

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 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
Ms. Dorien Peterson
Mr. Todd Fagen
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department
Sgt. Jason DoBran, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Ron Priddy, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Tom Okite, Vice Chairman
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205
Alderman Bill Rose, 9th Ward

Also Present

Angela M. Lisk, 1309 Esmond Drive, 61108
Rob Belles, 2905 Creekside Court, 61114
Hoa Nguyen, 1316 Arnold Ave, 61108
Alderman Mark Bonne, 14th Ward
Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on August 11, 2021, were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward, to establish a parking restriction of “3-Hour Parking” on the east side of Hall Street from E. State Street to E. Jefferson Street, thus repealing the existing restriction of “2-Hour Parking” on the east side of Hall Street from E. State Street to E. Jefferson Street. (Mr. Rob Belles expressed concern about the request and the impact it will have on customers to his business and others who have turnaround times of less than 3 hours. He also commented that many times business owners in the area use the spots that are intended for customer use and park there beyond the time restriction. He pointed out that there are parking spots for rent in the Zion Development lot. It was also noted that another property owner replied, via the survey, in opposition to the request. Alderman McNeely stated that, while she brought the request on behalf of Versatile Hairstyles, she recognizes the concern expressed by Mr. Belles. She recommended that the Commission take “No Action”. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by M. Rotolo, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 8-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following item:

1. Request in the 14th Ward, by Angela M. Lisk, 1309 Esmond Drive, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Esmond Drive and Arnold Avenue, thus repealing the existing traffic control of Esmond Drive stopping for Arnold Avenue. (Ms. Angela Lisk explained concern about speeding along Arnold Avenue and at the intersection with Esmond Drive. She is also concerned about the safety of the neighborhood children as there is a school bus stop near the intersection. She stated that roadway condition and alignment add to the problem. Alderman Bonne commented that he requested a speed study be done and K. Lin commented that staff has not completed the study yet. Several Commission members pointed out that a 4-way stop is often not an appropriate means of speed control. In addition, unwarranted stop signs often create a disrespect that can lead to accidents. Commission recommended that this item be laid over so that City staff can perform the speed study and look into other appropriate traffic calming measures. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by M. Rotolo, Voted 8-0).

Other Business:

1. K Lin reminded the Commission that the October Traffic Commission will be October 6th, not October 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by S. Capovilla.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

October 6, 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