

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2014, 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Kellbach, Mielke, Nutting, Winters
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Alfonso, Wesolowski, Friday, Andrew Plath, Betsy Larson, Jim Seidel

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 – 9/18/2014

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke, to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2014 meeting.

Motion carried 5-0.

(2) Discussion and possible action: To create a no-parking zone, on school days only, during the hours of 2:30 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. on the west side of S 13th Street; beginning at a point 70' south of the intersection with Kickbusch Street extending north to the intersection.

Discussion:

Betsy Larson, PTO representative from Hawthorne Hills stated that the PTO requested this so that busses could more safely navigate the turn at S 13th St. and Kickbusch Street and also to ensure safety in the crosswalk. Currently Ms. Larson is putting out traffic cones daily in the aforementioned area in order to create a no-parking zone. She also stated that the time of the no-parking zone could be reduced from 2:30 PM until 4:00 PM to 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Lt. Pekarske noted some factors that would need to be considered in creating a no-parking zone in this area. Specifically, that there is no boulevard in this area so signage would need to be installed directly on the sidewalk. Also, the east side of the street in this area is already a no-parking zone.

Mr. Seidel agreed that safety is an issue but would prefer to see any parking restrictions limited to a specific time frame and for the duration of the school year only

Lt. Pekarske suggested that the PTO work with the school and with the safety patrols to incorporate the placement of the traffic cones into their daily duties. He also stated that he would contact the bus company to see if an alternate route could be taken to alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

The committee agreed that this was a satisfactory resolution to the concerns and no further action will be taken on this item.

(3) Discussion item only: Sign improvements at the intersection on N. 1st Street and Scott Street.

Discussion:

Wesolowski stated that he does not have an updates on this issue. He did note that the city hired a consultant to study this intersection and there are recommendations from the consultant, however, changes cannot be implemented without the approval of the DOT because this area encompasses a portion of Hwy 52. He also said that the DOT is planning reconstruction of 1st Street for 2016 including re-signing and re-striping.

Nutting inquired what, if any, incremental steps could be taken to improve this intersection until the DOT reconstructs this area.

Wesolowski stated that he will investigate the possibility of hanging additional signage on the existing trombone arm and also re-painting the markings leading up to the intersection.

(4) Discussion item only: Engineering presentation on the logistics and design for creating on-street parking in front of Zillman's Meat Market, 1910 N. 6th Street.

Discussion:

Wesolowski presented a preliminary diagram to the committee showing the current lane designations and what changes would need to be made to the widths of those lanes in order to incorporate parking spaces in front of Zillman's Meat Market. He also noted that a 9' wide bay could be created in front of Zillman's after the curb is removed which would allow parking for 2-3 cars. He also noted that doing so would create snow removal issues that Mr. Zillman would need to be responsible for.

Abitz recommended that the issue be brought to CISM for further design consideration.

Winters suggested removal of the left lane completely in order to allow parking along the entire block.

After discussion the committee agreed that the matter should be brought to CISM for further discussion about removing the left traffic lane.

(5) Discussion item only: A review of Wausau's overnight parking ordinance and fee structure.

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske presented the committee with documentation comparing Wausau's overnight parking regulations and fine structure to other municipalities in Wisconsin. He recommended that no changes be made at this time.

Winters noted that the area by Trolley Quarter Flats apartments experiences a significant issue with overnight parking.

Lt. Pekarske agreed and stated that it is because each apartment unit is allotted only 1 parking space in the complex and many tenants have more than one vehicle.

The committee discussed the possibility of finding out whether some adjacent property currently owned by the city could be used for overflow parking at Trolley Quarter Flats. The committee concluded that they would request a member from Community Development attend the next Parking and Traffic Committee meeting to discuss this issue.

(6) Discussion item only: To restrict parking around the curve where Golden Meadow Street meets N. 16th Ave.

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske referenced an email originally sent by councilperson Rasmussen to Kellbach and Abitz stating that one of Rasmussen's constituents raised this issue. Lt. Pekarske also directed the committee to a photo showing the area in question. He stated that he was not aware of any previous issues with parking in this area.

Wesolowski noted that because of the low volume and slow speed limit in the area he does not see an issue either.

The committee concluded that Kellbach will investigate further as to the specific issue and report back to the committee if necessary.

(7) Discussion item only: Consider installation of an electronic speed monitoring sign on Townline Road.

Discussion:

Mr. Plath noted that this agenda item should reference **Northwestern Road** and not **Townline Road**.

The committee concluded that because of this error this specific agenda item could not be discussed.

The committee did discuss, hypothetically, what costs would be involved in the installation of a speed monitoring sign.

Wesolowski noted that the one-time cost of an electric sign would be \$9600 and the one-time cost of a solar sign would be \$12,700. Both costs are for equipment only, not including installation.

The committee concluded that this issue will be discussed at the November meeting.

(8) Future Agenda Items:

None

(9) Communications:

None

(10) Adjournment:

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.