

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, June 12, 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  
Sgt. David Nicosia, Rockford Police Department  
Mr. Cedrick Ketton, Rockford Mass Transit District  
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Michael Smith  
Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Mr. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205

**Also Present**

Mr. Eugene R. Maule, 419 N. Highland Avenue, 61107  
Mr. Tim Meyer, 2308 Crosby Street, 61107  
Mrs. Kim Meyer, 2308 Crosby Street, 61107  
Mr. Manny Coll-Dimayo, 315 Dawson Avenue, 61107  
Mrs. Arlene Coll-Dimayo, 315 Dawson Avenue, 61107  
Mr. John K. Watton, 122 Paris Avenue, 61107  
Mr. Ross Grimes, 302 N. Rockford Avenue, 61107  
Alderman Jonathan Logemann, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Mr. Pablo Solares, Public Works Department  
Ms. Rachel Benson, Public Works Department  
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on May 8, 2019 were approved as submitted.

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

1. Request in the 7th Ward, by Deandre Cossey, Second Christian Church, to establish handicapped parking restrictions on Bruce Street from 30 feet west of N Rockton Avenue to 60 feet west of N Rockton Avenue. (J. Carter commented that the road appears to be approximately 30' wide. He also informed the Commission that the City is considering vacating the right-of-way on Bruce Street in this area. Commission recommended establishing handicapped parking restrictions on Bruce Street from 30

feet west of N Rockton Avenue to 60 feet west of N Rockton Avenue. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Nicosia, Voted 8-0).

**The Traffic Commission laid over 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. (J. Carter explained that sight distance for drivers heading westbound on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue is impacted by parked vehicles. Commission laid over the item so that business owners can be contacted. Motion by F. Lierman, 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).
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).
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. (Commission discussed all three Crosby Street intersections under consideration for all-way stop control simultaneously. It is felt by those in the neighborhood that travel speeds along Crosby Street are a dangerous problem. Ross Grimes commented that he feels that repetitive speeders are the issue and asked about police enforcement including cameras to catch these speeders. J. Carter responded that cameras cannot be used in Winnebago County per State law. Eugene Maule spoke for the group in favor of installing all-way stop control.

The Commission responded by stating that stop signs are not an effective traffic calming measure and in fact can increase travel speeds. In addition, the installation of unwarranted signs can increase the chance of accidents. This is especially possible at locations, such as those under consideration, where traffic volumes on the side street are significantly less than on the main street. Ald. Logemann spoke in support of traffic calming and discussed the concerns he has received from residents about speeding along Crosby Street.

J. Carter informed the group that currently Crosby Street carries a “Through Street” designation by City Ordinance and that before any action is taken on these items, this designation would need to be removed. The removal of this designation will be brought up for consideration at the July Traffic Commission.

At the request of Alderman Logemann, crosswalks have recently been striped at all intersections between Prospect Avenue and Welty Avenue. Arlene Coll-Dimayo asked whether additional striping at the crosswalks will make people more aware. The Commission responded that in general, more striping can lead to more awareness. Eugene Maule asked if laws were different based on crosswalk striping. J. Carter responded that drivers must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks regardless of striping.

Painted traffic circles have been installed at the Highland Avenue and London Avenue intersections with the circle at Rome Avenue being installed this week. Ideally, the traffic circles will act as a traffic calming measure. The Commission suggested that a speed study be performed to determine the effectiveness of the painted traffic circles following an appropriate break-in period. Thus, the Commission laid over the item so that further study of the painted traffic circles can be performed and the item of removing the "Through Street" designation can be brought before the Commission. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Nicosia Voted 8-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM. Motion by S. Capovilla, seconded by F. Lierman.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

**July 10, 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