

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, September 10, 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. Fred Lierman
Mr. Dock Ward
Alderman Teena Newburg, 9th Ward
Lieutenant Walter Felton, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Tim Morris, Rockford Fire 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

Also Present

Mr. Steven Soderberg, 222 18th Avenue, 61104
Mr. Andy Capone, 2115 Clinton Street, 61103
Mr. Terry Carbaugh, 2040 Clinton Street, 61103
Mr. Wally Koch, 1911 Clinton Street, 611003
Mr. Timothy Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on August 13, 2014 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 5th ward, by Steven Soderberg, 222 18th Avenue, to repeal the “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of 18th Avenue from Seminary Street to 200’ west of Seminary Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking on 18th Avenue from Seminary Street to 200’ west of Seminary Street. (Mr. Soderberg discussed that he was owner of a business at the intersection 18th Avenue and Seminary Street. He stated that he felt the restriction was no longer needed. G. Wilson discussed that the ordinance was originally done to limit bus drivers from parking personal vehicles there all day. J. Carter stated that the request was to remove the “1 Hour” Parking restriction. Commission recommended repealing the “1 Hour” parking restriction on the north side of 18th Avenue from Seminary Street to Christina Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0)

2. Request in the 13th Ward, by City Staff to repeal the parking restriction on the north side of Preston Street from South Avon Street to Waldo Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Commission discussed that the ordinance had been in place since the late 50's and there had not been signs up for many years. Commission discussed that a resident had come in in August and discussed the removal of the ordinance. Commission recommended repealing "No Parking Any Time" restriction on the north side of Preston Street from South Avon Street to Waldo Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 10-0)
3. Request in the 11th ward, by Alderman Karen Elyea and Al Nelson, to repeal the "1 Hour" parking restriction on both sides of 18th Avenue from 7th Street to 9th Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking on both sides of 18th Avenue from 7th Street to 9th Street. (Commission discussed that ordinance was established when National Lock Building was busy so employees would park in parking lot. Commission recommended repealing the "1 Hour" parking restriction on both sides of 18th Avenue from 7th Street to 9th Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking on both sides of 18th Avenue from 7th Street to 9th Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 10-0)
4. Request in the 11th ward, by Alderman Karen Elyea, to repeal the "1 Hour" parking restriction on the east side of 7th Street from 18th Avenue to 19th Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking on the east side of 7th Street from 18th Avenue to 19th Avenue. (Commission discussed that ordinance was established when National Lock Building was busy so employees would park in parking lot. Commission recommended repealing the "1 Hour" parking restriction on the east side of 7th Street from 18th Avenue to 19th Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking on the east side of 7th Street from 18th Avenue to 19th Avenue. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 10-0)
5. Request in the 11th Ward, by City Staff to repeal the time restriction for parking in Municipal Parking Lot 20, near 7th Street and 1st Avenue, thus establishing unrestricted parking. (Commission discussed that this was requested by the business owners and residents of the area. Commission recommended repealing the "2 Hour" parking restriction in Municipal Parking Lot 20, near 7th Street and 1st Avenue, thus establishing unrestricted parking. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0)
6. Request from Alderman Venita Hervey, 5th Ward and Alderman Thomas McNamara, 3rd Ward to amend Chapter 16 Section 131(b) and Section 188(b) of the City of Rockford Code of Ordinances. (J. Carter explained that currently per ordinance if a person receives a handicap parking ticket but had a placard that had not been displayed the \$250 ticket would be waved but the person would get a \$50 ticket for failure to properly display a valid placard. J. Carter explained that Aldermen Hervey and McNamara were looking to reduce the fine to \$20 and forgive the 1st offence in any 12 month period. Commission recommended accepting these changes to the ordinance. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-1)

7. Request from City Staff to amend Chapter 16 Section 190.1 of the City of Rockford Code of Ordinances. (J. Carter discussed the intent of this change was to reduce the enforcement for program 2 residential parking permits nears schools to normal school days only. Commission recommended accepting these changes to the ordinance. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 10-0)

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

1. Request in the 12th Ward, by Debbie Orput, 2130 Clinton Street, to repeal the “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the east side of Clinton Street from Ellis Street to Brown Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking on the east side of Clinton Street from Ellis Street to Brown Avenue. (Mr. Capone and Mr. Carbaugh both stated they are against the change to the ordinance. Mr. Carbaugh thanked the members of the Commission for the time they volunteer. Commission discussed that of the 43 surveys sent out 28 came back do not change and 1 for the repeal. Commission also discussed that that the road was narrow and parking on both sides could impact fire trucks. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 10-0)
2. 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. (Item was referred back to Commission by Codes and Regulation Committee) (J. Carter discussed that after the August Traffic Commission the neighborhood decided they did not want the restriction. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0)
3. Request in the 6th Ward, by Alexander Wlodarz, 3802 Carrolton Ct, to establish “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of Linden Road and Ashwinton Way. (Commission discussed that there does not appear to be a sight issue at the intersection and there is a low traffic volume and no history of accidents. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by C. Belle. Voted 10-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by J. Carter.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

October 8, 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