



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

*Chairman Jim Kaplan
Nicole Larsen
Charles French
John Heckenlively
Mark Yehlen
Dave Wohlgemuth
Robert Mozol*

Monday, September 15, 2014

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: 5 - Charles French, John Heckenlively, Mark Yehlen, Robert Mozol and Jim Kaplan

EXCUSED: 2 - Nicole Larsen and Dave Wohlgemuth

Also Present: John Rooney, Alderman Perez, Alderman Kaprelian-Becker, Ruth Fitzgerald, Barb McWhorter, Nikki Aiello, Alex Truland Jr, Shawna Williams

Approval of Minutes for the August 18, 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the August 18, 2014 meeting were approved as printed.

New Business

1. [14-10430](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 4th District, on behalf of Shawna Williams - 1522 Superior St, requesting to discuss traffic control at the intersections of St. Patrick Street & Superior Street and St. Patrick Street & La Salle Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on August 18, 2014:
Deferred

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on September 15, 2014: Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Shawna Williams appeared before the Traffic Commission. She indicated there were difficulties with dismissal and arrival time at the school, particularly with the number of cars double-parked and parked in areas maneuvering around school buses. She was concerned, particularly at the intersection of La Salle Street and St. Patrick Street. She didn't know what could be done at this location and considered the need

for crossing guards at that location.

John Rooney indicated that both intersections are controlled all-way stops, so gaps are automatically provided at those intersections with the stop control on all approaches. There would be no way to do a gap study for a crossing guard at either location. The crossing guards are typically paid for by the Police Department and if they believe one was needed they could place one at that location. He noted that crossing guards have been deployed at other all-way stops in the city at schools. He also noted the parking restrictions were reviewed at this school about two years ago, and the modification should take care of the parking issues and he thought this issue was enforcement related.

Shawna Williams also discussed the possibility of not allowing through traffic on St. Patrick Street during arrival and dismissal.

Charlie French noted that he believes this is a matter of enforcement and that Lt. Wohlgemuth, after reading the minutes, could send officers over there if they have resources to do so. He noted this is, unfortunately, a situation that exists at a lot of schools.

Mark Yehlen noted that with this happening at a lot of schools all at the same time, police personnel resources would be stretched pretty thin to respond to all locations.

After further discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Mozol to receive and file the item and ask Lt. Wohlgemuth to look into some possible enforcement at this location. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [14-10414](#)

Subject: Communication from Daniel Christoffersen, Operations Manager for Great Lakes Skipper, 2100 South Street, requesting 2-hour parking limits curbside between their driveway and the intersection of South Street and Mount Pleasant Streets.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on August 18, 2014:
Deferred

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on September 15, 2014: Recommends that "Two-hour parking from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.", be installed on the west side of Mount Pleasant Street, north of South Street.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$200.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.00.

John Rooney noted that the traffic technician met the Operations Manager for Great Lakes Skipper and a two-hour parking zone could be installed on the west side of Mount Pleasant Street north of South Street in front of their building. He noted there were no driveways at this location that would create problems for semis or tractor trailers entering or exiting the Industrial Park in that area. He noted this would be a simple amendment to include this section in the two-hour limited parking restriction transportation ordinances.

Motion made by French, seconded by Yehlen to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

3. [14-10545](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alder of the 12th District requesting to amend Sec. 94-145 to include 4 lane roads with a median in the exceptions.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on September 15, 2014: Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Perez appeared before the Commission and noted the issue with his constituent regarding alternate street-side parking on Ohio Street. He noted it was very difficult for his constituent to get across the street with the width of the street and the median in between, and asked that restrictions be lifted on all four lane roads with medians.

Mark Yehlen indicated that this would create difficulties for Public Works insofar as solid waste pick-up and routine maintenance such as snow plowing and leaf collection and street sweeping.

Charlie French inquired whether there was a handicap need at this location and Alderman Perez indicated there was a need.

A follow-up question by Charlie French was if they had off-street parking with the driveway and Alderman Perez responded that they did.

Robert Mozol inquired about the use of putting up a handicap zone for the constituent.

John Rooney noted that although that could be done, handicap parking zones still do not allow parking over night in violation of alternate street-side parking.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file the item. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

4. [14-10386](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer submitting a traffic study for the intersection of W. 6th Street and Memorial Drive.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on July 21, 2014: Deferred

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on August 18, 2014: Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on September 15,

2014: Receive and File**Fiscal Note: N/A**

Alderman Kaprelian-Becker appeared before the Commission. She inquired why there were not any alternatives proposed to the problem at the intersection of 6th Street and Memorial Drive.

John Rooney noted that the alternative for the situation at 6th Street and Memorial Drive is a do nothing alternative. He noted that the intersection functions well to accommodate pedestrians and vehicular movement, even though it is only setup in a pre-timed mode. He said there are no operational problems with the intersection and that it could get upgraded in the future to provide better detection for pedestrians and vehicles so that the signal operations would respond to actual demand as opposed to a pre-timed situation. He noted studies were done to see if the left-turn bays warranted left-turn arrows, he also indicated the Traffic Commission was presented with information on pedestrian safety at this location. He noted that nothing appeared out of the ordinary based on the data they had gathered and the studies they had performed. He noted this is an intersection that will get upgraded in the near future, but is not on the priority list for DPW due to two other signalized intersections that are currently programmed for 2015 and 2016.

Mark Yehlen indicated that as a matter of course when signals are replaced, the Engineering Department does look at any additional safety or design considerations for operations, but said that could be done at the time the signals are replaced, which would probably be in about 3 - 4 years.

Robert Mozol made a motion that the City install left-turn arrows on all approaches and operate the signals to only allow one approach to move at a time with a green ball and a green arrow. With no second, the motion failed.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by French to receive and file the communication.

Members voting aye: French, Heckenlively, Yehlen

Members voting naye: Mozol

Motion passed 3:1

Recommended to be Received and Filed5. [14-10599](#)

Subject: In accordance with Section 2-95 of the Municipal Code of the general ordinances of the City of Racine, recommends that the following requests for changes in traffic code be granted:

Recommends that Section 94-143 (13) of Schedule G relating to "Two-hour parking from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.", be amended:

By Including:

1. Mount Pleasant Street, west side, from 100 feet north of South Street north 350 feet.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date - October 20, 2014 at 4:00 PM in Room 303 at City Hall

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Public Works Department, 636-9122, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.