

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Winters {VC}, Kellbach, Mielke
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Alfonso, Wesolowski, Friday, Deb Ryan

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 – 12/18/2014

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

Motion carried 3-0.

(2) Discussion item only: Update from Community Development on plans and/or a proposal to address the parking concerns at the Trolley Quarter Flats apartments.

Discussion:

Because Anne Werth from Community Development was attending a different meeting, Wesolowski presented the proposal from Community Development which is to plow areas surrounding the community gardens parcel to create temporary parking spaces specifically for Trolley Quarter Flats residents. He indicated that these spaces would not be marked or striped initially. If the committee decided to make these spaces permanent then DPW could put in some temporary pavement, signage and striping.

Winters stated that he agreed with the plan but felt that Trolley Quarter Flats should contribute financially in some way. He also suggested that any future permanent parking plan comply with current zoning requirements for this type of property.

Wesolowski said that Anne Werth had already approached Trolley Quarter Flats management about contributing financially and they had agreed to pay a fee per space or contribute to the construction and continued plowing of the spaces. Wesolowski told the committee that if the proposal presented today is acceptable to the members then he would meet with Werth to determine costs and possible fees.

Alfonso noted that whatever reparations are agreed upon with Trolley Quarter Flats will need to be in the form of a written agreement.

Abitz requested that Wesolowski move forward with meeting with Werth and bring the cost and fee estimates to the next meeting.

(3) Discussion and possible action: To prohibit all overnight parking on S. 6th Avenue and S. 7th Avenue between Stewart Avenue and Pardee St.

Discussion:

Because of the absence of UW-Marathon representative Kristine McCaslin the committee decided to table the item until McCaslin is able to attend.

Motion by Mielke, second by Winters to table this item. Motion approved 4-0.

(4) Discussion and possible action: Consideration of changes to current restrictions and imposition of additional parking restrictions in the 500 and 600 blocks of S. 6th Avenue and S. 7th Avenue.

Discussion:

Because of the absence of UW-Marathon representative Kristine McCaslin the committee decided to table the item until McCaslin is able to attend.

Motion by Mielke second by Kellbach to table this item. Motion approved 4-0.

(5) Discussion and possible action: To install stop signs at the intersection of S. 14th Avenue and Callon Street

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske stated that stop signs are not indicated at this intersection because of no cross traffic and in the last five years there has only been one traffic accident. The school resource officer and staff from John Muir evaluated the intersection throughout the course of the day and determined that it is busy and congested only during school drop-off and pick-up times. At other times during the day the use is minimal. Installing a stop sign is not indicated or recommended in this situation.

Mielke stated that parents are expressing a concern for their children's safety specifically during drop-off and pick-up times.

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach to install stop signs at the intersection of S. 14th Avenue and Callon Street.

Motion failed on a tie vote (Mielke and Kellbach for, Winters and Abitz against)

Motion moves on to City Council for consideration.

(6) Discussion item only: Consider modification to the overnight parking rules during the winter months.

Discussion:

Lt. Pekarske noted that Mielke has mentioned numerous times his frustration regarding the overnight parking situation in the City. This item was placed on the agenda to determine if the committee would like to move forward with any changes. Lt. Pekarske also stated that Wausau's Overnight Parking Ordinance is similar to other jurisdictions. He suggested that although the permission system does get abused it is necessary to allow overnight street parking for some instances. He suggested to committee members that they should contact the Police Department in cases of clear vehicle abandonment on City streets. Lt. Pekarske suggested that one measure available to the committee would be to increase fines.

Lt. Pekarske offered to compile a comparison of overnight parking ordinances and fine structures of other jurisdictions and present it at the next meeting. The committee agreed.

(7) Future Agenda Items

Item #2, #3, #4 and #6 from current agenda

(5) Communications:

None

(6) Adjournment:

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.