

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Leland Carlson at 6:01 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Leland Carlson, Chairman
Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman
Sargent Mark Jacobi, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Jeff Kloweit, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Dock Ward
Alderman Teena Newburg, 9th Ward

Also Present

Ms. Julie Edwards, 208 N Madison Street #6, 61107
Ms. Catherine Forslund, 208 N Madison Street #4, 61107
Mr. John Manis, 208 North Madison Street #5, 61107
Mrs. Nancy Kalchbrenner, 3702 Fairway Place, 61107
Mr. Jerry Kortman, 913 North Main Street, 61103
Mrs. Sandi Tower, 4115 Harmony Circle, 61107
Ms. Cathy McClure, 423 Crosby Street, 61107

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on September 10, 2014 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 12th ward, by Stacy Dye, 3403 Ridge Avenue, to establish “All Way Stop” control at the intersection of Halsted Road and Ridge Avenue, thus repealing the existing Ridge Avenue stopping for Halsted Road. (Commission discussed accident history and large volume of vehicles going north bound on Ridge Avenue. Commission recommended establishing an all way stop at the intersection of Halsted and Ridge Avenue, thus repealing the existing Ridge Avenue stopping for Halsted Road. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)

2. Request in the 10th Ward, from Alderman Frank Beach, to establish traffic control of Crosby Street stopping for Eastridge Drive. (Mrs. Tower and Ms. McClure both spoke about speeding issues on Eastridge Drive since parking was restricted on one side. They asked for a yield sign on Eastridge Drive. Commission discussed that per State Law, Crosby Street needed to yield to Eastridge Drive, due to the “T” intersection. Commission recommended establishing stop control of Crosby Street Stopping for Eastridge Drive. Motion by M. Jacobi, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)
3. Request in the 3rd Ward from Kirk Dyreson, 419 Market Street, and Stephanie Ingram, 514A East State Street to establish residential permit parking in Lot 30 near the intersection of 2nd Street and Market Street. (J. Carter stated that there was enough room to allow residential parking in Lot 30. Commission recommended establishing residential permit parking in Lot 30 near the intersection of 2nd Street and Market Street. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)
4. Request in the 3rd Ward from City Staff to establish parking restriction of “No Parking Monday to Friday 7:30am to 3:30pm on the north side of Hill Street from 130’ west of Madison Street to 215’ west of Madison Street. (J. Carter stated this can at the request of a local business owner, who was having problems with trucks using his docks due to people parking along Hill Street. J. Carter stated that city staff was working with the business owner and thought this restriction would help with the issue and that there was plenty of parking for the Brew House. Commission recommended establishing a parking restriction of “No Parking Monday to Friday 7:30am to 3:30pm on the north side of Hill Street from 130’ west of Madison Street to 215’ west of Madison Street. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)
5. Request in the 3rd Ward from Mike Grisanzio, Capri Restaurant, to establish fifteen (15) “3 Hour” parking spaces in Lot 2 near the intersection of Walnut Street and Madison Street. (J. Carter discussed that Lot 2 is underutilized and the change in time limit for 15 spaces would not have large impact on parking in the area. Commission recommended establishing fifteen (15) “3 Hour” parking spaces in the second row from Walnut Street in Lot 2 near the intersection of Walnut Street and Madison Street Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 7-0)

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

1. Request in the 3rd Ward from Tom Michalowski, Rockford Rotary Club to establish a “2 Hour” parking restriction on the west side of Main Street from Mulberry Street to Jefferson Street, thus repealing the existing “1 Hour” parking restriction on the west side of Main Street from Mulberry Street to Jefferson Street. (Mrs. Kalchbrenner stated she was the new Rockford Rotary Club president and she stated she did not support the change due to impact and opinions of surrounding businesses. She asks if she could work with staff on solutions to parking issues in the area for 2 hours on Thursday morning. J. Carter stated he would work with her. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 7-0)

The Traffic Commission lay over the following items:

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of Market Street and North Madison Street, thus repealing the existing Market Street stopping for North Madison Street. (Ms. Edwards, Ms. Fordland, and Mr. Manis, all discussed their difficulties crossing Madison Street at Market Street due to traffic. J. Carter discussed that Madison Street was a through street by ordinance and it would be unusual to have a through street stop for a local street. Commission discussed that traffic volumes on Madison Street were 4 times as large as on Market Street. J. Carter discussed that traffic counts were from January 2014. Ms. Edwards, Ms. Forslund, and Mr. Manis, asked if counts could be updated. J. Carter stated he was happy to do new traffic counts but did not expect traffic volumes to change drastically. Commission laid item over until November for new traffic counts and accident reports.)
2. Request in the 3rd ward, by Greg Lewis, 1505 Westchester Drive, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of Westchester Drive and Pelham Road, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Pelham Road stopping for Westchester Drive. (Alderman McNamara discussed this was the only corner at Bloom School that was not an all-way stop. G. Wilson stated he had observed only 2 children at the intersection. J. Kloweit asked that the item be laid over so T. Morris of the fire department could be at the meeting and discuss because he lives very close to the intersection. Commission laid item over until November.)
3. Request in the 3rd Ward from Alderman Karen Elyea to establish a “3 Hour” parking restriction in Lot 28 at the northeast corner of the intersection of 3rd Street and State Street, thus repealing the existing “2 Hour” parking restriction in Lot 28 at the northeast corner of the intersection of 3rd Street and State Street. (J. Carter discussed that he had talked with the Alderman and he would ask that the item be laid over so the parking group could discuss hourly parking limits on a large scale prior to changing one whole lot. Commission laid item over until a parking plan is approved by The Parking Group)

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by J. Carter.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

November 12, 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