

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:00 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman
Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Thomas Okite
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Lieutenant Dane Person, Rockford Police Department
Division Chief Matt Knott, Rockford Fire 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

Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Also Present

Alderman Karen Elyea, 11th Ward
Ms. Marcy Leach, Public Works Department
Mr. Kevin Rilott, 4688 Quarry Ridge Trail, 61101
Mr. Nick Zimmerman, 321 West State Street, #700, 61101
Mr. Dave McCarty, 8170 Rock City Road, 61070
Mr. Jayson Phommavongsa, 2021 20th Street, 61104
Mr. Thomas Doherty, 420 Summer Lane, 61107

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 13, 2010, were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request in the 11th Ward from Kevin Rilott, 4688 Quarry Ridge Trail, 61101 to repeal the existing “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of 10th Street from 30’ north of Broadway to 340’ north of Broadway. (J. Carter discussed that requestor had originally requested a permit to park in a “No Parking Any Time” zone. Since the City does not issue permits of that type, it was discussed that changing parking from “No Parking” to “Parking” would be needed. Mr. Rilott discussed wanting to park mobile ultrasound unit close to building to give people an option. Mr. Rilott presented packet of paper showing various photos of mobile ultrasound unit, and displays and signs found at the building. Mr. Zimmerman stated he represented the building owner and discussed past issues with the

protestors at the building. Discussed that allowing this would be like granting a permit for competition to park in front of a business. Ms. Leach stated that the Department of Public Works did not support the parking change. Alderman Elyea stated she was the alderman of the ward and did not support the parking change. Mr. McCarty presented more history of issues including building owner parking vehicles in parking spaces to limit parking. Commission discussed that requestors currently have a permit that allows them to operate in any open stall for 3 hours. J. Carter discussed that Traffic Commission normally looks to see if there is a traffic safety concern and if there is not Traffic Commission usually goes with the neighborhoods wishes. In this case the adjacent land owner, the ward alderman, and the Department of Public Works do not support the parking change. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward Voted 11-0)

2. Request in the 11th Ward from Kevin Rilott, 4688 Quarry Ridge Trail, 61101 for assigned Parking Spaces on 10th Street. (J. Carter discussed that per City ordinance, the Traffic Commission governed on street parking and per the opinion of the Legal Department this also meant Traffic Commission had the ability to assign parking. Ms. Leach discussed how allowing assigned parking would negatively affect the Public Works Department. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by G. McIntyre Voted 11-0)
3. Request from Alderman Jacobson, 6th Ward, to repeal existing stop control of Southworth Street stopping for Johnson Avenue and replace with stop control of Johnson Avenue stopping for Southworth Street. (J. Carter discussed that there was currently no ordinance for this stop sign and this was probably due to the City annexing the land from County or Township. Commission discussed the two right angle accidents at the intersection. Commission discussed that per traffic counts, the major leg is stopping for the minor leg. Commission discussed the sight visibility issue at the intersection and that reversing which street stops could lead to more right angle accidents. The Commission recommended No Action on the request and establishing an ordinance for a two-way stop with Southworth Street stopping for Johnson Avenue. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by G. Wilson Voted 11-0)
4. Request from Chris Holstein, 633 Regan Street, 61107, 2nd Ward, to repeal existing traffic control of Regan Street yielding for Jackson Street and replace with all way stop control of Regan Street and Jackson Street. (Commission discussed low traffic volumes and no accidents. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 11-0)
5. Request from Chris Holstein, 633 Regan Street, 61107, 2nd Ward, for all way stop control at the following intersections:
 - a. Summit Street and Benton Street
 - b. Summit Street and Greenwood Avenue(Commission discussed that Summit Street was considered a through street and no accidents. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by M. Knott. Voted 11-0)

6. Request from Ms. Carla Cruse, 7692 Creek Bend 61114, 1st Ward, for Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing approximately 185' north of Creek Bend. (Commission discussed that there were no pedestrians during the pedestrian count and only four (4) cars. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by T. Okite. Voted 11-0)
7. Request from RMTD for "No Parking Any Time" on north side of Mulberry Street from 130' east of Winnebago Street to 150' east of Winnebago Street. (Commission discussed that request could establish an unmarked mid-block crossing. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 11-0)
8. Request in the 3rd Ward from City staff for mid-block pedestrian crosswalk in the 400 Block of E. State Street. (Commission discussed low volume of pedestrian crossing. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 11-0)

Other items:

Per request of Traffic Commission, Public Works studied the intersection of Sandy Hollow Road and Holiday Drive. J. Carter addressed Traffic commission to discuss findings of the intersection study. J. Carter discussed that traffic signal warrants were conducted for the intersection and none of the nine MUTCD traffic signal warrants were met. Commission discussed the accidents at the intersection. The predominate accident type is left-turn accident from Sandy Hollow Road. Commission discussed this was different than expected; with the expected predominate accident being right-angle accidents with vehicles leaving Holiday Drive and being struck by vehicle on Sandy Hollow Road. Traffic Commission asked Public Works to look into possible solutions other than signals at this intersection and report back in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by J. Katz.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary