



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

Chairman Alderman Sandy Weidner
Co-Chairman Martin DeFatte
Atty. Nicole Loop
Charles French
John Heckenlively
Lt. Chuck Weitzel
Mark Yehlen

Monday, September 19, 2011

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 P.M.

PRESENT: 5 - Charles French, John Heckenlively, Lt. Chuck Weitzel, Chairman Weidner and Mark Yehlen

EXCUSED: 2 - Nicole Loop and Martin DeFatte

Also Present: John Rooney, James Boehm, Alderman Fair, Alderman Kaprelian-Becker, Alderman Shakoor, Alderman Marcus, Scott Blasi, Brian Hansche, Deb Hansche

Approval of Minutes for the June 20, 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [11-6595](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering submitting a request for a yield sign at the intersection of Winthrop Avenue and Gates Court. (Resolution No. 11-2766)

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11: The request to install a yield sign at the intersection of Winthrop Avenue and Gates Court be granted.

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.

Secretary Rooney noted that Mt. Pleasant installed a yield sign on the north approach of the intersection of Winthrop Avenue and Gates Court. He noted this half of the intersection was in the Village of Mt. Pleasant limits. He noted that he is requesting a yield sign on the opposite approach to balance the traffic control at this four-legged

intersection.

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

Recommended For Approval

2. [11-6671](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 15th District requesting a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Shoreland Avenue and Ruby Avenue.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11: Defer

In the absence of Alderman Mozol and the resident making the request, a motion was made by French, seconded by Heckenlively to defer the item. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

3. [11-6745](#)

Subject: Communication from James Eastman, (Merchants Moving & Storage - 1215 State St.), requesting parking be allowed on Union Street between State Street and Liberty Street. (Resolution No. 11-2767)

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11:

Recommends that "No parking at any time" restrictions be approved on Union Street, west side, from Liberty Street north 75 feet and from State Street south 30 feet.

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.

Scott Blasi, from Merchants Moving & Storage, appeared before the Commission and requested that parking be allowed on the west side of Union Street, between State Street and Liberty Street.

Secretary Rooney noted that parking restrictions were actually placed on Union Street back in 1994 by Merchants Moving & Storage.

Scott Blasi noted that they have increased employment and have a need for on-street parking and noted that a portion of the west side could be used for that employee parking.

Secretary Rooney noted he had no objection to the request and would make sure the parking restrictions that do have to remain at the ends of the street at State and Liberty would remain to facilitate the truck movement into Union Street off Liberty, and out of Union Street onto State Street.

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

Recommended For Approval

4. [11-6757](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 1st District and

Wisconsin Lutheran School (734 Villa St.) requesting No Parking from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. signs be installed at 734 Villa Street.
(Ordinance No. 11-11)

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11:

Recommends that Schedule F of Section 94-141 (9) relating to "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on any school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" be amended to delete Villa Street, west side, from 200 feet south of Seventh Street south 190 feet.

Further recommends that Schedule F of Section 94-141 (41) relating to "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on any school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" be amended to include Villa Street, west side, from 200 feet south of Seventh Street south 190 feet.

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.

James Boehm and Alderman Fair appeared before the Commission. Mr. Boehm requested a change in no parking signs along the school, from 7:30 AM. until 4:30 P.M. to accommodate changes in their busing schedule from Racine Unified School District.

Secretary Rooney noted he had no objections to the request. Motion made by Heckenlively, seconded by Yehlen to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

5. [11-6758](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 1st District and Wisconsin Lutheran School (734 Villa St.) requesting 15 mph speed limit signs be placed at 734 Villa St.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

James Boehm noted the 15 mph speed signs were missing in advance of the school.

Secretary Rooney noted that one sign in advance of the school, south of the intersection of 8th and Villa existed, but was covered with foliage and noted the one to the north appears to be missing. He noted the request is administrative and the sign would be replaced and the other one moved for better visibility. He noted the item could be received and filed.

Motion made by Yehlen, seconded by Weitzel to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

6. [11-6759](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 1st District and Wisconsin Lutheran School (734 Villa St.) requesting a 4-way stop sign be placed at the corner of 8th St. and Villa St.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11: Defer

James Boehm inquired about the installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of 8th Street and Villa Street. He noted it was for the safety of the students crossing the intersection.

Alderman Fair also noted other children in the area would benefit from the all-way stop as well.

Secretary Rooney noted there hasn't been a study at this intersection within the last 5 years, but noted it may not meet the warrants. He indicated if the Commission would like a study done, the appropriate motion would be to defer the item.

Motion made by French, seconded by Heckenlively to defer the item for study. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

7. [11-6842](#)

Subject: Communication from Brian Hansche (1500 S. Main Street) wishing to discuss traffic issues in the area of 14th Street and S. Main Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11: Defer

Brian Hansche appeared before the Traffic Commission noting problems with problem with traffic that he has seen in the area. He indicated northbound traffic queing up on South Main Street, south of 14th Street, has a difficult time seeing eastbound traffic on 14th Street. He noted there has been accidents at the intersection and that it would be more appropriate to create 2-way traffic on Wisconsin Avenue, between 16th Street and 14th Street and modify the signals at the intersection of 14th and Wisconsin. He believes that would be a better way to serve traffic in the area and keep the northbound traffic volume to a minimum on South Main Street. He also noted there were some issues with parking and vision at the intersection of 15th Street and South Main Street as well.

Secretary Rooney noted the high volume of traffic that uses these streets, over 5,000 vehicles a day are northbound on Main Street, between 14th Street and 16th Street. He noted streets such as Main Street, 16th Street, Wisconsin Avenue, and 14th Street are classified as arterial traffic routes and they do carry a high volume of traffic. He noted a similar request was looked into back in the 1970's and there was not enough accident data to support any changes in traffic patterns in this area. He noted he studied a collision diagram from traffic accidents that have occurred at the intersection over the past five years. He noted eleven accidents at the intersection of 14th Street and South Main Street. He noted none of the eleven accidents were correctable by installing traffic control. He indicated eleven accidents over a five plus year period is not a very high crash rate considering the volume of traffic going through the intersection. He believes it would be more confusing to try to direct all northbound vehicles on Wisconsin Avenue and changing that to two-way traffic and then having to go through a large capital project to modify the signals and operation at the intersection at 14th and Wisconsin. He noted this volume of traffic to this intersection and increasing the number of conflict points for potential crashes is of

great concern. He also commented the site line for vehicles on the south approach on Main Street for eastbound vehicles on 14th Street is adequate. He noted some further investigation could be done to determine if the site line is, in fact, adequate for that area. He also noted the item concerning Mr. Hansche at 15th Street and South Main Street could be looked at, as well.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Weitzel, seconded by Yehlen to defer the item. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

8. [11-6865](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District, on behalf of Dave Corban - 2300 Erie Street, requesting to get north and south stop signs placed at the intersection of Erie Street and Walton Avenue.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-19-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Kaprelian-Becker appeared before the Commission and noted the request of Dave Corban to make the intersection of Erie Street and Walton Avenue all-way is a request she isn't sure she could support. She didn't believe there was a huge traffic problem at that intersection and believes this is something that was discussed with her constituent and the previous alderman several years ago.

Secretary Rooney noted that all-way stops were placed at Augusta Street and Erie Street by the Alderman of the 5th District back in the 1990's. He noted that in review of that traffic study, those all-way stops were not warranted at that time and didn't believe all-way stops would be at Walton and Erie as well.

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

Recommended to be Received and Filed

9. [11-6961](#)

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 94-67 (b) of Schedule D of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Yield right-of-way intersections" be amended:

By Including:

1. Right-of-way traffic on "Winthrop Avenue"; Yield right-of-way traffic on "Gates Court"

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. Union Street, west side, from Liberty Street north 75 feet.
2. Union Street, west side, from State Street south 30 feet.

C. Recommends that Section 94-141 (9) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on an school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Villa Street, west side, from 200 feet south of Seventh Street south 190 feet.

D. Recommends that Section 94-141 (41) of Schedule F of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "No stopping, standing or parking from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on any school day except for school buses and mass transit vehicles owned and operated by the City" be amended:

By Including:

1. Villa Street, west side, from 200 feet south of Seventh Street south 190 feet.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be October 17, 2011 at 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The 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.