

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 5:30 pm., in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Kellbach, Winters, Mielke, Nutting
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Alfonso, Groat, Wesolowski, Lang

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Abitz at 5:30 pm.

(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting – 01/16/2014

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2014. Motion approved 5-0.

(2) Discussion and possible action to approve a RFP for an analysis of the Central Business District parking and long term plan.

Discussion: Groat introduced the RFP at the last Parking & Traffic Committee meeting and since had refined the RFP. It has been introduced to Main Street, Business Improvement, city staff, Economic Development and Finance Committee. There are 4 or 5 vendors already interested in receiving the RFP.

Groat also stated that there are a number of representatives interested in providing input and monitoring the process. Representation would consist of Dawn Fallendorf (MainStreet), Business representation from the East Side and West Side, East Bay, Wausau Center Mall, Police staff, Wausau Metro Transit, Engineering staff, and also city council members.

Groat stated that Dawn Fallendorf expressed interest in having the RFP address the decision making process of handling future parking requests. The Parking & Traffic members stated they were also interested in a “master plan” regarding future parking decisions.

Motion, by Mielke, to move forward and bring the RFP to the next Common Council meeting, second by Winters. Motion approved 5-0.

Groat left the meeting at this time.

(3) Discussion and possible action: To amend W.M.C. 10.10.060 to include 72nd Avenue, from State Highway 29, north to the city limits, as a designated, marked truck route.

Discussion: Wesolowski stated this agenda item stemmed from residents bringing up that trucks are using 84th Avenue as a throughway to get to businesses on the northwest portion of the industrial park. Since these are all local roads, we don't need the Department of Transportation's approval. Wesolowski doesn't see any issues with moving forward with this designated truck route. Signs will be placed at intersections and the cost is approximately \$75.00 per sign.

Motion by Winters to approve to amend W.M.C. 10.10.060 truck route, second by Kellbach. Motion approved 5-0.

(4) Discussion and possible action: To amend W.M.C. 10.10.060 to include Highland Drive, from 72nd Avenue west to the city limit, as a designated, marked truck route.

Discussion: Wesolowski doesn't see any issues with moving forward with this designated truck route.

Motion by Winters to approve to amend W.M.C. 10.10.060 truck route, second by Mielke. Motion approved 5-0.

(5) Discussion item only: discussion on parking concerns and traffic congestion at the intersection of N. 7th Street and Washington Street.

Discussion: Nutting discussed that residents in this area are concerned because they can't make traffic turns due to all the cars parking near the corner. The businesses and taverns are full and with the snow banks so high it is even harder to maneuver in the area.

Pekarske stated that he would talk with Department of Public Works (DPW) and ask them to take the snow banks down. Pekarske also stated that he will have the Parking Control Specialist watch this area for parking violations. Other than these two immediate suggestions, he is not sure of the fix. Per the maps included with the RFP for the downtown parking analysis, it appears this area will be included in the evaluation.

Different ideas were discussed; limiting parking to one side or the other of the street and possibly asking CoVantage to contract parking with the nearby businesses. It was suggested to wait until the RFP comes back with a recommendation and in the meantime, DPW will be asked to remove the snow banks, and Parking Enforcement will closely monitor this area for violations.

This topic will be brought forward again in the future.

(6) Discussion item only: Parking concerns and congestion on S. 39th Avenue and emergency vehicles access.

Mielke stated that South 39th Avenue by the Wausau Mine Co. is a dead end road. The residents at the end of the road are concerned that emergency vehicles will not have access to their homes. The concern is Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings between 7pm and 9pm, when the restaurant is the busiest. Cars are parked on both sides of the road and with the snow banks as high as they are, the cars are encroaching into the road.

Pekarske stated that he will contact DPW regarding snow removal; once the snow is removed he will evaluate the area and possibly contact the fire department to make sure emergency vehicles can get through. Since we are not sure if this problem is limited to the abundance of snow, he is reluctant to take any more action at this time. This area could be monitored in other seasons.

Nutting questioned how the parking lot was designed and thought the business could expand the parking lot to include 12 more spots.

Abitz questioned Wesolowski about the width of the road and if it could be widened.

This topic will be brought back to the Parking & Traffic Committee for a future item to monitor the area.

(7) Discussion item only: to move the start time for the monthly meeting of the Parking & Traffic Committee to 5:00 PM.

Discussion regarding moving the start time for the Parking & Traffic Committee to 5:00 PM. This topic will be put on hold until after the elections and new committee appointments are in place.

(8) Future Agenda Items.

Topics #5, #6, and #7.

(9) Communications

Nothing

(10) Adjournment

Adjourn

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Parking and Traffic Committee
Sherry Abitz, Chair