

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD  
Wednesday, October 6, 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. Tom Okite, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Ms. Dorien Peterson  
Mr. Mike Rotolo, Rockford Fire Department  
Sgt. Jason DoBran, Rockford Police Department  
Mr. Ron Priddy, Rockford Mass Transit District  
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205  
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department  
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Todd Fagen  
Alderman Bill Rose, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

**Also Present**

Angela M. Lisk, 1309 Esmond Drive, 61108  
Linda Readman, 7440 Spring Brook Road, 61114  
Summer Carlson (Sign Language Interpreter)  
Alderman Mark Bonne, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on September 8, 2021, were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request in the 4th Ward, by Michael Oravetz, 7462 Spring Brook Road, Linda Readman, 7440 Spring Brook Road, Scott Brown, 7390 Spring Brook Road, and Donald R. Dawson, 7422 Spring Brook Road, to establish “Commercial Vehicles Prohibited” on Spring Brook Road from 635’ east of McFarland Road to Bell School Road. (Ms. Linda Readman commented that recently the “No Trucks” sign near her house was removed following a call to city staff asking for a second sign in this section of Spring Brook Road. She stated that since the sign came down that neighbors have noticed a large increase of truck traffic traveling through this residential area. K. Lin explained that when her request was received it was determined that there was no ordinance for this restriction. Per City Ordinance, commercial vehicles are allowed on routes marked with this restriction if they are making local deliveries. This restriction also does not apply to buses. Commission recommended establishing “Commercial Vehicles Prohibited” on Spring Brook Road from 635’ east of McFarland Road to Bell School Road. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by R. Priddy, Voted 9-0).
2. Request in the 11th Ward, by City Staff, to establish a parking restriction of “2-Hour Parking” on the east side of S. 6th Street from 110’ north of 2nd Avenue to 5th Avenue. (This and the

following item were discussed and voted upon together. K. Lin commented that after working with the Midtown District and at their direction, on-street parking has been striped and signed in the requested areas. Commission recommended establishing a parking restriction of “2-Hour Parking” on the east side of S. 6th Street from 110’ north of 2nd Avenue to 5th Avenue and establishing a parking restriction of “2-Hour Parking” on the west side of S. 6th Street from 180’ north of 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue, thus repealing the existing restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of S. 6th Street from 1/2 block north of 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue. Motion by T. Okite, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 9-0).

3. Request in the 11th Ward, by City Staff, to establish a parking restriction of “2-Hour Parking” on the west side of S. 6th Street from 180’ north of 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue, thus repealing the existing restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the west side of S. 6th Street from 1/2 block north of 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue. (See above).
4. Request in the 2nd Ward, from Alderman Jonathan Logemann, to establish yield control at the intersection of 16th Street and 8th Avenue. (K. Lin explained the accident history at this intersection and pointed out that 16<sup>th</sup> Street has the lower traffic volumes. D. Peterson commented that after driving through the intersection, she felt that some type of control was needed. Commission recommended establishing 2-way yield control with 16<sup>th</sup> Street yielding for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Motion by D. Peterson, seconded by Jason DoBran, Voted 9-0).

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

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. (This item, previously item #2, was laid over from the September meeting). (Ms. Angela Lisk expressed concern for the safety of the neighborhood given the speeding that is taking place. She commented that many of her neighbors have physical limitations or limited English language ability which made attending the meeting difficult but that there is significant support for the request. K. Lin stated that the speed study has been completed and that the speeding problem is not severe in comparison with other streets in the city. She explained that stop signs are not a good tool for speed control but that there have been positive results from use of traffic calming striping. She said that centerline striping will be installed as part of next year’s striping contract. In addition, city staff is working with Alderman Bonne to address this concern as well as others along the Arnold Avenue corridor. Commission recommended taking “No Action” but also recommended that the centerline striping be installed in the S-curve area north and south of Esmond Drive. Motion by K. Lin, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 9-0).
2. Request in the 13th Ward, by Aimee Creighton, Criminal Clerk; Circuit Clerk’s office, to establish handicapped parking on the south side of Elm Street from 45’ west of S. Court Street to 85’ west of S. Court Street. (K. Lin explained the request and that the requestor and another co-worker need handicapped parking. The requestor has a placard but it is not the level that allows for exemption from time limits. Members of the Commission asked whether handicap parking requirements are met in the area and K. Lin replied that this has not been investigated. Handicapped parking locations along Elm Street as well as on State Street and adjacent parking lots were discussed. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by D. Ward, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 7-2).

**The Traffic Commission laid over the following item:**

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Rob Belles, 2905 Creekside Court, to establish a parking restriction of “2-Hour Parking” on the south side of E. Jefferson Street from 40’ east of Hall Street to 125’ east of Hall Street. (K. Lin asked that the item be laid over at the request of Mr. Rob Belles, who was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by D. Ward.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**November 10, 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