

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:02 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman  
Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205  
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District  
Lieutenant Christine Bishop, Rockford Police Department  
Mr. Jeffrey Cowles, Rockford Fire Department  
Mr. Michael Hren, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Leland Carlson  
Mr. Thomas Okite  
Alderman Linda McNeely, 13<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Also Present**

Alderman Karen Elyea, 11<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Alderman Venita Hervey, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Mr. Kerry Partridge, Legal Department  
Mr. Daniel Saavedra, 504 N. Church Street, 61103  
Mr. Guy Gehlhausen, 504 N. Church Street, 61103  
Mr. Duane Bailey, 221 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 61104  
Ms. Kaylee Newborn, 221 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 61104  
Mr. Nick Zimmerman, 321 West State Street, #700, 61101  
Mr. Toby Haldeman, 1413 Parmele Street, 61104  
Mr. Jim Phelps, 215 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 61104  
Ms. Romona Boose, 2103 Broadway, 61104  
Mr. William KuBala, 129 Fairview Blvd, 61107  
Ms. Michelle Castenada, 1107 Winnebago Street, 61102  
The minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 9, 2011, were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request from Daniel Saavedra, 504 North Church Street, 61103 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward that a “2 Hour” Parking restriction be established on both sides of Estwing Street from Church Street to Court Street. (Mr. Saavedra discussed parking on Estwing and requiring it for clients. He also discussed he believed that County Health Department workers were parking on Estwing rather than walking to their parking lots. He presented exhibit showing his building and surrounding area including locations of County Health Department worker parking. Mr. Saavedra stated both county health department and Ald. Mark were in favor. M. Hren questioned if the time limit could be enforced by City. J. Carter stated that City parking control officers could patrol the area and confirmed per his discussions Ald. Mark was in favor of the two hour restriction. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by C. Bishop. Voted 10-0)
2. Request from Kaylee Newborn, EOL Development, LLC, 221 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 61104, in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, for Residential Parking Permits for the tenants at 1101- 1103 Broadway St- 4 Units. (Mr. Bailey discussed need for parking by his residents and that he is only requesting 1 permits for each of his 4 apartments. He discussed that there was little available parking on Broadway. Ald. Elyea discussed her concerns about potential impacts to parking on Broadway and stated she would prefer residential parking to be on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Commission discussed bus stop at 7<sup>th</sup> and Broadway and not putting residential parking in space closest to bus stop or on Broadway. Commission recommended establishing resident parking permitted in 8 spaces, south of Broadway and issuing 4 residential parking permits. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 10-0)
3. Request from Alderman Venita Hervey, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward that a “No Parking Any Time” restriction be established on the west side of Winnebago Street from Morgan Street to 230 feet south of Morgan Street. (Ald. Hervey discussed that southbound lane is narrow next to the northbound left-turn lane and that neighborhood driveways are short and street parking is needed. She stated that she supports the elimination of parking near the intersections. Mr. KuBala stated he did not support the removal of the parking for the 230 feet and suggested removal of the northbound left-turn lane. J. Carter discussed the 230 feet restriction was for the length of the turn lane and transition. He also discussed that currently cars are parking in the drive lane, which is against city ordinance. Ms. Castenada discussed wanting to widen her driveway if she could not park on street. J. Carter stated she would need to work with the City Building and Zoning Department. Ald. Hervey stated she would work with Ms. Castenada. Commission discussed parking in alley behind houses. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by J. Katz. Voted 10-0)

4. Request from City Staff to establish 40 mph speed limit on Sandy Hollow Road from Alpine Road east to city limits thus changing the current 55mph speed limits in the City of Rockford ordinance schedule. (J. Carter discussed that currently the posted 40 mph speed limits does not match the City of Rockford Ordinance Schedule, which is 55mph. Commission discussed that the speed limit had been posted 40mph for years. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by J. Katz. Voted 10-0)
5. Request from Jennifer Adams, 527 Howard Avenue, 61102 in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ward that a “No Parking Any Time” restriction be established on the north side of Anderson Street from Howard Avenue to 100 feet west of Howard Avenue. (J. Carter discussed Ms. Adam’s request by stating that Ms. Adam’s daughter has health issues and uses a SEPTRAN vehicle to get to school. Per Ms. Adam’s letter when cars are parked between her driveway and the corner of Anderson Street and Howard Avenue, the SEPTRAN vehicle is unable to pull in and out of her driveway. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by C. Bishop, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0)
6. Request from Rockford School District and City Staff to remove No Right Turn on Red restrictions on both the east and west legs of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the intersection of Kishwaukee Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (G. Wilson discussed that traffic has backed up on the east and west legs of the intersection. J. Carter stated that the “no turn on red” had been approved due to pedestrian traffic from a retirement home to the south and that there is now a crossing closer to the retirement home and the road has since been widened and reconfigured. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0)

Prior to considering Item #7 on the agenda, the Traffic Commission took a 10 minute recess so commission members could read through the proposed ordinance changes.

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

1. Request from City Staff for ordinance modifications to Chapter 16 of City of Rockford Code of Ordinances. (J. Carter discussed proposed ordinance change that would add two sections to chapter 16 of City’s Code of Ordinances. J. Carter explained that the ordinance would allow not-for-profit (NFP) business who were soliciting in the right-of-way (ROW) to request parking space and also request a reserved parking space. He stated that the section would be applicable to any NFP business engaged in regional, statewide, or national campaign. Mr. Phelps, president of the Midtown business district, states he was concerned that the City would allow a NFP business which is competing with a for-profit business to park near the for-profit business at a relatively low cost. He stated this gives an unfair advantage to the NFP business. He stated he was concerned that competing business could park in front of his business. Mr. Zimmerman stated he was the lawyer for Wayne Webster, owner of the building at 1400 Broadway. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he believed the ordinance was tailored to apply to the mobile ultrasound that was parking near the Northern Illinois Woman’s Clinic (NIWC) and discussed mobile ultrasound parking request from the November 2010 Traffic Commission meeting. Ald.

Hervey discussed her concern that issue needed more time to be looked at by City Council and requested item be laid over. Ald. Elyea also discussed mobile ultrasound parking request from the November 2010 Traffic Commission meeting and staff's concerns in November about assigning parking spaces and the precedent it would set. Motion was made to layover item. J. Carter stated that item would be before the Codes and Regulation Committee 12 days after the Traffic Commission and at full City Council after that. He stated this would allow Council an opportunity to review the item. Ald. Hervey agreed and motion to layover was rescinded. J. Carter once again stated that per the proposed ordinance that permits would be limited to organizations engaged in regional, statewide, or national campaign. Mr. Partridge stated that proposed ordinance would make explicit what is already implicit in the city ordinance and the ordinance would put restrictions on the Traffic Engineers ability to issue the permit. He also discussed that within proposed 16-192.2 there is language that would allow the Traffic Engineer to revoke a permit for any reason and within 16-192.3 the City Council would have the ability to revoke a reserved space permit at any time. Ald. Elyea stated that she believed that the mobile ultrasound has been a nuisance. Ald. Hervey discussed that the fines proposed in the ordinance seemed excessive. Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Bailey all stated their opposition base on allowing NFP business to park in front of for profit business. Mr. Haldeman stated he lived behind the NIWC and the protestors create a lot of noise. Mr. Zimmerman stated that the Traffic Commission recommendation was important to City Council because a super majority is needed to overturn the Traffic Commission recommendation. Mr. Partridge stated that the City has issued permits like this in the past which includes sidewalk cafes and On the Waterfront. Ald. Elyea stated her concerns about other groups requesting this permit. J. Carter stated that the Traffic Commission was a recommending body to the City Council and that none of the concerns raised were related to traffic or public safety and that Council would get their chance to consider the proposed ordinance. G. Zawislak discussed his concern over passing the ordinance without time to think through the ordinance. Commission laid over the item. Motion by C. Bishop, seconded by G. Zawislak Voted 9-1)

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by J. Katz.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 6:00 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter  
Recording Secretary