

Special Meeting
Council Chambers
Tonawanda, New York
June 22, 2015

A Special Meeting of the Common Council

Present: Council President Zeisz

Present Councilmembers: Gilbert, Smilinich, Hall, Koch

Pledge of Allegiance and silent prayer led by Council President Zeisz

To the members of the Common Council of the City of Tonawanda, New York.

Pursuant to the power vested in me by Article II, Division 3, Section 2.048, of the City Charter of the City of Tonawanda, adopted January 1, 1998, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Tonawanda to be held at the Council Chambers in the City Hall, Tonawanda, New York, on the 22nd day of June 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Said meeting is being called for the purpose of voting on a resolution reinstating various stop signs throughout the City.

Carleton R. Zeisz
Council President

and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Usual order of business dispensed with.

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON THE RESOLUTION

Nicole Taylor, 92 Franklin Street - My son Matthew was hit on Wednesday evening at the stop sign on Franklin and Fletcher was taken down. I feel that this is a direct result of that stop sign being taken down. By the grace of somebody watching over him, he escaped with very minor injuries and as a parent I get to make choices and make better decisions and I'm hoping, (inaudible) that you guys make that choice and please put these stop signs back up for our kids. I've been driving down that road and people get up to 40, 45 mph and I'm just glad he wasn't hit at that speed. I just hope that all these stop signs do get put back up, there are people here for other locations, and I just hope that next time we don't have a fatality. I was very lucky, my son was very lucky, and my main goal is to get them reinstated.

Joseph Reboj, 39 Virginia Street ó I want to thank you for calling this special meeting, it's been an issue that's been very much on my mind since I found out about it. It's probably not the most politically correct thing to say that people tend to drive in areas (inaudible) in sort of an auto-mode where they know what to expect at various locations, and let's be honest, we're a community that's getting older. We've been here for many decades. I've been driving through here for two decades myself and I automatically know when I get to that intersection to expect cars coming from both directions, but I also automatically in my head, I'm expecting stop signs in each direction and as recently as tonight coming here, knowing full well when I got into the car what my agenda was, for just a moment if my attention was split and I pull up to that that intersection, I look, (inaudible) and a car is coming towards me. I'm not so much concerned with myself because I've been working to try and train myself to be better about that, but there are a lot of people in this community who've been driving these streets for many, many years and while I know the intention of this was to benefit the community, to try and alleviate traffic on River Road, I think that the potential for damage is extremely is an (inaudible) and I just honestly I've been very concerned about this, particularly, as you are well aware, entrance to the two thruways on Delaware and Military are shut off, that also brings more traffic through, so at a time when people you know we're forced sometimes to drive through there, even if weren't not inclined to. I didn't even know this was going on (inaudible) and I spent a while trying to figure out what benefit there was to this and I could not come up with one, so my son did some research, explained it to me

but I just, I really don't want to hear somebody being hurt or somebody being killed at one of these intersections where it's just drive my memory in a lot of cases.

Heather Sternin, 742 Fletcher Street ó I just want to say that, I know that the stop signs were taken down at the recommendation of the committee and I know there was no intent to surprise anybody, it was simply the way it happened and I just really want to thank you and commend you for your quick reaction to the people's being upset about it, I think it speaks a lot for how much you do care for our safety.

Patty ??, 91 Kohler Street ó I'm right at the corner of Fletcher and Kohler and I have not had a single night's sleep due to all the swearing and beeping and horns screeching. Especially this time of year, Kohler is how people go to Niawanda, so cars are backing up six, seven at a time at the stop sign, waiting for the cross traffic and you can't really see. If anybody's parked on the street at all, you can't see if somebody's coming. My boyfriend pulled halfway into the intersection to look. It's not a good intersection not to have a stop sign and there's not a day that goes by that I don't hear at least three or four times where people are beeping and screeching and swearing at each other so I know it was a good idea, for a good reason, but it's really not working out that well.

Heather DeNofrio, 133 Kohler Street ó I agree with everyone behind me. When you drive by habit, I've caught myself in habit, I've been here five years, stopping at Kohler and Fletcher and (inaudible). The other thing is, I have a four year old, he likes to take walks, they walk to the Broad Street playground. That's a thoroughfare. Kohler is a thoroughfare between the pool and Niawanda Park and Broad Street playground. I think they should be reinstated, I (inaudible) my neighbors that I work second shift, they agree (inaudible).

Jane Leone, 423 Morgan Street ó I live at the corner of Morgan and Franklin and the accident last week, (inaudible) a route to schools and there are lot of kids around, kids don't pay attention to traffic, so the adults should and I'm real concerned about the kids, especially on that corner because cars come racing down Fletcher even when there was a stop sign.

Brenda Dahl, 180 East Niagara Street ó I sent a letter, I don't know if any of you received it.

Council President Zeisz ó Yes.

Brenda Dahl ó Okay, well then pretty much I don't need to say anything. I really think that stop sign I understand that you guys took the stop sign down to keep traffic moving but that doesn't apply on East Niagara at all. We have two stop signs, one at the end and one that you took out, and then at Niagara Falls Blvd. And then the park, the river walk or canal walk, children are all over the place, plus there's two dead end streets there so they're just they can't even go another way because the traffic lets out at the industrial park and it just backs up. It's not fun anymore. It's always been difficult but it's even more so.

Joyce Hogenkamp, 241 Rogers Avenue ó I'm glad to see that at least one of the stop signs was put back on Rogers. In the last six years, we've had three removed, we have an elementary school that sits on one side of Rogers, we have a middle/high school complex that sits on the other side of Rogers. With what has been going on, with the stop signs being removed, I've been home for a week and trying to watch these kids cross the street was unbelievable. With the amount of traffic, with teachers trying to get to the schools, people trying to get to work, especially at the busier times, the children are having a hard time crossing the street because between Hackett and Rogers and Fletcher and Rogers, there is no stop signs whatsoever, it is a thoroughfare. I happen to be at my brothers and I explained to Councilwoman Koch, I saw a person come down Hackett, put their car up on two wheels, go around the corner from Hackett on Rogers on two wheels and floor it and her other neighbors at the other end of Rogers, öoh yeah they've had the metal to the pedal, all the way to the end because there's no stop sign there and the amount of speeding has just increased since the stop signs were removed up there. I know there is a radar device there, everybody knew it, everybody's slowed down because they were all

afraid their picture was gonna get taken and they were gonna get a ticket. That's what I heard. Since that device has been removed, it's open season up there, it's horrible not having those two stop signs there, especially at night, that's when it's the most dangerous it seems to a lot of the residents. A lot of people like me work shift work. I go in at two or three in the morning, it's bad because you never know when somebody's gonna come flying. So I appreciate that you at least put one but please keep in mind, the city has removed three in six years so it's a little scary for the kids.

Joanne Wilby, 86 Mitchell Drive ó I am probably the only person here that's in favor of removal of a stop sign. For two years, (inaudible) I respect people's concern for their children, for two and a half years, I drove from my home on Mitchell to my father's home on Moyle Avenue and I watched children cross the street in the middle of the street to Fletcher School when we have a crossing guard on the corner. So I keep hearing everything about children's safety, also I think we have to take the responsibility for our children, as our children learning to cross the street. We have a smaller population that we had before, when we had Remington Rand and Spaulding Fibre going at full speed, we did not have as many stop signs as we have right now. I understand everyone's reasons, I respect that and whatever your decision is but I think it's time that people stop seeing (inaudible) stop signs, (inaudible) ok, you stopped, I don't have to, and I'd tell you, I've been almost hit in that situation.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

171. By the Council seconded by the Council
 Resolved, that amendments to the City of Tonawanda Code, Chapter 62, Traffic and Vehicles, Section 62-158, Schedule VIII: Stop Intersections, be amended to reinstate the following:

<i><u>Stop Sign on</u></i>	<i><u>Direction of Travel</u></i>	<i><u>At Intersection of</u></i>
East Niagara Street	Both	Douglas Street
Fletcher Street	Both	Bouck Street
Fletcher Street	Both	Franklin Street
Fletcher Street	Both	Kohler Street
Lepeirs Avenue	Both	Clarence Harder Drive
Rogers Avenue	Both	Clark Street
Tussing Lane	Both	Sutley Court

Ayes: Gilbert, Smilinich, Hall, Koch, Zeisz
 Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC AFTER RESOLUTIONS

Jim Weber, 278 Fletcher Street ó I want to personally thank all five of you folks for doing the right thing. A lot of times things on paper look a lot better than what they actually are one they're implemented. Things come up, you don't always see things. Making a mistake is not a bad thing as long as you learn from mistakes and mistakes are on both sides here. People make mistakes, not coming to Common Council meeting and not being aware of what's going on. Council made a mistake of, maybe not the Council, but the Traffic Committee as far as not researching any deeper and looking at other aspects besides the speed aspect of it and so I do commend you, this is what I feel is good government when you do listen to people's concerns and you evaluate things properly and so I thank you.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCILMEMBERS AFTER RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Gilbert ó Nothing.

Councilmember Smilinich ó Nothing.

Councilmember Hall ó Nothing.

