

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:00 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Ron Carey, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Lieutenant Christine Bishop, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Mark Marinaro, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Alderman Franklin Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Planning Division, Community Development Department

Also Present

Alderman Bill Timm, 9th Ward

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 14, 2012, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request from Alderman Bill Timm, 9th Ward, to repeal the existing “No Parking” restriction on both sides of Fulton Avenue from Rockton Avenue to 150 feet east of Rockton Avenue, thus restoring unrestricted parking. (Alderman Timm discussed that St. Bernadette’s Church has changed how students are picked up and has requested the change on Fulton Avenue. Commission discussed that roadway is narrow and unrestricted parking on both sides should not be allowed. Alderman Timm discussed that the parking restriction near the nursing home should be kept. Commission discussed parking on Bell Avenue and removal of some parking restriction at future meeting. Commission discussed that there appears to be signs on the north side of Fulton that are not up by ordinance. Commission recommended approval of repealing “No Parking Any Time” on the north side of Fulton Avenue from Rockton Avenue to 150 feet east of Rockton Avenue and repealing “No Parking Weekdays from 1pm-4 pm” on the north side of Fulton Avenue from 150 feet west of Winnebago Street to 250 feet west of Winnebago Street thus restoring unrestricted parking on the north side of Fulton from Rockton Avenue to Ridge Avenue. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 9-0)

2. Request from LeRoy Jones, manager of the Lafayette Hotel, 411 Mulberry Street, in the 3rd Ward to establish a Commercial Loading Zone from 8am to 5pm on the north side of Mulberry Street from Church Street to 95 feet west of Church Street, thus repealing the existing “24 hour” commercial loading zone on the north side of Mulberry Street from Church Street to 95 feet west of Church Street. (J. Carter stated that per discussions with Mr. Jones the signs had previously read “Commercial Loading Zone from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday” but ordinance showed “24 hour” commercial loading zone. Commission recommended approval of establishing a Commercial Loading Zone from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday on the north side of Mulberry Street from Church Street to 95 feet west of Church Street, thus repealing the existing “24 hour” commercial loading zone on the north side of Mulberry Street from Church Street to 95 feet west of Church Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by C. Bishop. Voted 9-0)

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

1. Request in the 13th Ward from City Staff to establish a Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing on West State Street approximately 125’ feet west of Independence Avenue. (J. Carter discussed that the plans for the West State Street improvement had shown a mid-block crossing proposed between Sunset Avenue and Independence Avenue. J. Carter stated that city staff had asked the designer to move the crossing either to Sunset Avenue or Independence Avenue to avoid having three crossings in a one block area. F. Lierman discussed concerns about visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists at intersections and that the mid-block crossing would provide better visibility for bicyclist and pedestrian to see vehicles and vice versa. Commission discussed pedestrians having right of way when in a crossing and mid-block crossing and drivers not looking for pedestrians. Commission recommended No Action on all items. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 8-1).

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by C. Bishop

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

May 9, 2012 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary