

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, July 10, 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. Fred Lierman, Vice 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
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Smith
Sgt. David Nicosia, Rockford Police Department
Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14th Ward

Also Present

Mr. David McDaniel, 2742 9th Street, 61109
Mr. Randy Dunaway, 402 Stanley Street, 61102
Mrs. Mary Theisen, 5920 Allerton Drive, 61114
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on June 12, 2019 were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 2nd Ward, from City Staff, to remove the “Through Street” designation from Crosby Street from Longwood Street to Calvin Park Boulevard. (Commission discussed that this designation needs to be removed before stop control could be implemented at the intersections of Highland Avenue, London Avenue, and Rome Avenue. It was pointed out that certain intersections currently are stopped controlled as they are intersections with other “Through Streets” or were noted as allowed in the Ordinance. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Fagan Voted 8-0).
2. Request in the 6th Ward, by Pastor David McDaniel of Kishwaukee Baptist Church, 2742 9th Street, to establish angled parking on the west side of Wills Avenue and 9th Street. (Pastor McDaniel explained that the church is building a new church in the northwest corner of Willis Avenue and 9th Street and is asking for angled parking along Willis Avenue which mirrors parking east of 9th Street that the City previously approved. F. Lierman asked for verification that proper corner clearance would be

provided. S. Capovilla commented that the approval of this parking was a condition of the zoning approval. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by M. Rotolo Voted 8-0).

3. Request in the 9th Ward, by Karen Kenny, 2419 Yonge Street, to establish a yield or stop sign at the intersection of Yonge Street and Tacoma Avenue. (Commission discussed that due to the number of accidents, yield control is reasonable. It was agreed that Tacoma Avenue should yield to Yonge Street due to the expected larger traffic volumes on Yonge Street. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by J. Carter Voted 8-0).

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

1. Request in the 10th Ward, by Don Holt, 1307 21st Street, to establish a parking restriction of “No Parking Any Time” on the east side of 20th Street from 13th Avenue to 110’ south of 13th Avenue, thus repealing the existing Passenger Loading Zone restriction from 13th Avenue to 60’ south of 13th Avenue. (This item had been laid over from the June meeting so that surveys could be sent to affected property owners. Two responses were received, one in favor and one against the parking restriction. J. Carter commented that there is slight vision triangle issue at the intersection. Currently, there is a Passenger Loading Zone restriction for a portion of the requested area. Proper use of this zone should reduce the sight concern. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by T. Fagan, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 8-0).
2. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Alderman Jonathan Logemann, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Crosby Street and Highland Avenue, thus repealing the existing 2-way stop at the intersection of Crosby Street and Highland Avenue. (See discussion below. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 7-1).
3. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Alderman Jonathan Logemann, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Crosby Street and London Avenue, thus repealing the existing 2-way stop at the intersection of Crosby Street and London Avenue. (See discussion below. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 8-0).
4. Request in the 2nd Ward, by Alderman Jonathan Logemann, to establish an all-way stop at the intersection of Crosby Street and Rome Avenue, thus repealing the existing 2-way stop at the intersection of Crosby Street and Rome Avenue. (J. Carter discussed the speed study results which showed a reduction in the 85th percentile speed following the installation of the painted traffic circles at Highland Avenue and London Avenue. He also reported on a discussion with Alderman Logemann and that he recommends striping the parking lanes similar to what was done on Chelsea Avenue. T. Fagan expressed concern that MUTCD warrants for four-way stop control are not applicable in areas like this and that the Commission should consider developing warrants more applicable to Rockford. J. Carter stressed that consistency is important in evaluating intersections regardless of the use of MUTCD or Rockford-specific warrants. F. Lierman expressed concern about liability resulting from installing unwarranted stop

signs and J. Carter replied that Traffic Commission approval demonstrates warrant. Commission discussed unbalanced traffic volumes and low accident history. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward Voted 5-3).

5. Request in the 13th Ward, by Jackie Andrews, 311 Marvin Street, to establish a yield or 2-way stop sign at the intersection of Marvin Street and Green Street. (Commission discussed that there is yield or stop control within one block in every direction from this intersection. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by D. Ward Voted 8-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request in the 13th Ward, by Randy Dunaway, 402 Stanley Street, to establish a 2-way stop sign at the intersection of Stanley Street and Green Street, thus repealing the existing yield control at the intersection of Stanley Street and Green Street. (Mr. Randy Dunaway voiced his concerns about accidents at the intersection, especially a two-car rollover that took place in June. This accident is not yet available for documentation by the traffic team. J. Carter suggested laying the item over so that this accident can be reviewed. Motion by T. Fagan, seconded by C. Ketton Voted 8-0).

Other items:

1. Mrs. Mary Theisen expressed frustration with the signal timing at the intersections of Spring Brook Road with Perryville Road and with McFarland Road. She was informed that the Spring Brook Road / Perryville Road is under the jurisdiction of Winnebago County. J. Carter explained the difficulty of coordination between these two signals but did comment that he would discuss this with staff.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by S. Capovilla.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

August 14, 2019 6:00 PM.

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

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