

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:05 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman

Mr. Dock Ward

Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward

Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Division Chief Matt Knott, Rockford Fire Department

Lieutenant Dane Person, Rockford Police Department

Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department

Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman

Mr. Leland Carlson

Mr. Thomas Okite

Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205

Also Present

Alderman Karen Elyea, 11th Ward

Alderman Nancy Johnson, 8th Ward

Ms. Heidi Corby, 3245 9th Street, Rockford, 61109

Mr. John Cutler, 3245 9th Street, Rockford, 61109

Mr. Steven Hicks, 2025 18th Avenue, 61104

Mr. Jeremy Horn, 402 27th Street, 61108

Mr. Dennis Hudak, 315 Short Horsman Street, 61102

Mr. Robert Smith, 106 7th Street, Rockford, 61104

Mr. David Thomas, 317 Short Horsman Street, 61102

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on July 14, 2010, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request from Dennis Hudak, 315 Short Horsman Street, 61102 to repeal the existing No Parking Any Time on the west side of Short Horsman Street from Cedar Street to Chestnut Street, he and his neighbor at 317 Short Horseman Street need handicapped parking in front of their homes. (Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hudak discussed lack of parking near their homes. Commission discussed that third resident on street was not in favor of removing “No Parking Any Time” restriction. The Commission recommended repealing “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Short Horsman Street from Cedar Street to Chestnut Street. Motion by L. McNeely, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request from Jeremy Horn, 402 27th St., 61108 in the 10th ward, for yield or stop sign control at the intersection of 27th Street and Harney Court. (Mr. Horn discussed his concern about traffic in the area and children playing in the area. Commission discussed that two of four legs of intersection were streets with no outlets. Commission explained to Mr. Horn that Stop and Yield signs cannot be used for speed control and that placing unwarranted signs can give residents a false sense of confidence. The Commission recommended laying this item over to next month, to allow Mr. Horn to discuss this item with his Alderman. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by L. McNeely. Voted 9-0).

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

1. Request from Eric Ge, 104 Seventh Street and Robert Smith, 106 Seventh Street, 61104 in the 11th Ward, to repeal “Thirty Minute” parking restriction on both sides of Seventh Street from 1st Avenue to Charles Street and replace with Two Hour parking. (Commission had previously recommended repealing “Thirty Minute” parking restriction on both sides of Seventh Street from 1st Avenue to Charles Street and replacing with Two Hour parking. Codes and Regulation Committee referred this item back to Traffic Commission so that the Alderman of the Ward could discuss the item. Ald. Elyea discussed not changing parking every time businesses change on this block. Mr. Smith discussed history of parking in the area and need for his business to have longer than 30 minute parking near his business. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by L. McNeely, seconded by D. Ward Voted 9-0)

2. Request from John Cutler, 3245 Ninth Street, 61109 for 4-way stop sign control at the following intersections:

- a. 9th Street and Sawyer Road
- b. 9th Street and Roosevelt Road

(Mr. Cutler discussed his concerns of speeding along 9th Street. Mr. Cutler stated that many vehicles use 9th Street instead of 11th Street. Mr. Carter stated that 9th Street was a thru street by ordinance and that there are already 2-way stops at 9th Street and Sawyer Road and Roosevelt Road. Lt. Person stated he would have enforcement done on 9th Street in this area. Mr. Cutler stated he would contact his alderman. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward Voted 9-0)

3. Request from Alderman Karen Elyea, 11th Ward and Steve Hicks 2025 18th Avenue, 61104, for yield sign control at the following intersections:

- a. 18th Ave. and 16th St.
- b. 18th Ave. and 17th St.

(Ald. Elyea and Mr. Hicks discussed traffic patterns in the area. Commission discussed 18th Ave is a thru street up to 15th St. and that traffic counts were higher than expected at 17th St. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by G. McIntyre Voted 8-1)

4. Request from Barbara Dirksen, Swedish American Medical Offices, 2550 Charles Street, 61108, in the 10th Ward, for mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Hunter Avenue between their building and the employee parking lot across the street. (Commission discussed that request had been withdrawn by applicant. Commission discussed whether they needed to vote on item. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by D. Ward Voted 9-0)

5. Request from Alderman Beck, 12th Ward and Marsha Norberg, 3203 Bradley Road, 61107 to repeal the existing 1-way stop and replace with multi-way stop sign control at the intersection of Bradley Road and North View Road. (Commission discussed that this item had been previously considered in Jan. 2009. Commission discussed low traffic in area and proximity to intersection of Landstrom Rd. and Bradley Rd. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by D. Person, seconded by J. Katz Voted 9-0)

Other items:

Ald. Johnson addressed the Commission and stated that Code and Regulation Committee had questioned the need to do committee report for items being sent back to Traffic Commission. J. Carter stated that a committee report had been produced at request of Legal Department, and that he did not believe the Codes and Regulation Committee needed to sign the committee report because they were not taking action, and he would clarify with the Legal Department.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by J. Katz.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary