

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:01 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman  
Mr. Leland Carlson  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205  
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District  
Mr. Michael Maddox, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Division Chief Matt Knott, Rockford Fire Department  
Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Thomas Okite, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Fred Lierman  
Alderman Franklin Beach, 10<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Lieutenant Christine Bishop, Rockford Police Department

**Also Present**

Mr. Brett Updike, 2804 Ridgeway Avenue, 61101  
Ms. Shirley Updike, 2804 Ridgeway Avenue, 61101  
Ms. Lynna Barbee, 3708 Keith View Drive, 61107  
Ms. Amanda Johnson, 3711 Thornwood Drive, 61107

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on September 14, 2011, were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request from Ruby Stonecipher, 703 Leslie Avenue, 61101, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Leslie Avenue from Fairview Avenue to Ashland Avenue. (Commission discussed that street is narrow and that it would be difficult to get buses or emergency vehicles down the street with cars on both sides. Commission discussed which side of street should have parking restriction. Commission discussed that two survey responses including requestor wanted parking on east side. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of Leslie Avenue from Fairview Avenue to Ashland Avenue. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 8-0) *NOTE: Ms. Stonecipher called the day after Traffic Commission to find out results from meeting, she stated that traffic commission misread her survey and she*

*wanted no parking on west side and a corner clearance on the east side. She asked to have matter reconsidered. Per discussion with Traffic Commission Chairman G. Zawislak the item will be reconsidered at the November 2011 Traffic Commission meeting and will not be sent to the Codes and Regulation Committee with rest of October Items.*

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

1. Request from Mr. Brett Updike, 2804 Ridgeway Avenue, 61101, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, to establish “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Edgemont Street from Custer Avenue to Knight Avenue. (Mr. Updike discussed that parking issue on Edgemont on Saturday and Sundays during sport events at West Middle School. Mr. Updike discussed that parking affects his ability to use alley behind house and people have parked in handicapped parking in front of his house. Commission discussed that school had sent letter of support of the eliminating parking on Edgemont Street. Commission discussed if emergency vehicle access was an issue. Division Chief Knott discussed that he was concerned about parking restriction pushing parking further in to the neighborhood. Commission discussed that the issue was during August, September, and October each year and only on weekends. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by R. Muzzarelli, seconded by M. Maddox. Voted 8-0)
2. Request in the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward from City Staff to establish “No Parking During School Hours” restriction on both sides of Keith View Drive from Thornwood Drive west to the cul-de-sac near Rockford Christian School, 220 Hemlock Lane, 61107. (Ms. Barbee and Ms. Johnson discussed that they were opposed to the parking restriction. Ms. Barbee explained that she had originally called the police department due to her driveway being blocked by parents picking up from the school. Ms. Barbee discussed that school has been working with neighborhood to fix problem and that issue has been resolved. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by M. Knott. Voted 8-0)
3. Request from Amy Gille, 719 James Avenue, 61107, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, for Stop or Yield control at the intersection of James Avenue and Hickory Lawn Drive. (Commission discussed that there was only one accident since 2008 and there does not appear to be visibility issue. Motion to establish Hickory Lawn Drive yielding for James Avenue died due to lack of second. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by M. Maddox. Voted 8-0)

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

1. Request in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward from City Staff to repeal existing stop control of Loomis Street stopping for Rock Street, and replace with stop control of Rock Street stopping for Loomis Street. (J. Carter discussed that this request came from staff due to the Morgan Street Bridge Reconstruction. J. Carter discussed that there will be added traffic on Loomis due to construction vehicles leaving the construction staging site near the river. Commission discussed routing of construction trucks and if they would use the intersection of Loomis and Main or use Rock Street to get to Montague and Main. Commission discussed if any traffic control was needed. J. Carter discussed concerns about eliminating all stop control sign possibly causing accidents since Rock Street is used to Loomis stopping. Commission discussed that they wanted a better understanding of how construction traffic would be traveling. Commission laid over item in order to get better understanding of construction traffic. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by M. Maddox. Voted 8-0)
2. Request in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward from Fred Lierman, 2403 Shady Lane, 61107, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward to repeal the existing Left Turn Prohibited (7A-9A & 4-6P) Restriction from westbound Palo Verde Drive at intersection of Palo Verde Drive and Mulford Road. (Commission discussed that restriction was placed in 2007 to help reduce accidents. Commission questioned whether restriction had reduced accidents. J. Carter stated accident data had not been provided to commission but he believed it had reduced accidents. Commission discussed removing restriction or restricting the thru movements on Palo Verde. Commission moved and seconded recommendation for No Action. G. Wilson discussed that while the left turn were prohibited cars could still drive straight thru the intersection and this was not keeping with spirit of restriction. Motion and second were withdrawn. Commission laid over item in order to get accident data at the intersection. Motion by R. Muzzarelli, seconded by M. Knott. Voted 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by J. Carter.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:  
**Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 6:00 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter  
Recording Secretary