

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Pat Connolly, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cheri Manrique, 308 Thompson Street
Chris Manrique, 308 Thompson Street
Wayne Bailey, 1704 Lydia Court
Glenna Bailey, 1704 Lydia Court
Jill Guth, 505 S. Fifth Street, Champaign
Pat Pioletti, Parking and Public Facilities Manager

The meeting began at 4:10 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Dennis Roberts moved to approve the minutes. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Smith joined the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of changing time restrictions for parking on Oregon Street between Gregory Place and Goodwin Avenue.

Barb Stiehl reported that the Traffic Commission had voted to eliminate the 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. parking restriction on Oregon Street between Gregory Place and the eastern driveway of Krannert Center at its March meeting. She said that upon review of the decision, the Operations

Division of the Public Works Department had asked if some restrictions could remain to allow for street maintenance since Oregon Street was a heavily used street for on-street parking.

Jill Guth stated that JSM Management would be agreeable to have the restriction between 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Pat Pioletti and Barb Stiehl stated that an hour would not be sufficient time for snow removal or other maintenance work that might be necessary on that street.

Joe Smith recommended that this issue be discussed at the May meeting after discussing options with the Operations Division. He said that the 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. restriction would not be enforced until the issue had been resolved.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions in the 300 block of East Thompson Street.

Chris Manrique stated that the City annexed the property at 306 East Thompson Street and required the property owner to create off-street parking for its residents. Mr. Manrique explained that the residents at 305 East Thompson Street repaired cars and parked vehicles on both sides of the streets creating a situation where vehicles do not have the ability to travel between the parked vehicles. He said that he had placed railroad ties in front of 306 East Thompson Street with the permission of the property owner to restrict parking to one side of the street.

Cheri Manrique stated that there had been a couple of times when access to their property at 308 East Thompson Street had been completely blocked with cars parked on both sides of the street.

Joe Smith said that the right-of-way in front of 305 East Thompson Street was within the City, but that the property at 305 was not in the City. He said that the City could not regulate the operation of a repair shop on the property.

Dennis Roberts said that the agreement to annex 306 East Thompson Street did require the addition of off-street parking for those residents.

Joe Smith stated that the agreement did not prohibit on-street parking at 306 East Thompson Street.

Pat Connolly said that the street was too narrow to support parking on both sides of the street.

Joe Smith said that the last four lots at the east end of Thompson Drive are outside of the City's jurisdiction. He mentioned that only 60 feet on the south side could be restricted.

Pat Connolly said that the Police Department could not ticket vehicles parked on both sides of the street if there were no parking restrictions posted.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the south side of Thompson Street in front of 305 within the City limits.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0. This item will go the Council for consideration.

Mr. Manrique said that he would remove the railroad ties when the parking signs were installed.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Lydia Court, west of Myra Ridge Drive.

Wayne Bailey expressed his concern about vehicles parking on both sides of Lydia Court, west of Myra Ridge Drive. He said that emergency vehicles have had difficulty accessing properties because of vehicles parking on both sides of the street.

Dennis Roberts asked if the property owners were aware of the proposed restrictions.

Mr. Bailey said that he had copies of e-mail approval by the property owners.

Joe Smith recommended that the parking restrictions proposed by Mr. Bailey be extended farther to allow visibility at intersections.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on Lydia Court per the modified drawing presented by Mr. Bailey.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0. This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4- Discussion of parking on Lincoln Avenue (in front of Jimmy John's Sandwich Shop, 807 South Lincoln Avenue).

Pat Connolly said that the Police Department had received many complaints about vehicles making U-turns in the area during times when Lincoln Avenue was heavily travelled by motorists and pedestrians. He said that officers had talked to the manager, but the problem still occurred.

Joe Smith moved to prohibit U-turns on Lincoln Avenue between Nevada Street and Iowa Street.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0. This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5- Discussion of the removal of parking meters on Church Street between Romine Street and Wright Street.

(See item #6.)

Item #6- Discussion of parking restrictions on Church Street between Romine Street and Wright Street.

Pat Pioletti asked that both of these items be moved to the May meeting since he was unable to contact Provena Hospital staff about the suggested changes. He said that the meters on Church Street generate no revenue.

These items will be placed on the May agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held May 3, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary