

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, November 12, 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
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Colin Belle, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Sergeant Mark Jacobi, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Alderman Teena Newburg, 9th Ward

Also Present

Alderman Thomas McNamara, 3rd Ward
Mr. Paul Graceffa, 2066 Villanova, 61108
Ms. Rita Vincent, 1721 15th Avenue
Ms. Julie Edwards, 208 N Madison Street #6, 61107
Ms. Catherine Forslund, 208 N Madison Street #4, 61107
Mr. Timothy Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 8, 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. (Item was referred back to Commission by Codes and Regulation Committee) (J. Carter discussed that this there were two aldermen for the intersection since Halsted Street was a dividing street between wards. He discussed that one Alderman did not want the all-way stop and one Alderman did. Commission reconfirmed their recommendation that an all-way stop be installed. 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 V. McLean, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 7-3)

2. Request in the 14th Ward from Alderman Joseph Chiarelli to establish a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the east side Villanova Drive from Charles Street to 135 feet north of Charles Street. (Mr. Graceffa discussed issues with parking near the intersection of Charles Street and Villanova Drive and he believed it caused an unsafe condition due to cars having to go into oncoming traffic to avoid vehicles parked on east side of the roadway. Commission discussed extending restriction farther north and to the west side of the road. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on both sides Villanova Drive from Charles Street to 160 feet north of Charles Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0)

3. Request in the 2nd Ward, from Ludia Brigance, 2101 13th Avenue, to establish “No Parking Except Paratransit” on the south side of 13th Avenue from 17th Street to 40 feet east of 17th Street. (Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Except Paratransit” on the south side of 13th Avenue from 17th Street to 40 feet east of 17th Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0)

4. Request in the 13th Ward, from the City of Rockford Fire Department, to establish “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on one side of Sun Valley Terrace (Commission discussed that the road was narrow and presented difficulty for the fire department when there was parking on both sides. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the north side (inside) of Sun Valley Terrace, including the cul-de-sac. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 10-0)

The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on 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. (*Laid Over from October Traffic Commission Meeting*) (Ms. Edwards and Ms. Forslund spoke about concerns with seeing traffic on Madison. Commission discussed that there was four times the traffic on Madison Street than on Market Street and that an all-way stop would not be warranted with that difference in traffic volumes. Ms. Edwards and Ms. Forslund asked if anything could be done for the intersections and commission recommended installing marked pedestrian crossings and signage. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 10-0)

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. (*Laid Over from October Traffic Commission Meeting*) (Alderman McNamara discussed his concerns for safety of pedestrian and students. Commission discussed low traffic volumes, lack of accidents and low volume of student pedestrians. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0)

3. Request in the 3rd Ward, from Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of Logan Street and Post Avenue, thus repealing the existing Logan Street stopping for Post Avenue. (Alderman McNamara discussed his concerns for safety of pedestrian and students. Commission discussed low traffic volume and lack of accidents. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0)
4. Request in the 12th Ward, from Brian Long, 3505 North View Road, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of Deer Path Road and North View Road, thus repealing the existing Deer Path Road yielding for North View Road. (Commission discussed low traffic volumes, low accidents history. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 10-0)
5. Request in the 11th Ward, from Rita Vincent, 1721 15th Avenue, to establish all-way stop control at the intersection of 15th Avenue and 13th Street, thus repealing the existing 13th Street stopping for 15th Avenue. (Ms. Vincent discussed the accidents at the intersection and she believed there is a lot of traffic coming from a bar south on 13th Street. Commission discussed the low traffic volume and accident history. Commission discussed that they do not believe an all-way stop would stop accidents from car on 13th Street not stopping at intersection. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 10-0)
6. Street Light Requests
Request in the 3rd Ward, from Carolyn Cadigan, 1940 Harlem Boulevard, for additional street lighting in the alley between Harlem Boulevard and Camp Avenue in the 1900 block of Harlem Boulevard (Alderman McNamara discussed the requesters concern about safety in the alley and the increase in crime in the area. J. Carter discussed the process of Public Works staff and the Police Department reviewing the lighting request prior to the request coming to traffic commission. Commission discussed that there was already a light in the middle of the alley. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 10-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by S. Capovilla.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

January 14, 2015 6:00 PM.

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

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