

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Bissell at 6:00 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. Don Bissell, Chairman  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Mr. Todd Fagen  
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department  
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205  
Mr. Cedrick Ketton, Rockford Mass Transit District  
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department  
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Fred Lierman, Vice Chairman  
Sgt. David Nicosia, Rockford Police Department  
Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Also Present**

Ms. Stephanie Chapman, 1507 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 61104  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 9, 2019 were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request in the 13th Ward, by City Staff to establish a parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the north side of Cedar Street from the intersection of Tay Street to 360 feet to the east. (The Commission noted that vehicles are being stored in this area which causes difficulty for trucks entering and exiting the City facilities. There was one response to the mailed survey which was in favor of the restriction. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” on the north side of Cedar Street from the intersection of Tay Street to 360 feet to the east. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 7-0).
2. Request in the 11th Ward, by Alderman Tuffy Quinonez to establish a 2-way stop sign at the intersection of 20th Avenue and Parmele Street, thus repealing the existing 2-way yield control at the intersection of 20th Avenue and Parmele Street. (Ms. Chapman discussed the numerous accidents that have happened at the intersection including two within the last month. She submitted pictures from these two accidents which were included in the workbook. A large portion of accidents involve southbound and eastbound vehicles. The Rockford Drop Forge building is located in the northwest corner of the intersection and the Commission expressed concern that the building may

cause sight problems. Due to this issue and the number of accidents, the Commission recommended establishing 2-way stop control with Parmele Street stopping for 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If accidents continue to occur at the same frequency, a 4-way stop may be considered in the future. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by M. Rotolo, Voted 7-0).

3. Request in the 11th Ward, by Rachel Pryor, 1519 7th Street, to establish Residential Parking Permits for occupants of 1519 7th Street. (Commission noted that this area is signed for residential parking, but that the property owner is requesting a Residential Permit. Previously, a business operated at this location, but currently it is a residence. Commission recommended establishing Residential Parking Permits for occupants of 1519 7th Street. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 7-0).

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

1. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Tina Thornrose, 214 S Prospect Street, to establish a parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of S Prospect Street from 2nd Avenue to Charles Street, thus repealing the “No Parking Here to Corner” on S Prospect Avenue from 2nd Avenue to 36 feet to the south. (This item was laid over from October. K. Lin presented results from the two speed studies on S. Prospect Street, north and south of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. For the hours between 4am and 5pm, volumes were higher on the south leg while speeds were consistently lower on the south portion. The Commission discussed the impact to residents if a parking restriction was put in place and also noted that speeds would also increase. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 7-0).
2. Request in the 10th Ward, by Deborah Dreger, 216 Oak Knolls Avenue, to establish “No Parking Any Time” on both sides of Oak Grove Lane between Oak Knolls Avenue and 29th Street, thus repealing the “No Parking Any Time” on the north side of Oak Grove Lane from Oak Knolls Avenue to 225 feet east. (The Commission discussed that parking along Oak Grove Lane during events at Dahlquist Park is appropriate and that restricted parking may correlate with a reduction in use of the park. Restricting parking in this area may force users to park in other areas that could have a greater impact on the residences to the west. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by M. Rotolo, Voted 7-0).
3. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Beth Grobe and Donna Fuller, Rockview/Woodruff Neighbor Association, to establish 3-way stop control at the intersection of Woodruff Avenue/18th Street and 16th Avenue, thus repealing the existing stop control on 16th Avenue at Woodruff Avenue/18th Street. (K. Lin commented that in 2017, the stop sign was moved from the north leg (18<sup>th</sup> Street) to the east leg (16<sup>th</sup> Avenue). It was also noted that while there are sight distance concerns to the north due to the elevation change and the stoop on the residential property on the north side of the intersection, there have not been any intersection related accidents at this location within the four year timeframe. The accident shown in the workbook was for an accident to the north of the intersection. It was suggested that geometric and signage improvements be reviewed. K. Lin responded that additional signing alerting drivers to the intersection

will be installed. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 7-0).

**Other items:**

1. The Commission will be forming a sub-committee to review and enhance stop sign warrants specific to the City of Rockford in order to ensure that consistent decisions are made regarding stop sign requests.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by T. Fagen.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**January 8, 2019 6:00 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry R. Lin, P.E.  
Recording Secretary