

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:01 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. Fred Lierman

Mr. Dock Ward

Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205

Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District

Mr. Michael Dunn Jr, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Lt. Walter Felton, Rockford Police Department

Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department

Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department

Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman

Mr. Leland Carlson, Vice Chairman

Alderman Teena Newburg, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Also Present**

Alderman Thomas McNamara, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

Mr. Joe Locke, 3018 Guilford Road, 61107

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 09, 2016 were approved as submitted.

**The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:**

1. Request in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, by the Rockford Police Department, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the west side of Merchandise Drive from Sandy Hollow Road to south end of road. (Item was laid over from March Meeting). (Lt. Felton stated that the Police Department would like to see the parking restriction established from 8pm to 4am along the roadway. Commission discussed that the requested restriction would satisfy the gentleman who had spoken on the issue the previous month. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking 8PM to 4AM” parking restriction on both sides of Merchandise Drive from Sandy Hollow Road to south end of road. Motion by W. Felton, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 9-0)

2. Request in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, by City Staff, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the north side of Arthur Avenue from 50 feet west of Hoban Avenue to 50 feet east of Hoban Avenue. (J. Carter explained that when this item was considered the previous month, the commission had taken no action and since there was no ordinance behind the signs previously, this request was essentially bookkeeping. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” parking restriction on the north side of Arthur Avenue from 50 feet west of Hoban Avenue to 50 feet east of Hoban Avenue. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)
3. Request in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, by Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish 3 Hour parking on the south side of Park Avenue from 20 feet east of Church Street to 80 feet east of Church Street, thus repealing the existing 2 Hour parking restriction. (Ald. McNamara discussed a local business owner needing additional parking time for her clients. J. Carter discussed that the commission had made this accommodation for beauty salons in the past. Commission discussed making more spaces 3hr parking. Commission recommended establishing a 3 Hr parking restriction on the south side of Park Avenue from 20 feet east of Church Street to 160 feet east of Church Street. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 9-0)
4. Request in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, from Tyler Hillman, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, to establish on-street handicap parking on the north side of Park Avenue from 40 feet west of Church Street to 80 feet west of Church Street. (Ald. McNamara discussed that the church had made the request due to an aging congregation. Commission recommended establishing on-street handicap parking on the north side of Park Avenue from 40 feet west of Church Street to 80 feet west of Church Street. Motion by W. Felton, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 9-0)
5. Request in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, from City Staff, to repeal the existing 2hr parking restriction on both sides of 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Broadway to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (J. Carter stated this ordinance was left over from when there was industry in the area and had been around since the 1950’s and was no longer needed as this was really a residential area now. Commission recommended repealing the existing 2hr parking restriction on both sides of 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Broadway to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking. Motion by W. Felton, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 9-0)
6. Request in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, from Alderman Elyea, to eliminate the 2hr parking restriction on the west side of Arbor Court from Broadway to 15<sup>th</sup> Street thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Commission discussed that there was little parking in the area for employees of the business. Commission recommended repealing the existing 2hr parking restriction on the west side of Arbor Court from Broadway to 15<sup>th</sup> Street thus restoring unrestricted parking. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by W. Felton. Voted 9-0)

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

1. Request in the 10th Ward, from Frank Rinaldo, 1016 23rd Street, to eliminate the Residential Parking Permit Restriction Program 2, on both sides of 23rd Street from 9th Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Item was laid over from March Meeting). (J. Carter stated the item was laid over after the requestor called the day of the last meeting and said that his neighbors were no longer for eliminating the restriction. J. Carter stated he had been unable to contact the requestor. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 9-0)
2. Request in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, by Joe Locke, 3018 Guilford Road, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Guilford Road and Westchester Drive, thus repealing the traffic control of Westchester Drive stopping for Guilford Road. (Ald. McNamara discussed the area and his concerns that Traffic Commission look at some measures for the complaint. Mr. Locke discussed the amount of cars on the roadway, perceived high speeds and his concern about possible accidents. J. Carter explained there had not been any accidents at the intersection for 3 years. J. Carter discussed the speed study from the previous year that showed an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 37 but only about 10% of the cars were going over 40mph and could receive a ticket. J. Carter discussed the functional classification of the road and that it would not be eligible for traffic calming. J. Carter discussed having signage printed to raise awareness of neighborhood traffic safety. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)

**The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:**

1. Request in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, by City Staff, to establish No Commercial Trucks allowed restriction of Pierpont Avenue from Cunningham Road to 2400 feet south of Cunningham Road (just south of bridge over Levings Lake). (Commission asked for definition of Commercial Vehicle per City Ordinance. J. Carter stated he would have to look it up. Commission laid the item over pending definition of commercial vehicles)

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by S. Capovilla.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**May 11, 2016 6:00 PM.**

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

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