



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

**Chairman Alderman Sandy Weidner**  
**Atty. Nicole Loop**  
**Charles French**  
**John Heckenlively**  
**Lt. Chuck Weitzel**  
**Mark Yehlen**

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Monday, January 21, 2013

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 306

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### Call To Order

*The meeting was called to order at 5:15 P.M.*

**PRESENT:** 5 - Charles French, John Heckenlively , Lt. Chuck Weitzel, Chairman Weidner and Mark Yehlen  
**EXCUSED:** 1 - Nicole Loop

Also Present: John Rooney, Lt. Dave Wohlgemuth, Tom Friedel, Marcia Matavka, Ron Stankovich, Don Rosen, Alderman Fair, Alderman Kaplan, Chris Semrad, Alderman Kaprelian-Becker

### Approval of Minutes for the November 19, 2012 Meeting

*The minutes of the November 19, 2012 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.*

### New Business

1. [12-8356](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer, on behalf of McClure Engineering, requesting a left turn lane and No Parking restrictions on Wright Avenue east of Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) in conjunction with the Wal-Mart development on the Southwest corner of Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) and Wright Avenue (5695-00 Mount Pleasant, WI - Wright Avenue Concurrence).

#### **Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-21-13:**

Recommends the request from McClure Engineering (on behalf of the WisDOT) related to the signalization of the intersection of Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) and Wright Avenue, for No Parking on Wright Avenue, both sides, from Green Bay Rd. (STH 31), east 180 feet, be approved.

Further recommends the request from McClure Engineering (on behalf of the WisDOT) related to the signalization of the intersection of Green

Bay Rd. (STH 31) & Wright Avenue, to install a mandatory left turn lane on Wright Avenue, westbound, to Green Bay Rd. (STH 31), southbound, be granted.

Further recommends that Section 94-93, Mandatory left turns, be amended to include: The operator of a vehicle proceeding westerly on Wright Avenue and approaching Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) in the lane furthest to the left shall turn left onto Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) and shall not proceed in any other direction.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no cost to the City to install signs or pavement markings to implement these changes.

*John Rooney explained the request for the left-turn only lane and no parking restrictions on Wright Ave., east of Green Bay Road (STH 31), in conjunction with a Wal-Mart development on the southwest corner of Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) and Wright Ave. He noted the consultant, McClure Engineering, hired by WisDOT for the traffic impact analysis is requiring traffic signals be placed at the intersection of Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) and Wright Ave. He noted Green Bay Rd. (STH 31) is not under the purview of the City of Racine, but the east approach is. He noted the signalized intersection would be maintained by the State. He did, however, indicate approval of the left turn only lane and No Parking on the east approach on both sides needs to be approved by the City of Racine.*

*Motion made by Heckenlively, seconded by French to approve the request of McClure Engineering on behalf of WisDOT. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Approval**

2. [12-8367](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the City Administrator, on behalf of Alderman Sarrazin and Woodland Alloy Castings (1222 - 18th St.), requesting a stop sign on northbound Clark Street at 18th Street.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 11-19-12:** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-21-13:** The request for a stop sign on Clark Street at 18th Street be approved.

**Fiscal Note:** The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$100.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$40.00.

*John Rooney did background on the July 2010 request from Alderman Marcus for traffic control at the L-shaped intersection of 18th St. and Clark St. Tom Friedel appeared before the Commission on behalf of Alderman Sarrazin and indicated that the company, Woodland Alloy Castings, is desirous of a stop sign on the northbound section of Clark St. at 18th St. He noted they felt it was needed for safety.*

*Charlie French noted he didn't believe the stop sign was warranted but wasn't sure if it would hurt the situation.*

*In response to a question by Charlie French, John Rooney noted there are*

*unwarranted stop signs placed in the City of Racine at several locations. The only issue with unwarranted stop signs are that motorists generally developed disregard for them and it can give motorists and pedestrians a false sense of safety when they believe the motorists on the stop approach will actually stop and obey the sign.*

*Lt. Weitzel noted he didn't think it was detrimental to put in the stop sign at this location.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Weitzel to approve installing the stop sign.*

*On a roll call vote, members voting aye: French, Heckenlively, Weitzel*

*Members voting naye: Yehlen*

*Motion passed: 3:1*

**Recommended For Approval**

3. [12-8390](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 9th District, on behalf of Marcia Matavka (3617 Spring St.), requesting "Duck Crossing" signs be placed on Spring Street.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-21-13:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Marcia Matavka appeared before the Commission and inquired about Duck Crossing signs to be placed on Spring Street. She noted the Duck Crossing signs that were placed on Osborne Blvd. She has seen people stop to help the ducks cross the street and thinks it is a safety issue.*

*Charlie French asked Secretary Rooney about the placement of the signs on Osborne Blvd. John Rooney noted the signs were installed by Wheaton Franciscan on private property. He noted the City does not install Duck Crossing signs in the public right-of-way. He also explained requests that have not been approved, such as Children at Play signs, to be posted in the right-of-way as well.*

*Charlie French suggested the requester contact Wheaton Franciscan to see if they would provide signs and place them on private property for the location they are interested in.*

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

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

4. [12-8397](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 1st District requesting 4-way stop signs at the intersections of 10th Street and Center Street and 11th Street and Center Street.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-21-13:** Defer

*John Rooney noted that a traffic study was done at the intersection of 10th St. and Center St. back in 2006. He noted four-way stops were not warranted at that time, but noted the study is now 7 years old. He noted no studies have been performed at the intersection of 11th St. and Center St.*

*Chris Semrad, a teacher at Walden, explained the need for the request. He had students write some letters requesting that traffic control be looked at at this location. He also noted that Head Start is also housed in the same area. He noted excessive speeds and pedestrian and vehicular traffic are problematic at this location, in his opinion. He also asked that the study, if approved, would be done when school was dismissed.*

*John Rooney noted that as a matter of course, we do traffic studies around schools, we do look at the manual counts around arrival and dismissal times for the schools. He also noted, in response to the speeding question, if the study is authorized, pneumatic tube counters can be placed to record speeds, but this could not be done until spring as tubes are not placed in the right-of-way during snow and ice operation season.*

*Lt. Weitzel noted the speed trailer could not be deployed at this time due to the cold temperatures because of the battery on the trailer itself. He did note, however, targeted speed enforcement could be done at a later date by contacting Lt. Polzin of the RPD.*

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

#### **Deferred**

5. [12-8411](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District, on behalf of Ron Stankovich (2312 Douglas & 2328 Douglas), requesting the No Parking signs in front of these addresses be re-evaluated for possible removal or time restrictions.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-21-13:** Receive and file.

#### **Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Ron Stankovich appeared before the Commission requesting that parking be allowed in front of the Ice Box at 2328 Douglas Ave. He noted parking was allowed there in the past, and since the road construction project was complete on Douglas Ave. No Parking signs have been installed.*

*John Rooney noted that no parking exists at this location because the intersection of Layard Ave. to the east. He noted the T-intersection requires that no parking be allowed within the intersection by State Statute. He also noted a traffic safety & study analysis was done for the (STH 32) project. He noted their requirement for the State funding is to do that analysis and take recommendations for safety enhancements from that report. He noted, in that report, 13 accidents have occurred at that location with 11 of them related to parked vehicles on the west side of the street. He noted there were 4 side swipe accidents and 7 rear-end accidents that can be eliminated from the moving parking on that side of the street. He noted that parking needs to be removed within an intersection so through traffic can go around left-turning vehicles.*

*Alderman Kaprelian-Becker asked if the parking restriction could be time of day. John Rooney noted this is State Statute and this requires there is no parking or stopping at any time within an intersection.*

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

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

6. [12-8438](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 4th District wishing to discuss Section 94-128 of the Municipal Code - Large Vehicle Parking Restrictions.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 01-21-13:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Alderman Kaplan appeared before the Commission to see if there would be an issue with restricting big box trucks from parking. He noted the proximities to driveways make it difficult to exit.*

*Don Rosen also appeared before the Commission and noted the difficult time he and his wife are having exiting their driveway due to the parking of this large vehicle.*

*Lt. Weitzel explained Section 94-128 of the Traffic Administrative Code noting that if the vehicles are not in excess of 30 feet or not in excess of 10,000 lbs. they can be legally parked on the street, providing they meet alternate side parking requirements.*

*Don Rosen insisted big box trucks are a danger to vehicles trying to pull out of driveways.*

*John Rooney noted this is more a quality of life issue as well and responded by Don Rosen's comments that he didn't particularly like to look at a big box truck parked in front of his home. He noted as long as they are legally parked within 4 feet of a driveway, they are perfectly legitimate providing they don't exceed the heavy vehicle requirements listed in Section 94-128.*

*Charlie French noted he could probably mediate this issue through Neighborhood Watch and he would like to meet with Mr. Rosen and the owner of the big box truck and Alderman Kaplan to see if this issue can be resolved without any ordinance change to the traffic code.*

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

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

7. [13-8561](#)

**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 94-66 (2) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Stop intersections" be amended:**

**By Including:**

**1. Right-of-way traffic on "18th Street"; Stop signs facing traffic on "Clark Street."**

**B. 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. Wright Avenue, both sides, from STH 31, east 180 feet**

**Recommended For Approval**

**Next Meeting Date**

*The next Traffic Commission meeting will be February 18, 2013 at 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.*

**Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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.**