

Vice-Mayor Riley	Yes
Councilman Christensen	Yes
Mayor Lawless	Yes

**RESOLUTION 92-R25, A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PORT ST. LUCIE LIGHTING DISTRICT #1; AUTHORIZING THE STREET LIGHTING TO BE MADE AND PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Deputy City Clerk read the Resolution aloud by title only. The Mayor opened the public hearing. There being no appearance request forms. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Vice-Mayor Riley moved approval of Resolution 92-R25 and seconded by Councilman Christensen.

The Deputy Clerk restated the motion as follows: Motion is for approval of Resolution 92-R25 made by Vice-Mayor Riley and seconded by Councilman Christensen.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Councilman Davis	Yes
Councilman Christensen	Yes
Councilman Kramer	Yes
Vice-Mayor Riley	Yes
Mayor Lawless	Yes

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SPEED STUDY**

Mr. Frank Blackwell, Acting City Manager, introduced Mr. Gil Louthian, Traffic Engineer who would make the presentation on the speed study.

Mr. Louthian stated that some time ago this study was recommended to check the speeds on the local streets to identify and recommend measures that would reduce the speeding on local streets. Some of the recommendations which he would like to see implemented would be: 1) All residential speed limits to be posted at not less than 30 mph as set forth in the State Statutes. 2) All collector roads be posted at 35 mph unless some type of problem should lower speed requirements. 3) All arterial roads be posted at 40 mph unless a study would indicate a lower speed is required. It is also recommended to use wherever possible, stop signs and yield signs to prevent excessive speeding along residential street sections. He said that he did not, however, at this time recommend the use of speed bumps in any of the city local streets, especially in any of the city's arterials or collectors due to the possible liability the city could be subjected to.

Councilman Kramer inquired whether he should assume that their intention is to go around and change the signs or the city is to keep the existing signs? He also pointed out that the cost of doing this change would be quite expensive and asked Mr. Louthian for an estimated cost if this was to be done. Mr. Louthian stated that it would cost approximately \$400,000 to change the speed limit signs from 30 to 25 mph (as each street would have to be posted separately). He pointed out that there are over 5,000 intersections in this city and each direction within that intersection would have to be posted. Councilman Kramer asked for the cost of the sign change over from 30 to 25 mph at Kilpatrick Street. Mr. Louthian stated that it would cost approximately \$100 per sign.

Vice-Mayor Riley stated that if this Ordinance or Resolution would pass (the study would be effective by way of Resolution or Ordinance), he would like to have some dialogue with residents of each sector being directly affected by the traffic that passes through their neighborhood. If only two corners were being posted at an intersection, making one street a stop street, in talking with the neighbors, he suggested they do the right one and not the one we think is the right one. Mr. Louthian stated that normally, if they were to do that, traffic counts would be taken on the street to assure which street is the through street. The manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices firmly states that stop signs should not be used for speed control. They should be used to stop traffic on the lesser traveled roadway. Vice-Mayor Riley concurred with the findings in the manual, but urged further dialogue with the residents.

Councilman Davis stated that the portion of that manual which he did not agree with was the establishment of speed limits based on what speed 85% of the drivers are driving at. The City came to the conclusion that traffic wasn't moving on Port St. Lucie Boulevard as it was a 2 lane street, and the speed limit was raised to help that problem. He opined that there is an evident speeding problem on Port St. Lucie Boulevard today as a result of this. Mr. Louthian agreed with Councilman Davis, but stated that as a part of the study this was a recommended criteria. Councilman Davis stated that the F.D.O.T. tried that with U. S. #1 and when a reduction was solicited, they did find a way to bring it down from 55 mph to 45 mph in effect today.

Mr. Frederick Cook was called to the lectern and addressed the council with a recommendation that if the speed is going to be regulated, it must be done uniformly throughout the entire city. The attitudes from auto commercials contributes to the speeding problems. He said that another situation he would like to see curtailed is people speeding up behind others and forcing them to speed on the roads, i.e., "if you are not doing 50-55 mph on portions of Port St. Lucie Boulevard, you will be pushed out of the way by the people who want to go that speed and they should

not be allowed to do it in the first place." He recommended regulating the speed limits uniformly throughout the city.

Mr. Robert Cruz was called to the lectern. He stated that he has specifics to present to council and requested that Essex Drive be specifically included in the speed study. This area of Essex Drive has been the topic of several news items. It has been referred to as the Essex Speedway. This route has been recommended as a means of getting around the bottleneck on Port St. Lucie Boulevard from Bayshore to Floresta. Some Essex Drive residents felt the columns promote speeding on their road and are afraid that a serious and fatal accident might occur someday. There are children riding skate boards, bicycles, and adults jogging, pushing strollers with babies and taking pets for a walk. He recommended council place limited access as done at Whitmore and also more lighting is required in the area. There is a street lighting petition going around by the residents. He requested going on record as requesting that the area known as Essex Speedway (Essex Drive) be placed on the speed study. He also requested feedback on this from council.

Mayor Lawless informed Mr. Cruz that the speed study was done at the request of Mr. Charles Hill and a group of residents from Sandpiper. This was one of the reasons Mr. Louthian entered into the speed study throughout the city and inquired of Mr. Louthian if this was one of the streets taken into consideration. Mr. Cruz stated that according to the columns this was not one of the streets or areas mentioned. Mr. Louthian stated that originally, when Port St. Lucie Boulevard was constructed, they did have a problem with traffic control in that area, but that police curbed the problem. Mr. Cruz stated that he had specifically requested that this area be monitored more closely in two instances and has never received feedback. He stated that he inquired and was bounced around between the traffic control section and the police offices.

Councilman Kramer also mentioned Seafury being used as a speedway. Mr. Louthian stated that he did not have information on Seafury and had done work in that area on Shipping and Shelter Drive in the Midport Area. Councilman Kramer stated that he questioned the various streets to make sure they had done the right study and wanted to be sure.

Mr. Cruz reiterated that if there is going to be a study done for specific areas, he is requesting that Essex Drive be placed on that study and also requested feedback on when that study will be commencing and what streets will be studied. Vice-Mayor Riley requested that Mr. Louthian add Essex Drive to that study. Mr. Louthian stated that he can do that.

Mr. Bill Petti was called to the lectern. He stated that due to the sad and unexpected accidental death of Officer Mahan, on behalf of the citizens of this city he requests that Mayor Law-

less and City Council first direct the City Manager to start immediate negotiations for the installation of overhead lighting one half mile south and one half mile north of Route #1 at the intersection of Port St. Lucie Boulevard and Mariposa Road. This is a very dangerous intersection. Port St. Lucie is no longer a small spot on a major highway. He stressed the importance of safety and security for our city and its residents. Also, he requested that the City Manager be directed to limit the speed in that intersection (1 Mile North & 1 Mile South) to 35 mph. He said that in his travels he has seen that while driving and approaching a city the speed is immediately reduced to 35 or 40 mph. He also requested that a radar system be installed in that section to catch speeders.

Mr. Petti stated that he has observed that intersection for some time and had there been overhead lighting, we would not have lost a wonderful friend. He stated that he cannot stress the importance those overhead lights have and it is imperative that in any community the number one priority is safety and security of the public.

Mr. Charles Hill stated that he is on the Board of the Sandpiper Bay Homeowners Association and a resident of that area for nine years. He said that each year he is approached by a member and asked what is being done about Westmoreland. He also mentioned that outsiders (not residents of the Sandpiper Area) found out that there is a shortcut by using Westmoreland. This has become a real hazard. People do not feel comfortable and safe walking down Westmoreland due to the speeding and how close some cars come to the pedestrian. He stated that the Board had asked him to meet with the Police Department regarding the speed limits in that area. He thanked Chief Reynolds and Asst. Chief Reuther for their assistance. Westmoreland had been reduced to 30 mph (they'd prefer 25 mph), then reflectors were placed on Gowin which made it look like a highway going from someplace to nowhere and they felt the same about Morningside Boulevard. Morningside north of PSL Blvd. to Lyngate 25 mph, and south of PSL Blvd., it is 35 mph; this does not make sense. He asked Council to have a study done and reduce Westmoreland to 30 mph and Gowin and all other streets to be placed at 25 mph. He stated that their major concern is the amount of youngsters in the area and asked if they had to wait until a child is killed or badly injured before something is done. Mr. Hill stated that he has taken all the steps which lead him to Council (1 year and 3 months later) to request they take his request and give it serious consideration.

Councilman Davis informed the assembly that he would like to make it clear that this was presented to council as an informative report and no action was to be taken at this meeting by council. A meeting will be held on this subject at a later date. He concurred that in his district there are specific situations that do not necessarily lend themselves going over with the recommended overall 35 mph limit. There are additional areas in the zone

Mr. Hill spoke of that require looking into. There will be a new school opening in several months and they need to look at the school zone as it currently exists on Port St. Lucie Boulevard and extending it south on Morningside. It would be preferable to make the entire area between Morningside and Gowin a school zone. Some areas in the city will have to be looked at independently to determine speed zones.


Mayor Lawless stated that Mr. Hill could expect that this issue will be discussed at the next meeting or the following and he will be notified of all the particulars.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business or discussions the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Elizabeth A. Farrell, Deputy City Clerk



Gloria I. Delgado, Deputy City Clerk

