

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:07 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Sgt. Ben Boeke, 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
Mr. Michael Dunn Jr, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Also Present

Mrs. Karen Hoffman, 3223 Carolina Avenue 61108
Mrs. Heather Vecchione, 3215 Constance Drive 61108
Mr. Joseph Nepean, 3427 Thelma Street, 61108
Mr. Tim Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on May 11, 2016 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 13th Ward, from Alderman Anne Thompson-Kelly, to repeal the existing “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Irving Avenue from Andrews Street to W Jefferson Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Item was laid over from May Meeting) (Commission discussed this item was laid over to get more surveys back from neighborhood. Commission discussed that most surveys were not returned and of the five returned, three voted “Leave as is”. Commission discussed the request was made by the Police Department for the nearby Strong Neighborhood Home and is supported by the ward Alderman. Commission recommended repealing the existing “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Irving Avenue from Andrews Street to W Jefferson Street. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 9-0)

2. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Vicki Rimkus, 329 King Street, to repeal the existing “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of King Street from Main Street to Church Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Commission discussed this restriction appears to be from when there was more business on N. Main. J. Carter stated staff supported the removal as it is obsolete. Commission recommended repealing the existing “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of King Street from Main Street to Church Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)
3. Request in the 8th Ward, by Heather Veccione, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Seward Avenue and Wisconsin Road, thus repealing the traffic control of Seward Avenue yielding for Wisconsin Road. (Mrs. Veccione and Mr. Nepean both spoke to concerns about safety issues and that they were looking to change the yield signs to stop signs. J. Carter discussed that there was an accident while staff was counting at the intersection. Commission recommended establishing traffic control of Seward Avenue stopping for Wisconsin Road, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Seward Avenue yielding for Wisconsin Road. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)
4. Request in the 8th Ward, by Heather Veccione, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Thelma Street and Wisconsin Road, thus repealing the traffic control of Thelma Street yielding for Wisconsin Road. (Commission discussed that request was also only to change the yield signs at Thelma Street to stop signs. Commission discussed that there were now stop signs at Seward Avenue and Constance Avenue. Commission recommended establishing traffic control of Thelma Street stopping for Wisconsin Road, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Thelma Street yielding for Wisconsin Road. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)
5. Request in the 3rd Ward, from City Staff, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on both sides of Revell Avenue from 9th Street to 175 feet east of 9th Street. (Commission discussed that when a car is parked in this area it can make passing to 9th Street difficult. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on both sides of Revell Avenue from 9th Street to 175 feet east of 9th Street. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 9-0)
6. Request in the 11th Ward, from Jeff Nelson with International Paper, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of 23rd Avenue from 475 feet east of 15th Street to 575 feet east of 15th Street. (Commission discussed that this was requested by International Paper to control deliveries and that they felt a truck on the north side of the street narrowed the road. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of 23rd Avenue from 475 feet east of 15th Street to 575 feet east of 15th Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

7. Request in the 9th Ward, from the Rockford Public School District (RPS 205), to establish “No Parking” during certain hours on the west side of Huffman Boulevard from Adolphson Road to Brown Avenue. (G. Wilson discussed the request from RPS205 due to traffic issues at Welsh School. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking 7am to 4pm on Regular School Days” restriction on the west side of Huffman Boulevard from Adolphson Road to Brown Avenue. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by S. Capovilla. Voted 9-0)

8. Request in the 3rd Ward, from the Rockford Park District, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Madison Street from Lafayette Avenue to 150 feet north of Lafayette Avenue. (S. Capovilla discussed the future parking in the area for business and vision triangle issues pulling out of the skating rink. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Madison Street from Lafayette Avenue to 150 feet north of Lafayette Avenue. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by V. McLean. Voted 9-0)

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

1. Request in the 2nd and 3rd Wards, by Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Summit Street and Greenwood Avenue, thus repealing the traffic control of Greenwood Avenue stopping for Summit Street. (Commission discussed that there was intersection had low unbalanced traffic and no accident history. Commission discussed homes to the north having zero setbacks and may contribute to visibility issues. Commission discussed with no accidents there does not appear to be a safety concern. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

2. Street Light Requests
 - Request in the 11th Ward, from Ald. Karen Elyea, for additional street lighting across from the alley between 15th Avenue and 16th Avenue in the 1600 block of 9th Street. (J. Carter stated City Staff planned to place the light as requested and Commission did not need to take action. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request from the Rockford Parking Group, to revise various sections of the Chapter 16 of the Rockford Code of Ordinances to eliminate zone parking enforcement. (Commission laid item over to receive surveys back from business in Central Business Districts.)

The Traffic Commission elected the officers for the 2016 – 2017 Rockford Traffic Commission and nominated the following:

1. Chairman Nominee – Doc Ward
(Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by L. Carlson. Vote 9-0).
2. Vice Chairman Nominee – Leland Carlson
(Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by D. Ward. Vote 9-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by F. Lierman.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

August 10, 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