

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Leland Carlson at 6:00 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Leland Carlson, Chairman
Mr. Dock Ward
Lieutenant Walter Felton, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Colin Belle, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Alderman Teena Newburg, 9th Ward
Mr. Tim Morris, Rockford Fire Department

Also Present

Alderman Frank Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Larry Robertson, 1127 Preston Street, 61102
Mr. Timothy Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on July 9, 2014 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Greg Kostantacos of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, to establish a “3 Hour Parking” parking restriction on both sides of North 5th Street from State Street to Jefferson Street, thus repealing the “2 Hour Parking” restriction. (J. Carter discussed that request would not have large impact on the parking system in the area. Commission recommended establishing a “3 Hour Parking” parking restriction on both sides of North 5th Street from State Street to Jefferson Street, thus repealing the “2 Hour Parking” restriction. Motion by W. Felton, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)
2. Request in the 5th Ward, by Alderman Venita Hervey, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the east side of Clifton Avenue from Pond Street to South Main Street. (Commission discussed the volume of cars on Clifton Avenue and that cars are parking in the drive lane. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the east side of Clifton Avenue from Pond Street to South Main Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 7-0)

3. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Alderman Thomas McNamara, to repeal the “1 Hour” parking restriction on the east side of 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking on 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street. (Commission discussed both repealing of “1 Hour” parking restriction and “Residential Parking” at the same time. J. Carter state this request came from a Neighborhood meeting and originally there had been more traffic in the area, but the Millennium Center now generated less traffic and need for parking. Commission recommended repealing the “1 Hour” parking restriction on the east side of 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking on 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)
4. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Alderman Thomas McNamara, to repeal the “Residential Parking” restriction on the east side of 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking on 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street. (Commission discussed both repealing of “1 Hour” parking restriction and “Residential Parking” at the same time. J. Carter stated this request came from a Neighborhood meeting and originally there had been more traffic in the area, but the Millennium Center now generated less traffic and need for parking. Commission recommended repealing the “Residential Parking” restriction on the east side of 1st Street from Oak Street to 200’ N of Oak Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)
5. Request in the 10th Ward, by Alderman Franklin Beach and Tracy Lersch, to repeal the “2 Hour Parking” restriction on 21st Street from 8th Avenue to 9th Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (J. Carter discussed that this parking restriction was in a residential neighborhood and the business that required the restriction is apparently no longer in the area. Commission recommended repealing the “2 Hour Parking” restriction on 21st Street from 8th Avenue to 9th Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 7-0)
6. Request in the 11th Ward, from City Staff, to establish “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of 7th Street and 2nd Avenue. (J. Carter discussed proposed project along 7th Street to install new street lighting. He explained as part of that project City staff had looked at the need to continue traffic signals along the corridor. According to the engineering study, signals were no longer warranted at all intersections along 7th Street from 2nd Avenue to 6th Avenue and the City planned to remove the signals. City Staff was asking to replace the signals with all-way stops at three intersections and 2 way stops at two others. Commission recommended establishing “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of 7th Street and 2nd Avenue. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 7-0)

7. Request in the 11th Ward, from City Staff, to establish “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of 7th Street and 4th Avenue. (Commission recommended establishing “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of 7th Street and 4th Avenue. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 7-0)
8. Request in the 11th Ward, from City Staff, to establish “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of 7th Street and 5th Avenue. (Commission recommended establishing “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of 7th Street and 5th Avenue. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 7-0)
9. Request in the 11th Ward, by Crusader Clinic and the Broadway Business District Association, to repeal the time restriction for parking in Municipal Parking Lot 26, near 8th Street and 13th Avenue, thus establishing unrestricted parking. (Commission discussed that Crusader Clinic needed more time than the “2 and 3 Hour” parking restrictions allowed for some of its patients. J. Carter stated that the lot was severely underutilized and he did not anticipate this being a problem for the local businesses and this was supported by the local businesses association. Commission recommended repealing the “2 Hour” and “3 Hour” Parking” restrictions in Municipal Parking Lot 26, thus establishing unrestricted parking. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 7-0)

The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the following items:

1. Request in the 10th Ward, by Alderman Franklin Beach and Palmwood Neighborhood Group, to establish an all way stop at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and Westchester Avenue, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Greenwood Avenue stopping for Westchester Avenue. (*Laid Over from July Traffic Commission Meeting*) (Alderman Beach discussed that the neighborhood group near Highland Park and their concern about speeding traffic and large amount of children at the park. Commission discussed that both intersections had a low accident history and low traffic volumes for an all-way stop. Commission discussed that unwarranted stop signs were not the answer to the problem of people speeding around park and that there was a Park Speed Limit on Roland already. Alderman Beach led a discussion about temporary and permanent traffic calming devices and method if stop signs could not be approved. J. Carter stated he would work with the Alderman on some solutions and recommended placing Park Zone Speed Limits around Highland Park. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 7-0)
2. Request in the 10th Ward, by Alderman Franklin Beach and Palmwood Neighborhood Group, to establish an all way stop at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and Roland Avenue, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Greenwood Avenue stopping for Roland Avenue. (*Laid Over from July Traffic Commission Meeting*) (Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 7-0)

3. Request in the 13th Ward, by Alderman Linda McNeely, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the north side of Preston Street from South Avon Street to South Independence Avenue. (J. Carter explained that there is actually an ordinance in place for No Parking on the north side of Preston from Avon Street to Waldo Street. Mr. Robertson discussed that he has been in his house since 1967 and when Preston Street was expanded his residence lost its driveway. He also stated he would not be able to park in front of his house. Commission discussed that the road is 4 lanes wide and appears to have less than two lanes worth of traffic. Commission discussed that they could only take No Action on portion from Waldo Street to Central Street and should consider repealing No Parking Ordinance next month. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 7-0)
4. Request in the 5th Ward, from City Staff, to establish a “No parking Any Time” restriction on the east side of Buchanan Street from Loomis Street to Morgan Street. (Commission discussed the request was to try to stop citizens from driving over the new field to the river for fishing. Commission discussed if the “No Parking” restriction would actually stop people. It was originally moved and seconded to approve the restriction but the motion was defeated 3 to 4. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 4-3)
5. Request in the 6th Ward, by Gregory Raffery, 603 Kennon Road, to establish “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of Kennon Road and Foley Street. (Commission discussed low accident history and low traffic volume. Commission discussed that intersection had clear sight lines. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM. Motion by C. Belle, seconded by W. Felton.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

September 10, 2014 6:00 PM.

Rockford City Hall
425 East State Street
2nd floor, Conference Room A

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy A. Carter, P.E.
Recording Secretary