

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Dock Ward at 6:01 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Dock Ward, Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. George Zawislak
Alderman Teena Newburg, 9th Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Sgt. Ben Boeke, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Michael Dunn Jr, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Also Present

Mrs. Barb Manning, 3742 Lookout Drive, 61109
Mr. Andros Morell, 621 N. Rockton Avenue, 61103
Mrs. Carolyn Elston 3425 Golden Prairie Avenue, 61109
Mr. Lenny Jacobson, 3724 Lookout Drive, 61109
Mr. Jim Buckingham, 126 S. 1st Street, 61104
Mr. John Galbo, 126 S. 1st Street, 61104
Mrs. Lynn Stainbrook, 215 N. Wyman, 61101
Mr. Tim Hinkens, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on August 10, 2016 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, from City Staff, to establish residential permit parking in Lot 8 and on both sides of 1st Street from Walnut Street to East State Street. (Mr. Buckingham and Mr. Galbo discussed parking problems at their building. J.Carter discussed that the City had an agreement with their apartment building for parking in the lot south of City Hall and staff was looking to get them on the residential parking program which would save the residents money. J. Carter also explained that the City would not have to guarantee spaces under the residential agreement. The Commission discussed concerns about oversell of the permits. J.Carter explained staff would work with the property to

ensure that there would not be too many permits issued and also explained that many of the resident shave jobs and would be working during normal City Hall business ours. Commission recommended establishing residential permit parking in Lot 8 and on both sides of 1st Street from Walnut Street to East State Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

2. Request in the 8th Ward, from Alderman Jeanne Oddo, to establish a No Parking from 7am to 4pm on Regular School Days, restriction on the east side of Ohio Parkway from Harrison Avenue to Dartmouth Drive. (G. Wilson discussed that he has been involved with concerns about student pedestrian safety near the two schools in this area. He stated that the principal of Flinn Middle School was in favor of the restrictions and the Principal of Whitehead Elementary is not. Commission discussed how each school handles pick-up and drop-off. J. Carter discussed that item was originally requested by the ward alderman and was for Flinn School but staff expanded the request to Whitehead based on conversations with the neighborhood about Pedestrian Safety. Commission discussed restricting only part of the roadway. Commission recommended establishing a No Parking from 7am to 4pm on Regular School Days, restriction on the east side of Ohio Parkway from Harrison Avenue to Thelma Drive. Motion by T. Newburg, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 9-0)
3. Request in the 3rd Ward, from City Staff, to establish a “3 Hour” parking restriction for 25 parking spaces in municipal Parking Lot 15 located at 206 North Church Street. (Mrs. Stainbrook explained both the request for “3 Hour” parking and “15-minute” parking in Lot 15 was for the new temporary library on North Church Street. She explained the “15-minute” parking would be book drop off and the “3-Hour” parking was keeping with what is currently near the existing library. Commission recommended establishing a “3 Hour” parking restriction for 25 parking spaces in municipal Parking Lot 15. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)
4. Request in the 3rd Ward, from City Staff, to establish a “15-Minutes” parking restriction for 2 parking spaces in municipal Parking Lot 15 located at 206 North Church Street. (Commission recommended establishing a “15-Minutes” parking restriction for 2 parking spaces in municipal Parking Lot 15. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)
5. Request in the 3rd Ward, from City Staff, to establish a “2 Hour Except on Event Days” parking restriction for all parking spaces in municipal Parking Lot 18 located near the intersection of Madison Street and Walnut Street. (J. Carter discussed that currently this lot did not have a parking restriction and people were starting to park there all day. He also discussed that staff planned to make this a discount permit lot. Commission recommended establishing a “2 Hour Except on Event Days” parking restriction for all parking spaces in municipal Parking Lot 18. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 9-0)
6. Request in the 10th Ward, from OSF St. Anthony’s Hospital, to establish a mid-block crossing on Strathmoor Drive approximately 175 feet north of the end of the Strathmoor

Drive. (J.Carter discussed that the request was due to construction of a sidewalk by St. Anthony's to a "remote" parking lot. He also explained that the roadway traffic was not a concern and staff supported the crosswalk. Commission recommended establishing a mid-block crossing on Strathmoor Drive approximately 175 feet north of the end of the Strathmoor Drive. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)

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

1. Request in the 6th Ward, from Brian Michaels, 3864 Lookout Drive, to establish a No Parking Any Time restriction on both sides of Lookout Drive from 200 feet east of Houston Road to Dallas Road. (Mr. Jacobson, Mrs. Elston, and Mrs. Manning all spoke in opposition of the request. Mr. Jacobson stated he had lived there many years and not seem any issues. He also stated that the person did not make the request through the active neighborhood group and the request would affect the neighborhoods parking for family events. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)
2. Request in the 13th Ward, by Andros Morell, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of N Rockton Avenue and Locust Street, thus repealing the traffic control of Locust Street stopping for N Rockton Avenue. (Item was referred back for applicant to be able to speak to the commission.) (J. Carter explained that the item was sent back in order for Mr. Morell to address the commission. Mr. Morell address the commission and discussed his concerns about speeding on the street and accidents. He discussed cars being his on the side of the roadway and how the road is four lanes south of the intersection and 2 lanes north of the intersection. Commission discussed that there was intersection had unbalanced traffic and a small accident history. Commission discussed staff should address issues with Rockton having two lanes merging into one lane at this intersection and recommended installation of cross traffic does not stop signs. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Newburg. Voted 9-0)
3. Request in the 13th Ward, from Iesha Wilkens, 2026 Chestnut Street, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Webster Avenue, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Chestnut Street stopping for Webster Avenue. (Commission discussed that the intersection had a low traffic volume, no accident history and no sight distance issues. Commission recommended taking no action. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)

Other items:

1. Alderman Teena Newburg presented George Zawislak with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Key to the City for his 31 years of service to the Rockford Traffic Commission. Mr. Zawislak started on the Traffic Commission in August 1985.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM. Motion by L. Carlson, seconded by G. Zawislak.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

October 12, 2016 6:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy A. Carter, P.E.
Recording Secretary