

- **AMENDED SEPTEMBER 16, 2020** -
ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Bissell at 6:00 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. Mike Slife, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Scott Capovilla, Community Development Department
Mrs. Kerry Lin, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Sgt. Jason DoBran, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Cedrick Ketton, Rockford Mass Transit District
Alderman Joseph Chiarelli, 14th Ward

Also Present

Mr. Chris Reisetter, 1733 Hancock Street 61103
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department
Ms. Samantha Hein, Information Technology Department

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on August 12, 2020, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 6th Ward, by Leopoldo De La Mora, 2846 Collins Street, to establish traffic control at the intersection of Reed Avenue and Collins Street. (K. Lin pointed out that there is either stop or yield control at the adjacent intersections but that there may be confusion as to how to treat this intersection. Commission recommended yielding the lower volume Collins Street for Reed Avenue. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by T. Fagen, Voted 8-0).
2. Request in the 5th Ward, from City Staff, to establish a 30mph speed limit on Christina Street from 15th Avenue to Blackhawk Park Avenue, thus repealing the existing 35mph speed limit on Christina Street from 15th Avenue to Blackhawk Park Avenue. (K. Lin explained that this speed limit issue came to the City's attention following reconstruction of Christina Street and that this speed limit had been in place since 1960. It was felt that lowering the speed to 30 mph is consistent with similar roadways in the City.

Commission recommended establishing the 30 mph speed limit. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 8-0).

3. Request in the 5th and 11th Wards, from City Staff, to establish a 30mph speed limit on Blackhawk Park Avenue from Christina Street to Kishwaukee Street, thus repealing the existing 35mph speed limit on Blackhawk Park Avenue from Christina Street to Kishwaukee Street. (See discussion for Christina Street item. Commission recommended establishing the 30 mph speed limit. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Peterson, Voted 8-0).
4. Request in the 4th Ward, by Alderman Frost, to establish “Commercial Vehicles Prohibited” on Spring Brook Road from Spring Creek Road to Perryville Road. (J. Carter explained this request and clarified that trucks making deliveries would still be allowed. Passenger vehicles are not rated as commercial vehicles and buses also would not be prohibited. **Commission recommended establishing “Commercial Vehicles Prohibited” on Spring Brook Road from Spring Creek Road to Perryville Road.** Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by S. Capovilla, Voted 8-0).
5. Request in the 2nd Ward, by City Staff, to establish stop control at the following intersections:
 - a. Gardiner Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - b. Highland Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - c. London Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - d. Rome Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - e. Rockford Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - f. Dawson Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - g. Dougherty Place stopping for Crosby Street
 - h. Regan Street stopping for Crosby Street (north)
 - i. Regan Street stopping for Crosby Street (south)
 - j. Smith Avenue stopping for Crosby Street
 - k. Crosby Street stopping for Longwood Street
 - l. Crosby Street stopping for Prospect Street
 - m. Crosby Street stopping for Calvin Park Boulevard(K. Lin reminded the Commission that this item was briefly discussed at last month’s meeting where it was decided to take all the intersections as one group. At a previous meeting, the Commission had removed the “Through Streets” designation on Crosby Street. These intersections had no ordinance for stop control because they intersected a Through Street. Some other streets intersecting Crosby Street do have ordinances and thus are not on the list. Commission recommended approving stop control as it exists at all locations. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by M. Slife, Voted 8-0).

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

1. Request in the 3rd Ward, by Valeri DeCastris and David Beccue, representing the Ethnic Village Neighborhood Association, to establish 2-way stop control on Madison Street at Y Boulevard. (K. Lin explained that the north leg of Madison Street and the parking lot exit are controlled by stop signs. J. Carter clarified that the stop sign at the exit from the

parking lot is not shown on the exhibit because it is on private property. The Commission discussed that the predominant movements at this intersection are not in conflict and are the westbound to southbound and northbound to eastbound movements. T. Fagen asked whether additional striping could be placed at the intersection. City staff will review to see if this is possible. Commission recommended taking “No Action”. Motion by T. Fagen, seconded by F. Lierman, Voted 8-0).

2. Request in the 12th Ward, by Chris Reisetter, 1733 Hancock Street, to establish 4-way stop control at the intersection of Ellis Avenue and Douglas Street, thus repealing the 2-way stop on Ellis Avenue at Douglas Street. (Mr. Reisetter explained that it is difficult for eastbound vehicles to see southbound vehicles. K. Lin pointed out that the accident shown in the workbook is consistent with this observation. F. Lierman pointed out that when traffic volumes are low and there is a significant volume disparity between opposing movements, that safety can be negatively impacted. The Commission discussed pulling traffic back from the intersection and J. Carter stated that the City could put up “No Parking Here to Corner” signs that would restrict parking 30’ from the intersection. Mr. Reisetter was instructed to contact the City if he sees no improvement following the installation of these signs. Further parking restriction would need to come to Traffic Commission at a later time. The Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the request for 4-way stop but did support the parking restriction of “Here to Corner”. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward, Voted 8-0).

Other items:

1. J. Carter is currently working with the City’s legal department to determine how discussions reviewing the Commission’s policy on stop sign warrants can take place in regards to the Open Meetings Act criteria.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM. Motion by D. Peterson, seconded by D. Ward.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

October 14, 2020 6:00 PM.
Rockford City Hall
425 East State Street
2nd floor, Conference Room A

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