

**MINUTES OF THE COHOES TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING HELD  
ON MONDAY JANUARY 24, 2022 IN THE COMMON COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS OF COHOES CITY HALL AT 3:10 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Johnston  
City Planner Joseph Seman-Graves  
Lieutenant John Shanahan  
Fire Chief Joseph Fahd  
Commissioner Stephen Hennessey

**ALSO PRESENT:** Theresa Flatley, Recording Secretary

**CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2021 MEETING**

Chairman Johnston asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns regarding the minutes as presented. As there were no questions, concerns or comments, Joseph Seman-Graves made a motion to approve the minutes. Chief Fahd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2021 MEETING**

Chairman Johnston asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns regarding the minutes as presented. As there were no questions, concerns or comments, Lieutenant Shanahan made a motion to approve the minutes. Joseph Seman-Graves seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER SIGNS ON  
BOTH SIDES OF SIMMONS AVENUE AT THE COLUMBIA STREET INTERSECTION**

This request was made by Councilperson William McCarthy. The Chairman stated that Councilperson McCarthy is concerned about the safety of vehicles turning from Columbia Street onto the southerly section of Simmons Avenue. Vehicles on Simmons Avenue currently park all the way to the Columbia Street intersection. When northbound Simmons Avenue vehicles are waiting for the signal to change, Columbia Street vehicles cannot satisfactorily turn off of Columbia Street onto Simmons Avenue. This failure queues traffic at the intersection and more importantly becomes a safety issue.

The Chairman's recommendation was to install *No Parking Here To Corner* signs on both the east and west sides of Simmons Avenue in accordance with Attachment "A" to the agenda.

Lieutenant Shanahan made a motion to approve the installation of *No Parking Here To Corner* signs on Simmons Avenue in accordance with Attachment "A" to the agenda.

Chief Fahd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF A RESIDENTIAL HANDICAP PARKING SIGN  
AT 27 LANCASTER STREET**

This request was submitted by Michele Wood. The Chairman stated that the application and the recommendation from the *Center for Independence* were both in order with the City's *MIRA* policy. The Chairman's recommendation was to approve the request in accordance with Attachment "B" to the agenda.

Chief Fahd made a motion to approve the request for a *Residential Handicap Parking* sign at 27 Lancaster Street in accordance with Attachment "B" to the agenda. Joseph Seman-Graves seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF NO PARKING SIGNS ON CENTRAL AVENUE**

This request was submitted by Austin Fowler of #157 Central Avenue. Mr. Fowler is requesting that parking be prohibited on the west side of Central Avenue from #158 to #168 Central Avenue. His agenda application states that his vehicle has been struck multiple times over the years from the street being too narrow.

The Chairman stated that the Police Department's research of this section of Central Avenue revealed no reported accidents in the last year. Field investigation reveals that 158 to 168 are all single family residences and all with multi-car driveways and garages. The Chairman's inspections have only revealed one vehicle ever parked on the west side in this area.

The Chairman stated that all of Central Avenue is narrow and typical of other city streets in width. Parking and truck traffic navigating the street has always been a concern of the Central Avenue residents. A meeting that was held in the past with the residents during Mayor McDonald's administration found that the residents were in favor of having a no parking prohibition on one side of the street. However, they did not want the prohibition on their side of the street and ultimately they all agreed to leave the parking and traffic navigation the way it is. This current request contradicts the past desires of the Central Avenue residents.

Based on this information, the Chairman's recommendation was to deny the request for *No Parking* signs on the west side of Central Avenue from #158 to #168.

Chief Fahd made a motion to deny the request to install *No Parking* signs on the west side of Central Avenue from #158 to #168. Lieutenant Shanahan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion to deny the request passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF NO PARKING SIGNS ON RIVER STREET  
BETWEEN ONTARIO STREET AND BRESLIN AVENUE**

This request was submitted by Councilperson Justin Alesio. The Chairman stated that Councilperson Alesio is concerned about emergency vehicle access when vehicles are parked on both sides of River Street. Field inspection reveals that parking on both sides of River Street is saturated because of the adjacent residents parking and the parked vehicles generated by both of the automotive repair businesses located on Breslin Avenue and Ontario Street. These vehicles do reduce the width to an amount that is potentially unsafe for all vehicles not just emergency vehicles. Since there are no homes on the west side of River Street, a no parking prohibition on that side would have little impact on residents.

There was discussion amongst the Members about the impact a parking prohibition would have on either side of River Street to both automotive repair businesses and the impact any potential prohibition would have on just eliminating one parking problem, but creating another one when the parked cars moved to another street.

The Members questioned if Councilperson Alesio had discussed the potential parking prohibition with the owners of the automotive businesses to determine what, if any, impact the proposed prohibition would have on their business. Since this was unknown, the Members thought it prudent to ascertain from Councilperson Alesio if he had discussed this with the business owners and the residents of this area.

Chief Fahd made a motion to table the request until receipt of answers to their concerns. Lieutenant Shanahan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion to table the request passed.

**CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF A STREET CLOSURE ON REMSEN STREET  
BETWEEN COLUMBIA AND CAYUGA STREETS**

This request was submitted by the Kyleigh Cherry of *The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York*. The closure request was to permit the *12<sup>th</sup> Annual Mac-n-Cheese Bowl* on March 26, 2022 between the hours of 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All cross streets would remain open to traffic. Chairman Johnston stated that the *Commission* has historically approved closures of streets for *City* endorsed events. The Chairman's recommendation was to again approve the request contingent on notification to *CDTA* of the proposed closures.

Chief Fahd made a motion to approve the request for the street closure of Remsen Street on March 26, 2022 between the hours of 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Joseph Seman-Graves seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Since there was no further business on the agenda, Chairman Johnston stated that because of the *President's Day* holiday, the next meeting of the *Traffic Commission* would be on February 28, 2022 at 3:00 PM.

Chairman Johnston made a motion to adjourn. Chief Fahd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:21 PM.