

**CITY OF RUSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00PM City Clerk Grams called the Regular Council Meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Jim Hedrick, Lyle Hardin, Deb Kristovich and Bradley Huson. Councilmember Syler and Mayor Hopkins were excused. Councilmember Hardin moved to elect Councilmember Hedrick as Mayor Pro Tem, with a second by Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0. Councilmember Hardin moved to approve the agenda, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hardin moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting of April 16, 2019, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORT – Nothing at this time.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Lesley Brook – Presented comments on hazardous driving conditions on N. Court Street between Baltimore and Bennett Streets. See attached.

BUSINESS – Nothing at this time.

PAYROLL – Councilmember Hardin moved to approve Payroll, with a second from Councilmember Kristovich, passed 4-0.

MAYOR’S TIME – Was excused.

COUNCIL TIME –

Councilmember Hedrick – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Hardin – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Kristovich – Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Syler – Was excused.

Councilmember Huson – So that the City could find a resolution related to the hazardous driving concerns on Court Street between Baltimore and Bennett Streets, Councilmember Huson asked Ms. Brook to send an email to Mayor Hopkins and all Councilmembers.

Councilmember Huson wanted everyone to know about his terrible experience with a company called Appliance HD. Councilmember Huson's dryer broke down three weeks ago and in search of an appliance repair company Councilmember Huson googled "appliance repair". The first company that appeared was Appliance HD. Councilmember Huson contacted Appliance HD by phone and gave them a sixty-dollar deposit using his Visa card. A technician came to diagnose the problem and explained the cost of repair, for which Councilmember Huson paid in cash. The technician disassembled the dryer taking parts and said he would come back the next day to fix the dryer. Two weeks and many calls to the company, Councilmember Huson had not received a response. The technician never returned so Councilmember Huson ended up fixing the problem himself. Councilmember Huson is disputing the sixty dollars paid on his Visa card, was out all the cash he paid, along with parts that the technician took with him, rendering the dryer worthless. Councilmember Huson would not recommend using Appliance HD. The moral of the story is if you can fix it yourself you should do it yourself and not rely on other people.

MEETING AJOURNED -

At 7:16PM Councilmember Hardin moved to adjourn. with a second from Councilmember Kristovich passed 4-0.

Mayor Bruce Hopkins

ATTEST:

Judy Grams

COMMENTS ON HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS ON COURT STREET BETWEEN BALTIMORE AND BENNETT STREETS (which I'll call Court Street)

1. Between 3/18/14 and 4/12/16, Carol Spier represented the majority of residents of the Court Street cul-de-sac west of Bennett Street in expressing concerns about the limited sight distance on Court Street.

2. When I moved here in 1999, this part of Court Street was one way from east to west (Baltimore to Bennett). Later, installation of a Dead End sign at the beginning of the cul-de-sac reduced, but did not eliminate drivers continuing to the dead end. They would speed out.

At some time during construction of the homes on Stack Hill, the Court Street's one way direction was reversed, from west to east (Bennett to Baltimore).

On 3/18/14, the council's agenda included turning Court Street into a two way street. As a result, Carol Spier submitted the concerns of the cul-de-sac residents about the hazardous condition created by vehicles parked on both sides of the road, two way traffic and a limited sight distance for now single lane traffic.

During 2018, or could have been 2017, N. 51st Street was temporarily closed from the roundabout at Bennett, west up the hill of N. 51st Street. This caused an increase of traffic on Winnifred which turned

*Lyle Hardin, Jim Hedrick
Two council members responded, and in fact Jim Hedrick agreed there was a problem alright*

east on Commercial Street, to reach the waterfront. Temporary signs went up on Commercial alerting drivers to children playing in the area and a reduction of speed to 20 m.p.h.

Subsequently, the speed on Commercial was permanently reduced to 20 m.p.h. and Limited Sight Distance signs were erected at the east end of Commercial, approaching its intersection with Baltimore, *somewhat parallel w/ Court St*.

We appreciate residents being consulted about an issue but we believe this to be a traffic safety issue where there are guidelines set out as to how to assess and fix.

There is a hierarchy of safety in industry but which also applies to traffic engineering.

1. Eliminate the hazard; (return to one way)
2. Substitution of less hazardous options; (eliminate parking on one side of the road)
3. Use of engineering controls; (not applicable)
4. Warnings of hazards for users (limited sight distance & reduced speed limit).

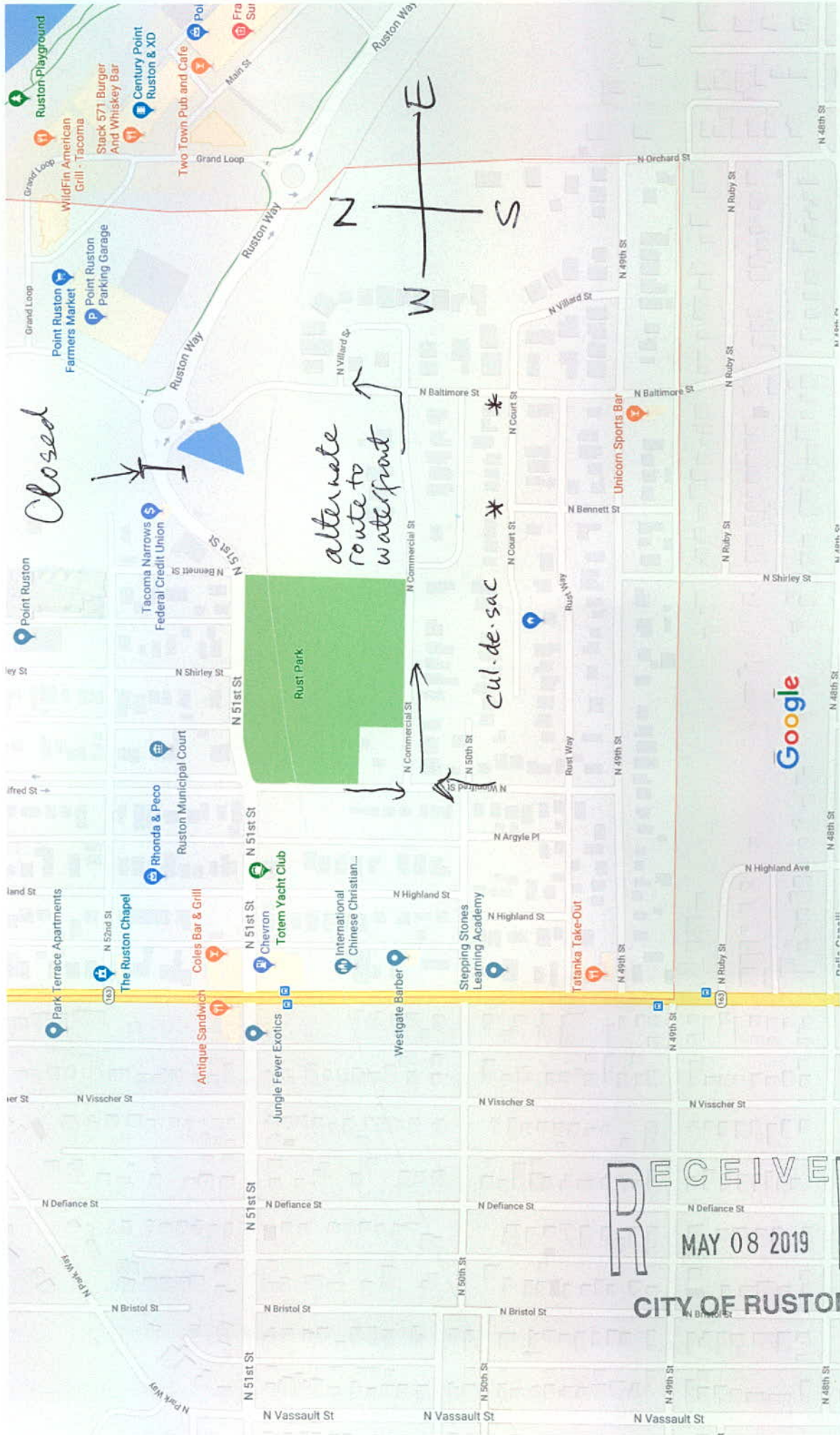
Looking back, there must have been a reason for this part of Court Street to have been designated one way.

My concerns are two-fold.

1. No resolution to the concerns which were raised starting in March of 2014 by the cul-de-sac residents;

2. Installation of limited sight distance signs on Commercial, which is much wider than Court Street/subject road, as well as the reduced 20 mph signage, assuming this was addressing a hazardous or hazardous conditions not too dissimilar to the ones we have raised.

Google Maps Ruston

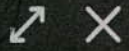


Examples of Hazard Control Hierarchy

OSHA Hierarchy of Controls

Hierarchy of Controls Examples

Safety Controls Hierarchy during Incident



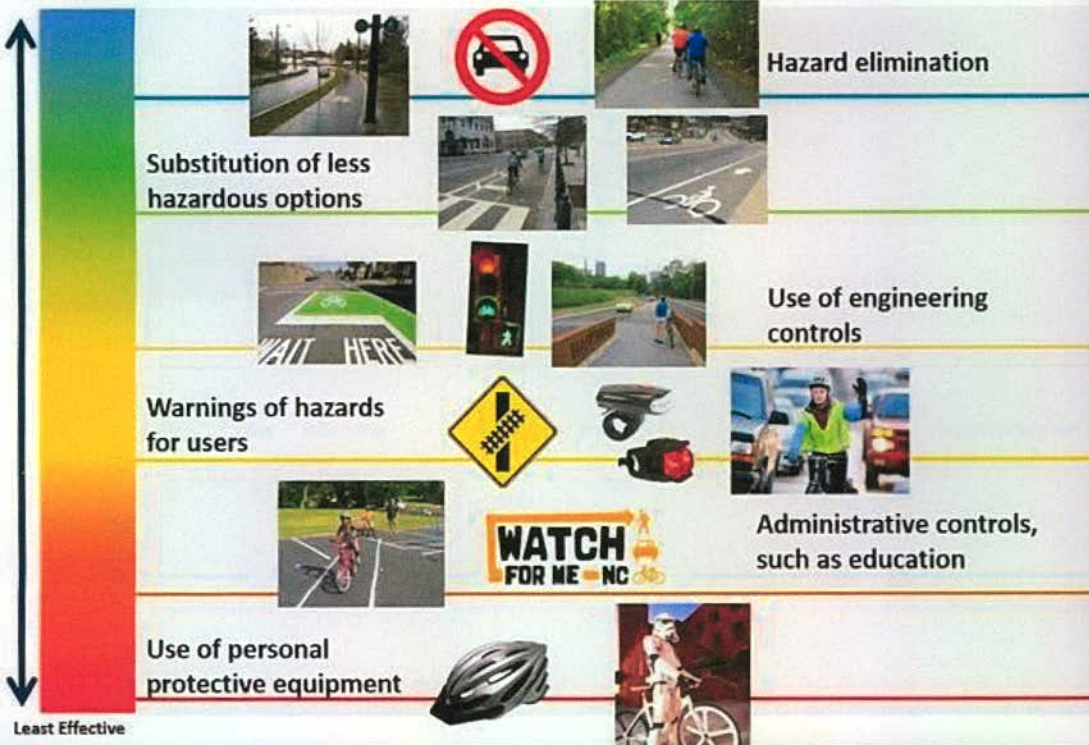
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The Hazard Control Hierarchy

Most Effective



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