



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

*Chairman Martin DeFatte, Alderman Gregory Holding, Commissioner Richard Jones, Atty.  
Nicole Loop, Lt. James Dobbs, Charles French*

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Monday, October 19, 2009

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 301

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### Call To Order

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

**PRESENT:** 6 - Gregory Holding, Nicole Loop, James Dobbs, Martin DeFatte, Charles French and Richard Jones

Also Present: John Rooney, Staff; Laura Jocius; Toni Hansen

### Approval of Minutes for the September 22, 2009 Meeting

*The minutes of the September 22, 2009 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.*

### New Business

1. [09-3342](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 11th District, on behalf of Laura Jocius of 3415 Southwood, requesting a 4-way stop at Southwood Dr. and Emstan Hills Rd.

**Recommendation (04-20-09):** Defer

**Recommendation (10-19-09):** The request for four-way stop signs at the intersection of Southwood Drive and Emstan Hills Road be approved.

**Fiscal Note:** The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$160.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.00.

*Laura Jocius appeared before the Commission and was in favor of all-way stops at the intersection of Southwood Drive and Emstan Hills Road.*

*John Rooney reminded the Traffic Commission a study was done back in May to determine if a four-way stop sign was warranted at Southwood Drive and Emstan Hills Road. He noted that warrants were not met for installing a four-way stop at this location. He also noted that a speed study done by tube counters noted 85% speeds of approximately 37 mph. He noted at that time it was indicative of a speeding problem and asked the Traffic Commission to consider targeted speed enforcement in the area. He also noted at that meeting he recommended no changes in traffic control at that location.*

*Lt. Dobbs went over speed trailer reports and targeted enforcement that was done in the area. He noted two deployments were done this summer, and noted the average speeds were around 25 mph, and the 85% speeds were at 30 mph. He did note that*

traffic citations were issued for speeding in the area as well.

John Rooney commented that the average daily traffic decreased during the deployment efforts of the speed trailer. He also noted the speed study performed by the Racine Police Department does not indicate a speeding problem exists. He noted the tube counters were more inconspicuous to drivers than the speed trailer, and the speed trailer more than likely changed driving habits as it relates to speeds in the area. He acknowledged that a speeding problem does exist, but did not suggest installing another form of traffic control such as four-way stops to control speed. He noted the minor volume of traffic is currently being stopped and the major volume of traffic is being allowed right-of-way, and that there is no accident data to support change in traffic control at this location. He also displayed a map of the Georgetown subdivision area showing all the traffic control in the subdivision as requested by the Traffic Commission. He noted that Southwood Drive does serve as a form of cut-through between Durand Avenue and Taylor Avenue with only one stop sign being located at Maryland.

Rick Jones commented on the long distance between Maryland and Taylor Avenue without stop signs. He noted while he was not a proponent of placing stop signs to control speed, it appears this may be necessary to stop the flow of cut-through traffic and perhaps the speeds in the area. He noted that Emstan Hills Road was, at one time, supposed to connect through to the Village of Mt. Pleasant which would have changed drivers habits in the area, as well, but that connection has never been made.

Lt. Dobbs felt that stop sign reversal may be in order and not an all-ways stop.

Charlie French also commented he didn't believe a four-way stop was necessary at this location.

After further discussion, motion made by Holding, seconded by Jones to install a four-way stop at the intersection of Southwood Drive and Emstan Hills Road.

On a roll call vote, members voting Aye: Holding, Loop, Jones

Members voting Naye: French, Dobbs

Motion passed 3:2

#### **Recommended For Approval**

2. [09-3768](#)

**Subject:** Communication from Toni Hansen, requesting changes in the stop sign location on Bate Street and Ashland Avenue.

#### **Recommendation (10-19-09):** Defer

John Rooney gave the Traffic Commission background on the intersection of Bate Street and Ashland Avenue. He noted the request from Toni Hansen was to reverse the stop signs to the original location at this intersection. He noted at this intersection, Alderman Friedel had brought this item up to the Traffic Commission last fall. He noted he wanted the stop signs reversed on Bate to Ashland Avenue to slow down traffic in the area. John Rooney noted the traffic study was performed at that time and noted traffic control did not need to be changed at the intersection. He also noted that a speeding condition was not found after a speed study was conducted with tube counters that showed 85% average speeds to be in the normal range for a posted 25 mph road. He noted Alderman Friedel thought changing the stop sign would deter speeding much like it did on Kearney Avenue back in 2002. John Rooney noted due to the fact there was no speeding problem or no need for change in traffic control, he recommended that the item be received and filed. He also

commented the Traffic Commission received and filed the communication, but the stop sign reversal was approved by Common Council.

Toni Hansen appeared before the Commission and indicated most people that drive in the area do not understand the need for the stop sign reversal. She feels it has created a more dangerous situation where people on Ashland Avenue believe Bate Street still has to stop. She noted rolling stops are happening at the intersection and feels it is a more dangerous situation now that the stop signs have been reversed.

Rick Jones commented he thought it would be necessary for Ms. Hansen to poll the neighbors in the area and maybe bring back a group or petition showing interest in changing the stop signs back to the way they were.

Greg Holding commented the change might have not been made with consulting with the constituents in the neighborhood a year ago at this time.

After further discussion, motion made by Jones, seconded by Holding to defer. Passed unanimously.

**Deferred**

3. [09-4250](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 11th District, on behalf of Todd Kramer, 2034 Cleveland, requesting a 4-way stop at 20th Street and Cleveland Avenue.

**Recommendation (10-19-09):** Defer

John Rooney noted this intersection was studied back in 2001. He noted at that time, the traffic counts indicated it was a low volume intersection with less than 1,000 vehicles per day going through it. He noted that the stop signs are stopping the major movement of traffic, albeit a very low number. He noted that reversing the stop signs to the minor traffic volume, however, would create a five block opening without any stop control which may lend itself to higher speeds in the area. He noted at that time the request was to receive and file the recommendation, and the Traffic Commission and Common Council did the same. He noted the same request was brought up in 2003 and again it was received and filed.

Alderman Holding noted this was brought to his attention by his constituent and didn't realize past studies were done at this location.

Nicole Loop suggested this item be deferred for one more meeting, giving Todd Kramer a chance to appear before the Commission to express his need for a traffic study at this location.

Motion made by Jones, seconded by Holding to defer. Passed unanimously.

**Deferred**

4. [09-4318](#)

**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 (1) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Through streets" be amended:**

**By Deleting:**

1. Southwood Drive, from north line of Taylor Avenue to south line of Maryland Avenue.

**By Including:**

1. Southwood Drive, from north line of Taylor Avenue to south line of Maryland Avenue, except at Emstan Hills Road.

**B. Recommends that Section 94-66 (3) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "All-way stop intersections" be amended:**

**By Including:**

1. Southwood Drive and Emstan Hills Road.

Recommended For Approval

**Next Meeting Date**

*The next meeting date will be November 16, 2009 in Room 301 at City Hall.*

**Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:50 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.**