



City of Racine

Meeting Minutes

Traffic Commission

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

Chairman Martin DeFatte
Commissioner Richard Jones
Alderman Ronald D. Hart
Asst. Chief Steven Hurley
Atty. Nicole Loop
Charles French

Monday, August 20, 2007

5:15 PM

Room 301, City Hall

Call To Order

PRESENT: 4 - Ronald D. Hart, Steven Hurley, Martin DeFatte and Charles French

EXCUSED: 2 - Nicole Loop and Richard Jones

Also Present: John Rooney, Secretary; Alderman Jim Spangengerg; Joseph LeGath

Approval of Minutes for the July 23, 2007 Meeting

Motion made by Hart, seconded by French to approve the minutes as printed. Passed unanimously.

to Approve the Minutes

New Business

1. [06-2893](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 6th District, on behalf of Merlyn & Joanne Tamblingson, 2207 Rupert Blvd., and Sue Griego, 2208 Rupert Blvd., to install traffic signal controls at the intersection of Chicago & Spring Streets.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (1-15-07): Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission (8-20-07): Defer

Chairman DeFatte asked that this item be deferred. This request was made by Alderman Weidner.

Motion made by Hart, seconded by Hurley to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

2. [07-0996](#) **Subject:** Communication from Joseph LeGath wishing to discuss the removal of the "One Hour Parking" sign from the area of 1863 - 1865 Taylor Avenue.

Recommendation: The One-hour limited parking restriction in front of 1863-65 Taylor be removed.

Fiscal Note: There is a nominal cost to relocate and modify the existing signs.

Joseph LeGath appeared before the Traffic Commission. He noted there is currently a one-hour limited parking restriction posted in front of his business in the area of 1863 Taylor Avenue. He noted that a loading zone was posted in that area and the loading zone recently had been removed. He noted when the loading zone was removed the restriction for the limited term parking was replaced. He asked that this restriction in front of his business be removed. He noted the one hour parking restriction was difficult on employees and patrons for his business.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Hart, seconded by French to approve removing the one hour parking in front of 1863 Taylor Avenue as requested. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Acceptance

3. [07-1020](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 13th District wishing to discuss the installation of a stop sign at the corner of 17th and Connolly.

Recommendation: The request for a stop sign on the north approach of Connolly Avenue and 17th Street be granted.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$80.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$40.00.

Alderman Spangenberg appeared before the Commission to discuss installing a stop sign at the corner of 17th and Connolly Avenue.

John Rooney distributed a study conducted in 1998. He noted this is the intersection with two one-way local streets and from that study none of the warrants were met for the installation of any type of traffic control and the request at that time was to leave the intersection uncontrolled.

Alderman Spangenberg understood it probably wouldn't meet the warrants if it was studied again, but did describe the difficulty to see westbound on 17th Street when vehicles are on the north approach of Connolly and 17th. He asked for a stop sign at this location.

Charlie French indicated he didn't think the installation of a sign would make much of a difference. He noted the area is local traffic only and putting up a sign like this is difficult to defend when a study has been done in the past and did not meet warrants.

Steve Hurley noted the request was made from a Neighborhood Watch group as well.

John Rooney noted that he is not in favor of traffic control unless a study is done which meets warrants for that work. He noted he has to be consistent in the way he evaluates traffic control in the City of Racine.

Alderman Hart supported Alderman Spangenberg's request for a stop sign at this location and made a motion, seconded by Hurley to place one at this location.

Charlie French cautioned how this may be interpreted by other citizens, and it should be

noted in the minutes we are not setting a precedent by installing a stop sign at this location, but are installing one because of the unusual circumstances and unique nature of the one-way streets in the area.

On a roll call vote the members voting Aye: French, Hart, Hurley

Members voting No: 0

Motion passed: 4:0

Recommended For Acceptance

4. [07-1021](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 13th District wishing to discuss the installation of a stop sign at the corner of 17th and Hayes.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Alderman Spangenberg indicated he would like to withdraw his request for additional traffic control at 17th and Hayes Avenue.

A motion was made by Hart, seconded by French to receive and file this communication. Passed unanimously.

Received and Filed

5. [07-1022](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 13th District wishing to discuss the installation of "Caution Children" signs in the Rubberville area.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney explained Ordinance 82-35, noting the prohibition of allowing people to play in City streets or alleys. He noted installing these types of warning signs such as "Caution Children Playing" or "Children Ahead" would promote the activity of being in the street. He noted appropriate applications for warning signs warn motorists in advance of a condition on a street they would not normally expect. He noted children, unfortunately, play in several streets in several neighborhoods in the City of Racine and it would not be appropriate to start signing streets for this purpose.

Charlie French noted that the motorists in that area are mostly residents. He noted any transient in that area that's traveling through the narrow one-way streets will definitely slow down just to navigate the area and to be cautious of the number of children playing. He noted that they wouldn't notice a sign such as this if it was placed.

Alderman Spangenberg noted there are quite a few children in this neighborhood and, unfortunately, most of them play in the street and are unsupervised by adults. He noted this was a request from a Neighborhood Watch group and also something he said the Chief of Police endorsed as well.

John Rooney commented a good idea for some neighborhoods that are desirous of posting these types of signs should look into buying the election signs that typically go into your lawn. He noted these signs usually say "Slow Down" on one side and "Children Playing" on the other side, and they can be effective if enough of them are placed outside

the public right-of-way.

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

Received and Filed

6. [07-1097](#)

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 "17th Street"; Stop signs facing traffic on "Connolly Avenue".

B. Recommends that Section 94-143 (8) of Schedule G of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "One-hour parking from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., except Sundays and holidays" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Taylor Avenue, east side, from Victoria Drive to 300 feet south of Jerome Boulevard.

By Adding:

1. Taylor Avenue, east side, from Victoria Drive south 69 feet.

2. Taylor Avenue, east side, from 94 feet north of Meachem Street to 300 feet south of Jerome Boulevard.

Recommended For Acceptance

Next Meeting Date

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be September 17, 2007 at 5:15 P.M. in Room 301 at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 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.