finance Director John Duncan, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski, City Attorney James McPhedran.

A quorum was present.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve and place on file the minutes of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee for March 21, 2022. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Chairman Bacidore began the discussion of the speed limit concern on Richard Hallett Rd. La Salle has the portion on the shortcut up to the curve. It is currently 45 mph. The residents would like to see LaSalle decrease speed limit from 45 to 30.

Sally Atterton, daughter of Jannice Atterton, spoke to the council about her concerns of the current speed limit on this road. Her mother has been a resident of the first duplex for 27 years. The traffic pattern has drastically changed overtime. Once the stoplight went in, motorists were using Richard Hallett as the bypass road to Utica. She wants to speak on behalf of all the very active, vital senior citizens. It is very dangerous for those residents to going in and out of their driveways. They are very mindful of turn signals by trying to alert others of them stopping and turning into the duplex. It is very dangerous when others think that you are stopping early and passing even though they are trying to turn into their drive. Atterton states that 25mph is a very reasonable amount for these residential areas. She also stated that Utica was collecting data on their end of Richard Hallett to see how fast motorists were traveling.

Brown confirmed that La Salle is right in the middle of the curve of Richard Hallett. The city would have to coordinate with Utica to agree on the speed limit for their portion of the curve.

Mayor asked if the residents would compromise with 35 mph. Atterton states that she will keep pushing for 30mph.

Nan Butler compared their road situation to be similar to Wenzel Road with cornfields on one side and residential on the other. Wenzel Road's speed limit is 30mph. Butler stated that if the speed limit was reduced, it would also reduce the motorcycles from going 100mph along with reducing the motorcycle noise. The Butlers have been there 14 years and she claims that it has not been like this when they first moved to their home.

Another resident, neighbors to the Butlers, stated the traffic that comes off Route 6 attracts motorcycles. He is very bothered by the motorcyclists that come off of Route 6. He stated that it is very annoying and disturbing. He also stated that the condition of the road is terrible and suggested that the road be addressed in the very near future.

Jan Aderton suggested cameras on the street. She believes that the city would make a lot of money ticketing. It is extremely bad coming off of Route 6, motorists do not give you time to turn, they will pass you on the right-hand side.

Pam Argubright was the resident that initiated this request for a speed limit change. The Argubrights' moved there in June. She was shocked at how fast the traffic was on Richard Hallett. The traffic is rarely a speed limit that seems appropriate. Richard Hallett has 18 different units. They are fortunate with their unit and are able to back up to their neighbor's drive to pull out onto Route 6. She feels that the current speed limit is an accident waiting to happen and a decrease in the speed limit would be a huge advantage. She appreciates the Council allowing herself and the other residents to speak in regard to this current issue.

Sally Aderton did ask the council if they would be able to pull up an accident report for Route 6 and the Richard Hallett intersection. There was a recent accident where the car ended up in her mother's front yard. She said Richard Hallett is not a bypass, it is a residential street.

Alderman Herndon referred to the Letter from the Utica Police Chief Damron (Exhibit 1) in regard to the Richard Hallett speed limit. Chief Damron suggested reducing the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph. Herndon suggested Utica change their portion to 30mph and have La Salle's portion change theirs to 30mph. Bacidore and Herndon agreed that it should be 30 mph consistently through the entire portion of Richard Hallett. The City of LaSalle can take action on this, but the council asked if the residents would be willing to go to the Utica meeting in support of the change also. Aderton stated that she would be willing to show up to Utica's meeting also. Lavieri stated on how he is willing to change the speed limit to 30 but does not think this will solve their problems.

Alderman Crane suggested placing proper flagging for a month or two to alert every one of the change.

Resident Mike Bird, who lives on Oak Ridge Dr., stated that 35mph is an acceptable mph on that stretch of road. He travels this roadway four times a day. He doesn't believe that the problem will be solved with the MPH change.

The residents of Richard Hallett Rd. all agree that installing cameras would solve a lot of problems and a little more police presence on that road would help also.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to send the recommendation to the City Council regarding a request to reduce the speed limit from 45mph to 30mph on Richard Hallett Rd. On the LaSalle's portion of the road, from Rt. 6 to the Curve.

ROLL CALL

AYE : Alderman Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Chairman Bacidore

NAY: Alderman Reynolds,

Absent: Alderman Ptak

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-1

Chairman Bacidore began the ongoing discussion of the "No Parking" signs in the south city diamond between Second, Third, Bucklin, and Lafayette streets. Alderman Ptak arrived at 6:26pm. Bacidore stated how there has not been any issues in the diamond since last meeting. Demes also discussed some suggestions that were made in regard to turning the dumpsters. Demes stated that he spoke with Keeney, owner of Link Media building, and he was not in favor of turning the dumpsters. He has the right amount of space for loading and unloading his trailers to his building.

Demes referred to Schedule 1 in regards to NO Parking at all times between 1st and 3rd Streets. On the 100 Block of 3rd Street, is Diamond between Chiropractor Office and one between 633 1st (behind Amia Boutique). There is no parking in both of those diamonds. Bacidore stated there is one also behind Fetching Frieda's.

Manfredini stated how they have two driveways, one on the side and the other has access to his garage. The minute the signs were taken down, someone parked right there in that section. Manfredini mentioned how there is potentially 2 spots by the garden area, but she wants the signs put back up to ensure that no one does park in front of their driveways. Bacidore did mention to Manfredini that the second that their driveway is blocked, they can call police and report someone blocking their drive. There is room for two spots, but it will still interfere with the garbage trucks coming in. Only room for two vehicles there anyway.

Demes and Bacidore continued to debate over when and how the garbage truck backs in to pick up the dumpsters.

Demes believes Bacidore putting in work order to remove the signs originally was illegal. He stated that alderman do not have the authority to remove "No Parking" signs. Bacidore stated that they should not have even been there. Demes states that they were there for 30+ years.

Lavieri stated there should not be parking in the diamonds. The purpose is mainly for access to property, utility easements, and garbage truck access. Lavieri suggested researching all the diamonds.

Committee agreed to adjourn and continue this diamond discussion with the full council.

There were no more questions or comments from the public.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Pro-Tem Chairman Lavieri adjourned the meeting at 6:36p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Quinn, City Clerk



NORTH UTICA POLICE DEPT

801 S. Clark Street, North Utica, Illinois 61373
Phone: (815) 667-4613 Fax: (815) 667-4569

Rodney R. Damron
Chief of Police

Exhibit 1

April 4, 2022

LaSalle City Council
Brent Bader

It has come to my attention you are having a meeting tonight to discuss reducing the speed limit on Richard Hallett Rd. I wish I could make this meeting, but I am unable to. Please present this letter to your Council during the meeting.

Reducing the speed limit from 45 MPH to 35 MPH would be a very good idea due to the area being in a residential area and as you enter North Utica Village limits the speed is 35 MPH then reduced to 30 MPH. We have received a lot of complaints from residents that live on that roadway regarding motorist traveling well over the posted limit. Most of the offenders are driving east. I am aware of a few serious traffic crashes in that area that have occurred within the past few years. North Utica Police have patrolled the area along with issuing citations and warnings for speeding and continue to do so. Most people stopped claiming they thought it was 45 MPH.

We have recently installed a solar powered radar speed sign that displays if motorist are speeding. We have noticed most of the offenders are driving eastbound into our town. We have School Bus stops along with a dangerous stop intersection at the bottom of the hill at IL 178. If you were to reduce your speed limit to match ours it would help make the roadway safer. As vehicles turn off US 6 they see a 45 MPH sign for a stretch of LaSalle roadway that is ½ mile long then they are in North Utica. We do not allow large trucks on our part of the Richard Hallett Road either.

Please take this into consideration as you make your decision.

Respectfully,


Rodney R. Damron
Chief of Police