February 22, 2011 , City Council Meeting

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Jacqueline D. Fields, PE

Request:

Consideration to adopt the proposed Ordinance repealing Twin Falls City Code §9-4-4 regulating U-turns.

Time Estimate:

The staff presentation will take approximately 2 minutes.

Background:

The City Code regulating u-turns is confusing and cumbersome.

9-4-4: RIGHT, LEFT AND U TURNS PROHIBITED:

The City is authorized to determine those intersections at which drivers of vehicles shall not make a right, left or U turn and shall place proper signs at such intersections. The making of such turns may be prohibited between certain hours of any twenty four (24) hour period and permitted at any other hours, in which event the same shall be plainly indicated on the signs, or they may be removed when such turns are permitted.

U turns shall not be permitted at intersections equipped with stop lights and at intersections where the disallowance of a U turn is indicated by means of signs. U turns are not allowed except at intersections. Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right or left or U turn is permitted, no driver of a vehicle shall disobey the directions of any such sign. There shall be no U turn allowed at any intersection of a through street as defined in this Code. (1958 Code, Ch. IX, Art. 5)

The driver of any vehicle shall not turn such vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any street and no vehicle shall be turned on any street unless such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1958 Code, Ch. IX, Art. 5; amd. 1978 Code)

Except as herein otherwise provided, vehicles when approaching or entering an intersection at approximately the same time shall look out for and give the right of way to vehicles on their right. (1958 Code, Ch. IX, Art. 5)

The Code disallows u-turns except at intersections. Poleline and Washington St. n has u-turn “pockets” that do not conform to existing City Code.

Staff presented a request to the Traffic Safety Commission requesting a recommendation to repeal the Code and utilize State Code:

49-645. LIMITATIONS ON TURNING AROUND. (1) The driver of any vehicle shall not turn the vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction unless such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with other traffic.
(2) No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, where the vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of any other

vehicle approaching from either direction within five hundred (500) feet, or where a no-passing zone has been established.

The state law regulated u-turns based on sight distance and is easy to understand and enforce. It meets the needs of the City. When the Traffic Safety Commission met on February 10, 2011, it concurred and recommends that the Council consider repealing the ordinance

Approval Process:

This Ordinance requires Council approval and the Mayor's signature.

Budget Impact:

None.

Regulatory Impact:

Repealing this section of the Code will make enforcement of the driving laws more consistent with the State of Idaho and may be easier for the driver to understand.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends adopting the proposed ordinance as presented.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance No.
2. Minutes of the TSC

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, REPEALING TWIN FALLS CITY CODE §9-4-4.

WHEREAS, The Traffic Safety Commission has reviewed the provisions of Twin Falls City Code §9-4-4 regulating u-turns, and has recommended that the entire section be repealed, in lieu of the regulations already contained in state traffic laws, in Idaho Code §49-645 (limitations on turning around) and §49-801 (obedience to traffic control devices).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO:

That Twin Falls City Code §9-4-4 is hereby repealed.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, 2011.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR , 2011.

_____
MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

DAVE SNELSON	MARY BRAND	KIRK BROWER	REBECCA DUKE	PAIGE GESKE	ROD MATHIS	ROB STORM
Chairman						***Co-Chairman***

Minutes

Meeting of the Twin Falls Traffic Safety Commission
February 10, 2011
City Council Chambers
305 3rd Avenue East Twin Falls, Idaho

CONFIRMATION OF QUOROM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: 9:00 A.M.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

AGENDA ITEMS	Purpose	By:
I. CONSENT CALENDAR: 1. Consideration of the Minutes for January 13, 2011.		
II. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION: None 1. Update on Application Process for New Members 2. Nominations for Jim Mildon Award 3. Discussion of "No right turn on red light" signs East on Filer at Locust 4. Zip line for the Canyon Springs Grade 5. Discussion of City Ordinance on U-turns	 Discussion Discussion Discussion Discussion Discussion	 SSgt. Dennis Pullin SSgt. Dennis Pullin Dave Snelson Jackie Fields SSgt. Dennis Pullin
III. PUBLIC HEARINGS None		
IV. ADJOURNMENT 9:58 A.M.		Dave Snelson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kirk Brower, Rob Storm, Dave Snelson, Rebecca Duke, Rod Mathis, Paige Geske

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Brand

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Sergeant Dennis Pullin, Traffic Technician Mike Sullivan, Recording Secretary Tina Kelley City Council Liaison Greg Lanting

Chairman Dave Snelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Consideration of the Minutes for January 13, 2011.

MOTION:
Rob Storm made the motion to approve the Minutes for December 9, 2011. The motion was seconded by Rod Mathis and roll call vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion. It was approved 6 to 0.

II. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Update on the application process for new members. Sgt. Pullin advised the application was closed on February 9, 2011. There have been several applicants that have applied and a small board will be in place to interview the applicants.

2. Nominations for Jim Mildon Award. All nominations should be in by the next meeting so the Award can be finalized.

3. Discussion of "No Right Turn on Red Light" signs East on Filer at Locust. Jackie Fields and Mike Sullivan will look into different possibility for the sign. A couple suggestions for that intersection, was to move the sign on the light post another was to change it to a figurative sign.

4. Discussion of Traffic Safety on the road going down the canyon, if the Zip line becomes approved for the Canyon Springs Grade. Jackie Field gave some background on where the Zip line is to be placed if approved, and where the vehicles would have to park.

   MOTION:
   A motion was made by Rob Storm not to oppose the project on grounds of traffic safety. Rod Mathis 2nd the motion. Everyone in attendance was in favor.

5. Discussion of the City Ordinance on U-Turns. The city ordinance states that u-turns are not allowed at a lighted controlled intersection, and the city has a couple controlled intersections with signs stating that we do allow U-turns on lighted intersections.

   MOTION:
   A motion was made by Rob Storm to eliminate the Twin Falls City U-turn code and adopt the state code and if wanting to amend that due to it being out of date you could. Rod Mathis 2nd the motion. Everyone in attendance was in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

III. <u>PUBLIC HEARINGS</u>: None.

IV. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m. by Chairman Dave Snelson.

Tina Kelley
Recording Secretary