

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Charlie Smyth, Council Member, Ward 1
Jane Kerber, 1002 South Busey Avenue
Carl Stewart, 807 South Maple Street
Lisa Lockett, 804 South Maple Street

The meeting began at 4:10 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions on Urbana Avenue, Maple Street, Grove Street, Webber Street, Lynn Street and Wabash Avenue from Washington Street to Oregon Street.

Dennis Roberts asked for a summary of the previous discussion about the parking concerns on these streets.

Joe Smith said that there was a concern about snow plows being able to travel on these narrow streets during the winter when there were vehicles parked on both sides of the streets. He said that he realized that the parking restrictions on Washington Street would impact parking if vehicle owners on Washington Street parked on the side streets. Instead of permanently

restricting parking on one side of the street, Mr. Smith suggested that parking be restricted from December 1 until March 15 on the west side of the streets. He mentioned that there was a concern about the lack of parking during holidays. He recommended the dates of the restrictions to avoid Thanksgiving and Easter.

Mike Bily said that the suggested parking restrictions were better than the first suggestion of no parking at all on the west side of the streets, but he was still concerned about parking for holidays, birthday parties and other gatherings. He mentioned that if it was a "Tow-Away" zone, the Police Department would have to tow any vehicle that was illegally parked.

Dennis Roberts asked if parking would be restricted to the south of Washington Street.

Joe Smith said that it would not be restricted on those streets.

Charlie Smyth asked for the time period and the snow level restrictions.

Joe Smith asked that the suggested restrictions be tried for a year to see what the impact would be.

Carl Stewart felt that the restrictions were extreme since there might not be a heavy snowfall during that period. He asked that the City use smaller vehicles to remove snow from these streets after they removed snow from parking lots. Mr. Stewart asked that all residents be notified when the snow emergency was put into effect.

Dennis Roberts said that notification would be difficult.

Mike Bily said that there would be a risk of being towed if a sudden snow occurred. He felt that some measure had to be posted.

Lisa Luckett said that her street was never plowed, but that the plows typically plowed her street during the evening. She felt that the City could use the plows for snow removal in parking lots on the streets in this area during the evening.

Barb Stiehl gave a brief description of the snow removal program and mentioned that there was not a scheduled time of day for snow removal in any area of Urbana.

Dennis Roberts stated that he preferred the 2" snow restrictions from December 1 through March 15 with the Public Works Director notifying the media.

Dennis Roberts moved to have a parking restriction from December 1 through March 15 with a tow-away zone on the west side of Urbana Avenue, Maple Street, Grove Street, Webber Street, Lynn Street and Wabash Avenue from Washington Street to Oregon Street when 2" or more of snow fall. He added that the Public Works Director or designee would send the announcement to the media when the restrictions were in effect.

Joe Smith said that there would not be a need for the date restriction. He amended the motion to exclude the dates from December 1 through March 15 and use the 2” of snow as the factor to determine when to declare a snow emergency route.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-1.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of the installation of parking on Iowa Street at 1002 South Busey Avenue.

Joe Smith explained that when the driveway at 1002 South Busey Avenue was widened, the No Parking Here to Corner signage was moved, eliminating one on-street parking space. He said the Charlie Smyth had asked if the space could be returned. He added that the City Engineer determined that the space could be returned using the current visibility ordinance.

Jane Kerber said that she believed that the engineering results were valid, but that she was concerned about an internal conflict in interpreting parking restrictions.

Mike Bily said that there was a parking enforcement issue in determining which corner was referenced by the No Parking Here to Corner sign. He said that there were some who thought it referred to the corner the motorist was approaching.

Jane Kerber said that there was an impression that any vehicle parked in front of their home was there by their permission. She wanted to clarify that she did not have any control over who parked in front of her home. Ms. Kerber asked how one received permission for construction vehicles to park on the street in the West Urbana area. She also was concerned about illegal parking that resulted from a Farmers’ Market that occurred every Wednesday.

Dennis Roberts moved to restrict parking on Busey Avenue from the centerline of Iowa Street to 90 feet from the centerline of Iowa Street.

Joe Smith added that the restriction was currently 114 feet from the centerline.

Dennis Roberts said that the restrictions would add one parking space.

Joe Smith said that an arrow would be added to the sign to clarify the direction in which parking was restricted.

Charlie Smyth said that the neighbors wanted the spot returned and added that some distances where No Parking Here to Corner signs were added varied from location to location. He asked if the Engineering staff could look at the signage on Washington Street at Busey Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Fairlawn Drive between Coler Avenue and Orchard Street.

Joe Smith discussed a request from Carle Hospital to remove parking on Fairlawn Drive between Coler Avenue and Orchard Street. He said that the shuttle busses would use this route to avoid travelling in residential areas.

Mike Bily asked if it was necessary to restrict parking on the entire street.

Dennis Roberts asked if this item could be postponed until the September meeting of the Traffic Commission so the need of removing all parking could be discussed with a representative of Carle.

The Commission approved by a 3-0 vote to move this item to the September meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

The next meeting will be held September 7, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary