

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Bissell at 6:02 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Don Bissell, Chairman
Ms. Dorien Peterson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Todd Fagen
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Ron Priddy, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Sgt. Jason DoBran, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205
Alderman Bill Rose, 9th Ward

Also Present

Ms. Rosa Elizarraras, 2554 Tanglewood Lane, 61114
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department
Mr. Ebron Tyson, Information Technology Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on April 14, 2021, were approved as amended herein. An attendee was recorded as Dan Beccue, but it should be David Beccue.

The Commission welcomed new member Ron Priddy.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 11th Ward, by, Justin Rednour, 1115 Charles Street, to establish a parking restriction of “3 Hour Parking” on the north side of 1st Avenue from 7th Street to Charles Street, thus repealing a portion of the existing 30 minute parking restriction on the north side of 1st Avenue from 6th Street to Charles Street. (S. Capovilla explained that clients at the new business in this location, Signature Ink, typically spend a couple hours there. M. Rotolo pointed out that the previous business was a dry cleaners which had a high turnover. Commission recommended establishing a parking restriction of “3 Hour Parking” on the north side of 1st Avenue from 7th Street to Charles Street, thus repealing a portion of the existing 30 minute parking restriction on the north side of 1st Avenue from 6th Street to Charles Street. Motion by F, Lierman, seconded by T. Fagen, Voted 8-0).
2. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Alderman Jonathan Logemann, to establish “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Prospect Street from Crosby Street to 50 feet south of Crosby Street. (F. Lierman explained that this request was to improve sight distance at the intersection. Commission recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Prospect Street from Crosby Street to 50 feet south of Crosby Street. Motion by F, Lierman, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 8-0).

3. Request in the 3rd Ward, by City Staff, to establish a parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Church Street from Reynolds Street to Salem Street, thus repealing the current parking restrictions of “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Church Street from Salem Street to 140 feet north of Salem Street and from Salem Street to 560 feet north of Salem Street. (K. Lin explained that this and the following item on the west side of Church Street are due in part to the closure of St. Peter’s School as well as to clarify existing ordinances. These requests have been reviewed and approved by the church’s business manager. Commission recommended establishing a parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Church Street from Reynolds Street to Salem Street, thus repealing the current parking restrictions of “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Church Street from Salem Street to 140 feet north of Salem Street and from Salem Street to 560 feet north of Salem Street. Commission also recommended repealing the current parking restriction of “No Parking Certain Times” on the west side of Church Street from Reynolds Street to 250 feet south of Reynolds Street. Motion by F, Lierman, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 8-0).
4. Request in the 3rd Ward, by City Staff, to repeal the current parking restriction of “No Parking Certain Times” on the west side of Church Street from Reynolds Street to 250 feet south of Reynolds Street (see above).
5. Request in the 3rd Ward, by City Staff, to establish Handicapped Parking on the east side of Church Street from 200 feet south of Reynolds Street to 420 feet south of Reynolds Street, thus repealing the current Handicapped Parking restriction on the east side of Church Street from 200 feet south of Reynolds Street to 350 feet south of Reynolds Street. (K. Lin explained that this and the following item on the east side of Church Street are to correct existing ordinances so that it reflects what is currently signed. These requests have been reviewed and approved by the church’s business manager. Commission recommended establishing Handicapped Parking on the east side of Church Street from 200 feet south of Reynolds Street to 420 feet south of Reynolds Street, thus repealing the current Handicapped Parking restriction on the east side of Church Street from 200 feet south of Reynolds Street to 350 feet south of Reynolds Street. The Commission also recommended establishing “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of Church Street from 420 feet south of Reynolds Street to 470 feet south of Reynolds Street. Motion by F, Lierman, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 8-0).
6. Request in the 3rd Ward, by City Staff, to establish “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of Church Street from 420 feet south of Reynolds Street to 470 feet south of Reynolds Street (see above).

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

1. Request in the 6th Ward, by Cassondra Losoya, 316 Fitch Road, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Fitch Road and Blair Street. (This and the following item were discussed together. K. Lin explained that there were potential minor sight issues at each intersection. City staff will look into whether tree trimming is needed at the Blair Street intersection. In addition, M. Rotolo commented that the RFD will do some trimming around the fire hydrant at this intersection. Due to low traffic volumes and no accidents, the Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by F, Lierman, seconded by S. Capovilla, Voted 7-1).
2. Request in the 6th Ward, by Cassondra Losoya, 316 Fitch Road, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Fitch Road and Lyle Street (see above).
3. Request in the 1st Ward, by Alderman Timothy Durkee, to establish “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of Tanglewood Lane north of Spring Creek Road. (Ms. Rosa Elizarraras explained the impacts which would be caused if this item were approved. Her household has four drivers and they often have company which overflows their driveway. M. Rotolo commented that if there was no parking available

on-street, visitors would have nowhere to park and would be forced to park on the other side of Spring Creek Road. K.Lin also pointed out that this item came before the Commission in 2019, and, at that time, it was recommended that the restriction be only on the east side. At that time, there was considerable objection in the neighborhood to a restriction on both sides of the street. Survey responses for this item were mixed. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by M. Rotolo, seconded by F. Lierman, Voted 8-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 13th Ward, by Rhonda Smith, 1904 Auburn Street, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Independence Avenue and Andrews Street. (K. Lin explained that there is a history of accidents at this intersection. While four accidents are shown in the workbook, D. Ward commented that there may be more current accidents that are not represented. K. Lin explained that it takes a little while for accident information to show up in the system. M. Rotolo asked if accidents at this intersection could be compared with accidents at the intersection of Sunset Avenue and Andrews Street. Commission recommended that this item be laid over so that City staff can perform this comparison. Motion by D. Bissell, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 8-0).

Other items:

1. Commission members expressed appreciation to F. Lierman, who is stepping down after 50 years of service to the Traffic Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM. Motion by D. Peterson, seconded by F. Lierman.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

June 9, 2021 6:00 PM.

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

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