

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mr. Leland Carlson at 6:02 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Leland Carlson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Alderman Teena Newburg, 9th 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

Mr. Dock Ward, Chairman
Mr. George Zawislak
Mr. Michael Dunn Jr, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Also Present

Mr. Randy Ward, 518 Sydney Avenue, 61111
Mr. Don Bissell, 112 N. Wyman Street, 61101
Mr. Gary Anderson, 312 S. 3rd Street, 61104
Mr. Tim Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on July 13, 2016 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended 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. (J Carter discussed history of the zone parking enforcement. He discussed the interpretation changed late last year. He discussed that the spirit of the ordinance was to keep downtown employees from taking up on-street spaces then moving a space or two to reset the time limit. J. Carter discussed that this restriction has started to catch business customers. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bissell both discussed that the ordinance is unclear, is poorly signed and the removal of this restriction would make for a more welcoming downtown. Ald. Newburg, G. Wilson, and S. Capovilla all discussed concerns that if this was passed downtown employees would start to take up on-street parking and it could appear that parking was not available and that would work against a welcoming downtown. J. Carter stated that City Staff had sent out surveys to businesses in the

Central Business Districts and the returned surveys were overwhelmingly for the removal of the restriction. He also state the letter with the stated the “pro’s” and “con’s” to the change and hen felt the businesses, the River District and the Parking Group were making the recommendation with “eyes wide open”. V. McLean asked if approved, could the item be brought back before the Commission to review if employees are taking up customer parking. Commission recommended revising the various ordinances within Chapter 16 of the Rockford Code of Ordinances to eliminate the zone parking enforcement. Motion by V. McLean, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 8-1)

2. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Darryl Kessler, to repeal the existing “Commercial Loading Zone” restriction on the east side of S Madison Street from 40’ south of State Street to 60’ south of State Street, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (J. Carter discussed that Oak Street Health had originally asked to have passenger loading in the area. Mr. Ward stated that Oak Street Health still required one passenger loading zone space to ensure there is a space for them to drop off patients that they pickup with their van. He also stated they would prefer if it is as close to State Street as possible. Commission recommended establishing a “Passenger Loading Zone” restriction on the east side of Madison Street from 40’ south of State Street to 60’ south of State Street, thus repealing the existing “Commercial Loading Zone” restriction on the east side of S Madison Street from 40’ south of State Street to 60’ south of State Street. Commission also recommended repealing the existing “Passenger Loading Zone” on the east side of Madison Street from 60’ south of State Street to 80’ south of State Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)

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

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Alderman Thomas McNamara, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Burrmont Road and Roncevalles Avenue. (Commission discussed that the intersection had a low traffic volume and small accident history. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 9-0)
2. Request in the 13th Ward, by Andros Morell, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of N Rockton Avenue and Locust Street, thus repealing the traffic control of Locust Street stopping for N Rockton Avenue. (Commission discussed that there was intersection had unbalanced traffic and a small accident history. Commission discussed staff should address issues with Rockton having two lanes merging into one lane at this intersection and recommended installation of cross traffic does not stop signs. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)

3. Request in the 5th Ward, by The Rockford City Council and City Staff, to reconsider establishing 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). (Item was originally voted on at May Meeting) (J. Carter discussed that the item was sent back due to Council and now Staff's concern that enforcement would be difficult due to a nearby business's third party trucking bringing product to their site. He stated that Council and Staff would support the Commission taking "No Action". Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by V. McLean L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by T. Newburg.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

September 14, 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