

## Street Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
January 16, 2013  
City of Newark, Ohio

Monday January 14, 2013 the Street Committee met in Council Chambers following a meeting of the Finance Committee. These members were in attendance:

Ed Houdeshell, Chair	Ryan Bubb
Shirley Stare	Jeff Rath
Rhonda Loomis	Duke Frost
Carol Floyd	

We wish to report:

1. Nicholas Shultz, Street and Traffic Engineer, will discuss Traffic Signal Removal Studies for Garfield Avenue at Oakwood Avenue and Everett Avenue at Buena Vista Street.

**Nicholas Shultz, Street and Traffic Engineer-** discussed the traffic signal removal for Garfield Avenue at Oakwood Avenue and Everett Avenue at Buena Vista Street. He stated that we have some traffic signals that are outdated and have maintenance issues, instead of doing some costly upgrades they did studies to verify whether the signals were still warranted. The study has been done and he provided each member the executive study, if the signal is warranted they need to get the funds to put an upgraded signal there, but if not they will need to determine the appropriate intersection control, then the signal will be put on flash for 90 days. If no problems occurred the signal will then be removed.

Regarding Garfield & Oakwood Ave, it did not meet any signal warrants and it is not providing any safety or operational benefits according to the warrants. This will be treated as an all way stop for 90 days and see how that works.

Regarding Everett & Buena Vista, it doesn't meet signal warrants; they are going to restripe the intersection in an effort to make travel more efficient and safer there. They are going to need to wait until spring to do anything with that intersection. They need to do some markings but will have to wait until it warms up, then they will go through with the 90 day flashing trial period, then remove it if there aren't any issues.

**Mrs. Floyd-** stated that when two traffic lights were removed on Hudson Ave she received calls that motorists now were speeding. She was concerned the same would happen here.

**Nicholas Shultz-** advised Mrs. Floyd that he and Brian have been discussing the use of other traffic calming devices for the Everett and Buena Vista intersection.

**Mr. Rath-** inquired as to whether the lights would be able to be put into service in another location if they are removed.

**Nicholas Shultz-** no, that is one of the main issues with them, they are outdated. They don't meet any of the current standards; he was told that they have been in place since the 1940's. He said that they have issues repairing them when there are maintenance issues.

**Beau Bromberg-** stated that he felt the signal removal at Everett and Buena Vista was a good idea, he drives that every day. The issue he brought up was with Everett Ave, from the west side, he thinks that

the remarking should be re-evaluated because he thinks it is awkward since it is not straight. He stated that he has witnessed people swerving to make that turn.

**Nicholas Shultz-** stated that he noticed that as well and that they want to perhaps bring that in to make it a straight shot through the intersection.

**Ed Houdeshell-** stated that he received a lot of complaints regarding the removal of the traffic light at Garfield and Oakwood. The concern is for the school children walking to and from school.

**Bob Diebold-** stated that he was told by Gary Snavely that a four way stop requires some many stops per every 8 hours.

**Nicholas Shultz-** claimed that a signal has more stringent restriction than a four way stop. A four way stop is more of an engineering judgment.

**Mr. Guthrie-** agreed with the statement that Mr. Houdeshell was making about the school children. He asked Nicholas if they could leave the light flashing red.

**Nicholas Shultz-** stated that they would be setting the signal to flash red for 90 days and they will analyze that at the end of the period.

**Mr. Guthrie-** asked why it wouldn't be an option to leave the signal up and flashing red.

**Nicholas Shultz-** stated that it could be an option but perhaps BJ Varner would know more regarding maintenance issues with the signal.

**BJ Varner-** stated that it is possible to allow the signal to flash red, the issue is that there is 8 inch wiring in there and they are supposed to be using 12 inch, but it is a possibility.

2. Ordinance 13-01 changing the name of a portion of Gay St in Newark, Ohio; said street extending northward from East Main St, renaming said street to Merridy Way was discussed.

Brian Morehead- stated that this is a formality to make the change official, the sign has already been changed, and during the transition of the Clerk's position this was missed.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Frost

Motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Ed Houdeshell, Chair