



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Traffic Commission

*Dave Wohlgemuth  
Robert Mozol  
John Heckenlively  
Mark Yehlen  
Alderman Sandy Weidner  
Laurie Kell*

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Monday, July 17, 2017

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

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#### Call To Order

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

**PRESENT:** 5 - Dave Wohlgemuth, Robert Mozol, John Heckenlively, Mark Yehlen and Sandy Weidner

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Laurie Kell

Also Present: John Rooney, James Olmstead, Judy Olmstead, Jon Knoll, Jean George, Roger Lacock, Mark Celeste, Charles Hamlin, Mary Lynn Broughman, Rebekah Hegyera, Ralph Woods

#### Approval of Minutes for the June 19, 2017 Meeting

*The minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.*

#### New Business

[573-17](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Faithbridge Church - 212 11th St. (formerly Evangelical United Methodist Church) requesting temporary "No Parking" signs be installed on the north side of 11th Street, between S. Main Street and Wisconsin Avenue between 7:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. on August 6, 2017.

**Recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee on 07-17-17:** Recommends that the request to use Temporary No Parking signs on the north side of 11th Street between Wisconsin Avenue and S. Main Street on August 6, 2017 between 7:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. be granted.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*Rebekah Hegyera appeared before the Commission to explain the request.*

*John Rooney noted this was the same request as in previous years and the staff*

*recommendation was to approve.*

*Motion made by Weidner, seconded by Wohlgemuth to approve. Passed unanimously.*

**Recommended For Approval**

[491-17](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 3rd District, on behalf of Jeff Ventura - 1652 Phillips Avenue, requesting a stop or yield sign be placed at the southbound intersection of Phillips Avenue and 17th Street.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 06-19-17: Defer**

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 07-17-17: Defer**

*Jeff Ventura appeared before the Traffic Commission and explained some of his concerns with semi-tractor trailer trucks driving north and southbound on Phillips Avenue near 17th Street. He noted there are several issues that he believes placing stop control in that direction could solve.*

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

**Deferred**

[589-17](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderwoman of the 6th District wishing to discuss placing traffic calming measures on Main Street from Seventh Street to the bridge.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 06-19-17: Defer**

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 07-17-17:**

Recommended that this item be received and filed.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

*John Rooney referred to a study he distributed to the Traffic Commission. He noted tube counters were placed the Thursday after the 4th of July, but before First Fridays, and were removed the following Tuesday. He noted the Engineering Department recorded speeds over a 96-hour period and explained the data to the Traffic Commission. He noted the average speed for nearly 70,000 vehicles over that 4-day period was about 24 mph, with the higher speeds occurring generally after midnight until about 8:00 A.M. when there was little to no traffic on the side streets or pedestrians to change the signals facing north and southbound traffic. He noted the majority of the traffic drove within 5 mph of the posted speed limit in one direction or the other. That is between 21 and 30 mph. He noted the 10 mph pace is the highest percentage of traffic that is traveling in that 10 mile range in any given hour. What was particularly interesting was the primary hours of First Fridays between 4:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M., the 10 mph pace was generally between 11 and 20 mph, far below the posted speed limit of 25 mph. He noted that with the volume of cars parked on the roadways and the increase cross-street traffic with vehicles trying to find parking and pedestrians crossing from one side of the street to another, it did not surprise him at all, that these would be some of the slowest speeds in the entire speed study.*

He also noted that the 85% speed, or 85 of every 100 drivers, drove at 31 mph or less on that roadway during this 4-day period. He recommended the Traffic Commission receive and file the communication.

John Heckenlively noted there are unfamiliar motorists that come to Downtown, particularly during First Fridays, and he believes that does help slow them down, as they are not sure where they are planning to go.

Aldерwoman Weidner noted a couple speeders were pulled over recently on Main Street.

John Rooney responded there are probably some drivers that have complete disregard for traffic clause; however, that is not the normal driving behavior during the speed study when most of the businesses are occupied and pedestrians are using those businesses.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Tran, seconded by Weidner to receive and file. On a roll call vote, members voting aye: Wohlgemuth, Mozol, Yehlen, Tran

Members voting naye: Weidner

Motion passed 4:1

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

[633-17](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderwoman of the 15th District requesting to discuss the placing of traffic calming measures on Erie Street between Melvin Avenue and Three Mile Road.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 07-17-17: Defer**

Alderwoman Lemke sent an e-mail to the Secretary of the Traffic Commission asking that this item be considered as she could not attend the meeting.

John Rooney read the e-mail and her concerns to the Traffic Commission and then acting Chairman Heckenlively opened it up for discussion.

John Rooney noted the e-mail was surrounded mostly by the fatal accident that happened on Erie Street a few weeks earlier.

Both John Rooney and Lt. Wohlgemuth noted that fatal accident is an on-going investigation and no information could be released on the details of it.

John Rooney indicated until we get the information, he could not make a recommendation on what the matter at hand was.

Mark Yehlen suggested tube counters could be placed out there to begin a speed study that was conducted similarly to the one that was done on Main Street.

Alderwoman Weidner asked if the speed signs could be moved from Ohio Street by Lockwood Park over to Erie Street.

Lt. Wohlgemuth suggested that be done after the tube count has been completed as to not change driver behavior.

*Several residents in the area spoke on the item. Most concerns involved speeding and also centered around issues whereby motorists seemed to be passing slower motorists in the outside parking lanes. There were suggestions made to sign and stripe the roadway for no passing, get added police enforcement out there, requests for perhaps, additional stop signs, particularly near Shoreland Drive. There were comments made that even problem motorists who have disregard for traffic laws usually will slow down for a stop sign, even if they don't stop at all. There were other suggestions made insofar as putting in boulevards on the street or installation of roundabout or traffic circle to control speed.*

*John Rooney noted that the boulevard option wouldn't be considered anytime soon as the pavement condition doesn't necessitate any type of resurfacing or rehabilitation project over there. He did note that bike lanes may be a good solution to narrowing the roadway section down on Erie Street as the widest portion of Erie, from Melvin to Three Mile Road, is the on-street portion of Lake Michigan Pathway.*

*After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by Wohlgemuth to defer the item and have a speed study by tube counter performed. Lt. Wohlgemuth noted he would follow-up with the traffic speed warning signs after that. Passed unanimously.*

**Deferred**

**Next Meeting Date - August 21, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. in Room 303 at City Hall**

### **Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.*

**If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Department of Public Works, (262) 636-9122, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.**