



City of Racine

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Traffic Commission

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

Chairman Martin DeFatte
Commissioner Richard Jones
Alderman Ronald D. Hart
Lt. James Dobbs
Atty. Nicole Loop
Charles French

Monday, January 28, 2008

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

PRESENT: 5 - Ronald D. Hart, James Dobbs, Martin DeFatte, Charles French and Richard Jones

EXCUSED: 1 - Nicole Loop

Also Present: Dewey & Tresa Johnson; Mercedes Dzindzeleta; Terry Martini

Approval of Minutes for the November 29, 2007 Meeting

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Hart to approve the minutes as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [07-1066](#) **Subject:** Communication from Mercedes Dzindzeleta requesting the City of Racine post all of its speed limit signs at 25 mph.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (09-17-07): Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (10-15-07): Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (11-29-07): Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (01-28-08): Receive and file

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mercedes Dzindzeleta appeared before the Commission and distributed some literature on speed limits, including State Statutes, and a particular item regarding the City of River Falls. She asked for uniformed speed limits in the City of Racine at 25 mph. She indicated the change in speed limits occurred too often on arterials and collectors, and cited examples such as Main Street where you would go from 30 mph reduced to 15 mph for a school, back up to 30 mph, then reduced 25 mph in the Downtown area. She cited River Falls' policy regarding 25 mph throughout the city and indicated this would be a huge step toward pedestrian safety.

Rick Jones commented this would be too much burden on the City of Racine Police Department. He indicated most people drive the speed limit they feel comfortable with based on the road width and conditions. He indicated he would be turning law-abiding citizens into violators by artificially posting the speed limit too low.

Lt. Dobbs, from the Racine Police Department, noted this would create nothing but impatient drivers, increase the number of citations that would have to be issued, and would cast a bad light on the City of Racine. He noted most people would assume this was for revenue generation only.

Charlie French stated the Racine Police Department has the resources to check for speeding issues and should be contacted to do target enforcement if such a situation exists.

John Rooney commented there are some inconsistencies in which the speed limits are signed throughout the City. He noted that all streets in the State of Wisconsin by statute, are 25 mph, and the local municipalities except them to be greater or less than 25 mph. He noted these speed limits are set for arterials and collectors based on geometry, lane width, driver expectations, and the 85 percentile speed. He indicated a sign survey was being finished this winter by the Department of Public Works to make sure our signing is consistent and perhaps better than what is recommended by the MUTCD. He vehemently opposed making every street in the City of Racine have a speed limit of 25 mph.

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

Received and Filed

2. [07-1436](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 7th District, on behalf of Terry Martini, 3701 Monterey Drive, requesting the placement of a stop sign on the north/south corners of Carlton Drive and LaSalle Street. **Terry Martini invited to the meeting.**

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (01-28-08): Defer

John Rooney read the letter from Terry Martini and explained some of the factual information regarding the intersection, insofar as accident rates and traffic volumes. He noted no study has been done in this area in recent years.

Terry Martini appeared before the Commission and noted the problems with speeding on LaSalle Street. He noted there are only stop signs in the north/south direction at 3 Mile Road and North Street. He also indicated with the number of children, he feels it is unsafe and requested a 4-way stop be considered at the intersection.

John Rooney suggested a study could be done to see if all-way stops are warranted as well as looking at parking site lines and a speed study could be conducted.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by French to defer the item for study. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

3. [07-1471](#) **Subject:** Communication from the neighbors in the 2000 and 2001 block

of Case Avenue regarding potholes in the alleys, additional alley lighting, and requesting a "No Parking" sign behind 2000 Case Avenue.

Recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee

(12-11-07): That a preliminary resolution be introduced to hold a public hearing for the paving of the north-south alley bounded by 21st Street, 20th Street, Case Avenue and Jay Eye See Avenue.

Further recommend that the request for a "No Parking Sign" be referred to the Traffic Commission.

Fiscal Note: Not applicable.

Recommendation of the Transit & Parking Commission (12-12-07):

Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (01-28-08): Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Dewey and Tresa Johnson appeared before the Commission and noted the problems with vehicles parking on private property in the alley, that extends into the alley. He noted it is very difficult for the neighbors to get their own vehicles out of their garages because of the other vehicles that are parked in, and extending into, the public alley.

John Rooney noted this was only a 10 foot wide alley and there are no parking restrictions on it currently, but they could be posted if the Traffic Commission felt it was necessary.

Lt. Dobbs indicated that any vehicle that blocks an alley and prohibits the ability of any fire truck or emergency vehicle to get through can be ticketed and towed by the Racine Police Department. He suggested rather than sign the alley for no parking, that complaints be called in anonymously and the police department would investigate the situation after they are notified.

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

Received and Filed

4. [07-1576](#)

Subject: Communication from the Racine County Sheriff's Department regarding revised parking allowed around the Law Enforcement Center.

Recommendation: The request to approve "No Parking at Any Time" on Eighth Street and Wisconsin Avenue, and Law Enforcement Vehicle Parking Only on Eighth Street adjacent to the Racine County Law Enforcement Center be granted.

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 indicated Tom Eeg has been working with the Sheriff's Department to provide parking restrictions around the addition to the Law Enforcement Center at Wisconsin Avenue, Eighth Street, and Main Street. He noted there were requests to provide no parking in the area on Eighth Street near Wisconsin Avenue and on Wisconsin Avenue near Eighth Street for the purpose of driveway access as well as access by the Fire Department to hookup their pumper trucks to their fire suppression system. He also noted parking for law enforcement vehicles only should be posted on the north side of Eighth Street as well as near the entrance on the south side of the addition. He indicated meters would be restored in the area and, overall, there would be one additional metered space as compared to what was there originally.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Hart, seconded by French to approve the parking restrictions as described. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Acceptance

5. [08-1703](#)

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:

A. Recommends that Section 94-141(1) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No parking at any time" be amended:

By Including:

1. Eighth Street, north side, from Wisconsin Avenue east 60 feet.
2. Wisconsin Avenue, east side, from Eighth Street north 175 feet.

B. Recommends that Section 94-147(a) of Schedule H of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in places reserved for law enforcement vehicles; where permitted" be amended:

By Including:

1. Eighth Street, north side, from 60 feet east of Wisconsin Avenue east 50 feet.

Recommended For Acceptance

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be on February 18, 2008, Room 301 at 5:15 P.M.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Engineering Department, 636-9166, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.