

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2014, 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Kellbach, Mielke
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Friday, Alfonso, Wesolowski, Marie Schmidt, Patti Grimm, Diane Lemma, Kathleen Macomber, Virginia Gottschalk, Paul Gottschalk, Mike Zamzow, Shawn Gehin

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 5:20 pm.

(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting – 7/17/2014

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke, to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2014 meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.

(2) Discussion and possible action: To amend W.M.C. 10.01.080 to reflect the new forfeiture amount of \$150.00 for “stopping, standing or parking prohibited in places reserved for handicapped”.

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske noted that state law regarding this item was amended in April and that this item is being brought forward in order to amend our parking ordinance to comply with State law.

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke to amend W.M.C. 10.01.080 to reflect the new forfeiture amount of \$150.00 for “stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in places reserved for handicapped”.

Motion carried 3-0.

(3) Discussion and possible action: To prohibit parking to one side of the street on Werle Avenue, to alternate between the east and west sides of the street on corresponding odd and even days.

Discussion: Committee members and citizens present agreed that parking on both sides of the street is an issue because of how narrow Werle Avenue is and because there are rental properties with multiple vehicles which increases street parking. They also agreed that when parking was allowed on only one side of the street during the Fair that it worked well. Wesolowski noted that the section of Werle Avenue from Garfield, south is already “no parking” on both sides of the street. A resident then stated that one of the signs in that section has a tree branch blocking it. Lt. Pekarske said he would contact DPW to have it removed.

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to prohibit parking to one side of the street on Werle Avenue, to alternate between the east and west sides of the street on corresponding odd and even days.

Motion carried 3-0.

(4) Discussion and possible action: To restrict parking on the east side of St. Paul Street from the intersection of McIntosh Street, 124 feet to the south to the property line for Bull Falls Brewery

Discussion: Mielke stated that Bull Falls Brewery is unable to get their delivery vehicles in and out of their loading dock because of vehicles, primarily Charter Communications vehicles, parked blocking their loading dock. Mike Zamzow from Bull Falls brewery noted that is particularly an issue when Charter is running a promotion and their company vehicles do not park in the Charter lot in order to allow for more customer parking. Paul and Virginia Gottschalk, owners of the Laundromat on the corner of McIntosh Street and St. Paul Street, stated that they agree that during Charter Communications promotions the employees of Charter do park in the street in order to allow for more parking for customers in their own lot which in turn causes others to park in their Laundromat parking lot.

The property owners also said that the parking issue is mostly a problem during business hours on weekdays. Parking restrictions during that time may be adequate to address the problem. Committee members and property owners agree that parking should not be allowed on this section of St. Paul Street between 8:00 am and 6:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke to restrict parking on the east side of St. Paul Street from the intersection of McIntosh Street, 124 feet to the south to the property line for Bull Falls Brewery.

Motion carried 3-0

(5) Discussion item only: Sign improvements for the right-turn lane on N 1st Street at Scott Street.

Discussion: Lt. Pekarske stated that this item was requested to be brought forward to the committee by Winters, who is absent. Wesolowski noted that DPW will be re-painting the arrows and right-turn only markings as soon as weather permits. He also stated that there is a right-turn only sign on the lamp post. The committee agreed to table the issue and bring it forth for discussion at the next meeting to address any other concerns Winters may have regarding signage.

(6) Discussion item only: Consider possible parking restrictions on the west end of East Crocker Street as a potential alternative to road widening.

Discussion: Wesolowski noted that the existing right-of-way of 33 feet and roadway of 20 feet in this area is significantly narrower than normal. It would not be realistic to widen this roadway within the existing right-of-way. He also noted that Crocker Street from 7th Street to 13th Street is proposed for reconstruction in 2015. The design process will take place this winter and will allow for public comment. If a reduced width roadway is proposed, parking restrictions may be required and can be brought to this committee.

The committee agreed to table the issue until the reconstruction is complete next year.

(7) Discussion item only: Overnight parking regulations and enforcement

Discussion: Mielke stated that he would like to see more enforcement of this ordinance because he receives several complaints about it being routinely violated. The committee also discussed possibly increasing the fine for this violation.

Lt. Pekarske stated that he will research what other municipalities do regarding this issue and report his findings to the committee at the October meeting.

(8) Discussion item only: Update on the cell phone ban ordinance and enforcement

Discussion: Committee members would like to see more enforcement of this ordinance. Lt. Pekarske stated that the police department has to balance their calls for service with their traffic enforcement activities. Lt. Pekarske provided statistic on the number of citations and warnings issued since the ban went into effect. Lt. Pekarske also stated that there are a few factors influencing the difficulty in changing the public's behavior regarding this issue, including the fact that no neighboring municipalities have implemented this ordinance.

(9) Future Agenda Items:

- 1) Request for parking in front of Zillman's Meet Market at 1910 6th St.

(10) Communications:

None

(11) Adjournment:

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.