



City of Racine

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Legislative Report

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Alderman Shakoor

Ordinance 0005-18 - Consolidation of Traffic Commission and Transit and Parking Commission

An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article III, of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine, Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, the sheer number of commissions, boards, and authorities existing within the City of Racine governance structure is cumbersome and results in difficulty finding qualified persons to serve on such bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds it is in the public interest to reduce the number of such commissions, boards, and authorities where possible and consistent with effective operation of City government;

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that consolidation of the Traffic Commission and the Transit and Parking Commission is a more efficient means of fulfilling the missions of the two separate commissions;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Common Council of the City of Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

Part 1: Chapter 2, Article III, Division 9, Sections 2-276 through 2-280, and Division 10, 2-291 through 2-299 of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine, Wisconsin are repealed and the traffic commission and the transit and parking commission are dissolved.

Part 2: Chapter 2, Article III, Division 9 of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine, Wisconsin is recreated as follows:

DIVISION 9. - TRAFFIC, TRANSIT, AND PARKING COMMISSION

Sec. 2-276. - Created; composition.

(a) There is hereby created a traffic, transit, and parking commission, which shall constitute a public utility within the meaning of Wis. Stats. Chapter 66, Subchapter VIII,

and shall function as a parking utility system for the city and as a transit utility for the operation of the transit system for the city.

(b) The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall consist of seven commissioners. Included in the membership of the traffic, transit, and parking commission shall be three citizen members of recognized business ability, a member of the public works and services committee of the common council, the commissioner of public works, the chief of police or a representative designated by him/her, and the assistant city attorney in charge of prosecutions for traffic violations. The citizen members of the commission shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to the confirmation of the common council; vacancies shall be filled in the same manner. The public works and services committee shall select an alderman from among its membership to serve on the traffic, transit, and parking commission at its first meeting following the common council's annual organizational meeting.

Sec. 2-277. - Terms of office; compensation.

All appointments of citizen members of the traffic, transit, and parking commission shall be for a term of three years. The other members of the commission shall serve during the period of time they hold their respective offices. Appointments shall be made on October 1. The term of office shall begin upon appointment, confirmation and qualification, and shall continue until the qualification of a successor. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

Sec. 2-278. - Meetings; election of officers; secretary.

The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall hold meetings at least once each month. Each year during the first meeting following October 1, the members of the traffic, transit, and parking commission shall organize by the election of a citizen member as president of the commission, a citizen members as secretary of the commission, and such other officers as they may deem necessary.

Sec. 2-279. - Duties-traffic.

(a) The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall study and consider matters pertaining to vehicular and pedestrian traffic, school crossing guards, on-street parking, and other related matters of the city. It shall recommend to the common council ways and means of handling, improving and controlling such traffic problems, on-street parking and related matters as may arise in the city, and shall, with the approval of the common council, carry on, conduct and direct such programs of education and publicity as it deems advisable for handling, improving and controlling such traffic conditions, on-street parking problems and related matters. Matters relating to the location of on-street parking meters within the established parking meter zones shall be the responsibility of the traffic commission. To accomplish these objectives, the traffic commission may adopt and publish in writing standards, warrants and criteria for control of traffic on streets and on-street parking operations. In order to provide an overall traffic policy, such standards,

warrants and criteria shall not become effective until approval by the common council.

(b) The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall review adult crossing guard requests and the appointment of such guards based on intersection surveys in accordance with institute of traffic engineers' standards and provide for an annual review of adult crossing guard locations as may be necessary due to school boundary and traffic pattern changes. The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall transfer adult crossing guards to or from locations as deemed necessary, based on established standards, and review with the police department the standards and rules for adult crossing guards. The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall also make recommendations to the appropriate committee of the common council as to the maintenance and promotion of safe travel of school children within the city.

Sec. 2-280. - Duties-Parking system.

(a) The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall have the duty of management and control of the parking system of the city. It shall be the duty of the commission to acquire, construct, extend, improve, maintain, and operate the municipal parking system for the parking of vehicles in off-street parking lots and parking facilities upon public grounds of the city. It shall be the duty of the commission to establish on-street parking meter zones.

(b) It shall be the duty of the traffic, transit, and parking commission to establish time limits and rates for parking in all off-street parking facilities and on-street meter areas managed by the commission. Each parking meter installed by the commission shall indicate by proper legend the legal parking time established by the commission and, when operated, shall at all times indicate the balance of legal parking time remaining and at the expiration of such period shall indicate illegal or overtime parking. The commission shall erect such other signs as may be necessary to inform the public of all regulations governing the use of municipal parking facilities. The commission may further install parking meters or other mechanical equipment in municipal parking lots as may be necessary for the proper regulation of parking.

Sec. 2-281. - Duties-Transit system.

It shall be the general duty of the traffic, transit, and parking commission to provide overall supervision of the assets and operation of the transit system to ensure that it functions as an integrated part of the overall transportation system. This supervision shall include, but is not limited to, recommendations to the common council relating to: the issuance of revenue bonds, service agreements and contracts, retention of professional transit management firms, routes, fares, hours of service, buildings and grounds, purchase and maintenance of transit vehicles and transit related items, personal recruitment and training, labor relations and negotiations, advertising and insurance, the general financial status of the transit system, and other items which concern the physical and operational aspects of bus transit management.

Sec. 2-282. - Recommendations to the council.

The common council and its committees shall refer all matters coming before them relating to traffic and on-street parking to the traffic, transit, and parking commission for its recommendation. The common council shall vote upon any recommendation of the commission within 90 days after the filing of such recommendation with the city clerk. If any proposed ordinance, resolution, petition or request referred to the traffic commission is disapproved by the commission, such ordinance, resolution, petition or request shall not be adopted or granted, except by at least a majority vote of the full membership of the common council.

Sec. 2-283. - Budget.

The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall annually prepare operating and outlay budgets for the activities in which it is engaged, which budgets shall be approved by a majority of the members of the commission and shall be submitted to the common council for its approval. The commission shall be subject to the budget ordinance of the city and shall have no authority to expend funds other than those appropriated or approved by the common council.

Sec. 2-284. - Finances.

All accounts relating to the parking system and all accounts relating to the mass transit system shall be audited by the traffic, transit, and parking commission, and if approved by a majority of the commission, shall be paid by orders upon the city treasurer, signed by the mayor, city clerk, and finance director. The finance director shall keep, as separate funds, all income and revenue derived from the parking system and from the mass transportation system and any funds especially provided for either by the common council, and pay therefrom all orders legally drawn upon such funds.

Sec. 2-285. - Real estate purchases; construction work.

The traffic, transit, and parking commission shall purchase no real estate to be used as part of the parking system or as part of the mass transit system without the prior approval of a majority of the members of the common council. Any construction work undertaken by the commission shall be under the immediate supervision of the commissioner of public works.

Part 3: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the City of Racine Common Council and publication or posting as required by law.

Fiscal Note: N/A