

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:07 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Thomas Okite
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Gary McIntyre, 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

Alderman Franklin Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Also Present

Mrs. Kelly Nokes, Public Works Department
Mr. Steven Sockwell, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 12, 2011, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 5th 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 was laid over due to construction traffic questions. J. Carter discussed that there will be added traffic on Loomis due to construction vehicles leaving the construction staging site near the river, and that most of the time there is a decent break that a truck could turn either north or south on S. Main (IL 2) but the majority of the truck traffic will be turning south on S. Main St. G. McIntyre asked if there was any clearance restriction at the railroad bridge just south of Cedar. J. Carter advised it is a state road truck route and truck traffic would be ok. Discussion on whether traffic control even needed. J. Carter suggested the change should be made and then revisit the necessity after construction is over. Commission recommends repealing existing ordinance and replacing with stop control of Rock Street stopping for Loomis Street. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by C. Bishop.

Voted 10-0)

2. Request from Ruby Stonecipher, 703 Leslie Avenue, 61101, 7th Ward, to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the west side of Leslie Avenue from Fairview Avenue to Ashland Avenue. (J. Carter discussed that Ms. Stonecipher asked to have last meeting’s decision reviewed because ultimately she was looking for corner clearance and no parking on the East side of the street. Commission discussed which side of street should have parking restriction. Commission discussed that two survey responses including requestor wanted parking on east side. Corner clearances were discussed and J. Carter advised that the ordinance allows him to post clearances without traffic commission. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Leslie Avenue from Fairview Avenue to Ashland Avenue, and to have the Traffic Engineer post corner clearances on Leslie Avenue. Motion by M. Knott, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 10-0)

3. Requested in the 13th Ward from Rockford Mass Transit District, to repeal the existing “Two Hour Parking” restriction on the south side of Mulberry Street, from Winnebago Street to 110 feet east of Winnebago Street and replace with a handicap parking restriction. (J. Carter discussed the Handicap Parking which would be the first 4 stalls to the east of Winnebago Street. G. Zawislak stated that people requesting paratransit services must appear in person and the office is located at this entrance. T. Okite discussed current ADA requirements for parking and inquired if the stalls would be long enough to accommodate 4 stalls. Lt. Bishop questioned if four were needed. Commission recommended repealing the existing “Two Hour Parking” restriction and replacing with Handicap Parking Only on the south side of Mulberry Street from Winnebago Street to 110 feet east of Winnebago Street. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 10-0)

4. Request from Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward, to repeal "No Parking Anytime" restriction on both sides of Green Street, from South Pierpont Avenue to 680 feet east of South Pierpont Avenue. (J. Carter discussed initial request in 2002 for restriction and commission stated it was due to construction trucks parking in the area. He also stated that the south side of the road was fine for unrestricted parking, however the north side there may be some issues with retaining walls and fire hydrants. G. McIntyre noted there was curbside mail service on the south side as well. Commission recommended repealing “No Parking Any time” on both sides of Green Street, from South Pierpont Avenue to 680 feet east of South Pierpont Avenue. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 10-0)

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

1. Request in the 4th Ward from Fred Lierman, 2403 Shady Lane, 61107, 12th 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. (J. Carter advised item was laid over to allow the requestor a chance to speak on item, and that more accident history was needed. Commission discussed that restriction was placed in 2007 to help reduce accidents. Commission questioned whether restriction had reduced accidents. F. Lierman stated that the predominant movement for westbound traffic is to make a left turn, even during the restricted hours. He questioned if the sign is needed. Commission discussed removing restriction or restricting the thru movements on Palo Verde, or possibly making it a no right turn. Lt. Bishop stated that while not normally in favor of allowing traffic to cross 4 lanes of traffic to turn the opposite direction, there is not another option to go south on Mulford Road. J. Carter advised ordinance was in place on November, 2007 with only 2 accidents. Commission moved and seconded recommendation for No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 10-0)
2. Request from Alderman Bill Robertson, 14th Ward, to establish stop or yield control at the intersection of Alma Drive and Phelps Avenue. (G. McIntyre advised there is a 4-way stop one block to the north of this intersection and that it is considered a sub-collector level street and is used a cut through from Mulford. Commission moved and seconded recommendation for No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 10-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by T. Okite.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
January 11, 2012 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary