

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:04 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman
Lt. Dane Person, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Frank Schmitt, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Miss Nina Booker, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mrs. Cedonia Ahlstrand
Mr. Dock Ward
Alderman Frank Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department
Mr. Leland Carlson

Also Present

Alderman Karen Elyea, 11th Ward
Mr. Mark Baker, 317 Market Street, 61101
Mr. Justin Fern, 317 Market Street, 61101
Ms. Violet Mora, 2021 South 6th Street, 61104
Ms. Billie Jean Holt, 303 South Day Avenue, 61102

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on November 18, 2009, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request from Alderman Elyea, 11th Ward and Violet Mora, 2021 S. 6th Street, 61104 to repeal the "No Parking 6-9am" on the west side of South 6th Street from 15th Avenue to 22nd Avenue. (Ald. Elyea explained that the factories in the area have closed and the parking restriction no longer needed. Ms. Mora presented a petition from the residents asking to repeal the parking restriction. The Commission recommended repealing the existing parking restriction. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 7-0).

2. Request from Alderman Robertson, 14th Ward, to repeal the existing yield sign control at the intersection of Carol Court and Esmond Drive and replace with 1-way stop sign control at this tee intersection. (In order to better enforce the tee, the Commission recommended repealing the existing yield sign control and replacing with stop sign control. Motioned by G. McIntyre, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 6-1, D. Person, opposed).
3. Request from Alderman Sosnowski, 1st Ward for “No Parking during Regular School Days 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the north side of Arbutus Road from 73’ to 115’ west of Madron Road. (Due to traffic congestion during school hours, the Commission recommended restricting parking at this location. Motioned by G. Wilson, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 7-0).
4. Request from Rockford Mass Transit District, 520 Mulberry Street, 61101, in the 3rd Ward, to remove parking on the south side of Mulberry Street from Church Street to 90’ west of Church Street. (Due to this corner being used as an alternate bus stop and in order to alleviate congestion, the Commission recommended making the first two stalls a “Bus Stop” from 6:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and to allow the existing Two Hour limit to remain at all other times. Motioned by G. McIntyre, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 7-0).
5. Request from staff for a marked mid-block crosswalk in the 300 block of North Main Street between the Coronado Theater and the City Municipal Parking Deck. (In order to facilitate pedestrians crossing directly to and from the parking deck and Coronado Theater, the Commission recommended establishing a marked mid-block pedestrian crosswalk. Motioned by D. Person, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 7-0).
6. Request from staff to repeal the following “Mid-Block Pedestrian Crosswalks” in the 11th Ward, as they are no longer needed:
 - a) Ninth Street 200’ south of 23rd Avenue.
 - b) Ninth Street 300’ north of Harrison Avenue.

(Due to the factories in the area closing, the crosswalks are no longer needed, the Commission recommended repealing the ordinance. Motioned by F. Schmitt, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 7-0).

7. Request from Justin Fern, Urban Equity Properties, 317 Market Street, Suite 2, 61104, in the 3rd Ward, for Residential Parking Permits for the tenants at 321 West Jefferson Street. (Due to the residents need for parking, the Commission recommended that on-street residential parking permits be allowed on both sides of the 300 block of West Jefferson Street. Motioned by G. McIntyre, seconded by N. Booker. Voted 5-2, F. Schmitt and D. Person, opposed).

The Traffic Commission recommended laying over the following items:

1. Request from staff to establish the speed limit on Bell School Road, in the 1st Ward, from Spring Brook Road to Riverside Blvd. (Due to the curve and adjacent land use planned, the Commission recommended laying this item to next month, to allow staff time to research the design speed of this roadway. Motioned by D. Person, seconded by F. Schmitt. Voted 7-0).
2. Request from Justin Fern, Urban Equity Properties, 317 Market Street, Suite 2, 61104, in the 3rd Ward, for Residential Parking Permits for the tenants at 317 Market Street – 8 Units. (The Commission recommended laying this item over to next month, to allow staff time to research other parking options for residents. Motioned by G. McIntyre, seconded by N. Booker. Voted 7-0).

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

1. Request from Alderman Thompson-Kelly, 7th Ward, for 2-way stop sign control at the intersection of Ashland Avenue and Soper Avenue. (Due to existing yield sign control, low volume of traffic, lack of warrants, the Commission recommended No Action. Motioned by G. McIntyre, seconded by D. Person. Voted 7-0).
2. Request from Billie Holt, 303 South Day Avenue, 61101 and Alderman McNeely, 13th Ward, for yield or stop sign control at the intersection of Chestnut Street and South Day Avenue. (Due to lack of warrants, the Commission recommended No Action. Motioned by G. Wilson, seconded by G. McIntyre. Voted 7-0).
3. Request from Patrick O’Keefe, 1919 Hillside Drive, 61107 and Alderman Mark, 3rd Ward, for “No Parking Any Time” on the north side of Westminster Drive from Hillside Drive to El Rancho Drive. (Due to lack of residents support, the Commission recommended No Action. Motioned by F. Schmitt, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM. Motion by R. Muzzarelli, seconded by F. Schmitt.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
Wednesday, February 10, 2010 6:00 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Booker
Recording Secretary