

## **Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall  
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Winters {VC}, Kellbach, Mielke, Nutting  
Others Present: Lt. Graham, Tara Alfonso, Allen Wesolowski, Jennifer Friday, Jonathan Bendrick, Elizabeth Field, Pat Peckham, Nora Hertel

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 5:15 pm.

### **(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting – 07/16/2015**

Motion by Mielke, second by Kellbach, to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2015 meeting.

Motion carried 4-0. Nutting absent.

### **(2) Discussion and possible action: Traffic signal concerns and light timing at the Stewart Avenue/S 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection.**

Discussion:

Lt. Graham noted that the issue was brought forth to the committee by Nutting to address a concern about the delay of the left turn signal light on S 36<sup>th</sup> Ave at Stewart Ave. Wesolowski presented the signal plans for that intersection to the committee and he noted that the electricians adjusted the loop length delay to 20 seconds in the right and left turn lanes so that the signal will start to change after 20 seconds of a vehicle waiting in the turn lanes on S 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. No further action is needed at this time.

### **(3) Discussion and possible action: Review results of the traffic study conducted on N. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Elm Street and Bridge Street.**

Discussion:

The study was initiated based on a concern from a resident. Wesolowski stated that no significant issues were noted from the results of the study. Winters suggested that a committee member send the results of the study to the concerned resident. Abitz will handle the notification of the resident. No additional action is needed.

### **(4) Discussion and possible action: Parking concern at W bridge Street and N 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Discussion:

Mielke stated that a resident is concerned that there is no longer parking available on either N 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue or W Bridge Street near her residence since N 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue was recently reconstructed to accommodate three lanes of traffic. After discussion the committee concluded that no action will be taken to create additional parking in this area at this time. Mielke will inform the resident.

#### **(5) Discussion and possible action: Parking concern at W Thomas Street and S 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**

Discussion:

Abitz noted that all committee members should be in receipt of a letter from Jonathan Bendrick who owns a business at the corner of S 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and W Thomas Street stating his concerns about traffic flow in that area. Specifically, Mr. Bendrick is concerned about 3 issues:

- 1) During heavy traffic periods the cars are backed up for several blocks on S 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and drivers are creating dangerous conditions by ignoring set traffic lanes. The heavy traffic also blocks access to Mr. Bendrick's parking spaces.
- 2) When a vehicle is parked on the west side of S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue adjacent to the Krist Oil property, there is no space for any vehicle to pass.
- 3) A vehicle parked on the west side of S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue adjacent to the Krist Oil property also prohibits vehicles turning onto S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Thomas Street. The inability to get around the parked vehicle then creates a back-up in the turn lanes on Thomas Street.

Mr. Bendrick suggests that a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign be installed at the southern edge of the Krist Oil property on the west side of S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

The committee discussed the long-term plans for road reconstruction in this area and decided that in the short-term a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign could be installed in the designated location and that the committee could also direct staff to investigate striping the lanes at the south leg of the intersection and to investigate the possibility of additional parking signage on the east side on S 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke, to install a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign at the southern edge of the Krist Oil property on the west side of S 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Motion approved 5-0.

#### **(6) Discussion and possible action: 3M truck traffic on S 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue**

Discussion:

Nutting brought this issue forth to the committee based on a constituent complaint about 3M company trucks speeding on S 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Nutting suggests that someone contact 3M about this concern. Wesolowski stated that he would be willing to send a letter to 3M regarding this issue. The committee directed Wesolowski to do so.

#### **(7) Discussion: Traffic concern surrounding the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure Event**

Discussion:

Nutting expressed concerned about the number of roads that were blocked off for the race route this year. Abitz noted that the issue would need to be directed to the Public Health and Safety committee who approves the route for the race. Winters suggested that if committee members had concerns about the route in the future they should express those concerns to the Public Health and Safety

committee. Lt. Graham will also communicate the committee's concerns to Lt. Baeten regarding the route map for next year.

**(8) Discussion and possible action: Future direction for city staff to move forward with implementation of parking study recommendations. This includes discussion on the following recommendations made by Walker Parking Consultants: create one City staff position that is accountable for all City parking-related matters; implement a single enforcement and operations time schedule of Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; and set a goal for staff to determine short/medium/long term goals for discussion at the September meeting.**

Discussion:

Abitz commented that the committee has not yet had time to decide on which recommendations to move forward with or establish a timeline for implementing them. She noted that the committee could probably move forward with adding way finding signs and implementing new parking regulations downtown including the installation of parking payment kiosks to replace meters.

Lt. Graham cautioned against implementing parking changes downtown that would only be a "band aid" approach. He reiterated the City staff recommendations to the committee listed above in the item description.

Winters presented a document to the committee outlining his recommendations for moving forward which are as follows:

Near West Side

- 1) In the next month, produce a map with parking stalls marked and counted to match what is in the study's count of parking spots. There seems to be a variety of opinions on whether enough parking exists or not. Let's get a picture that settles that matter.
- 2) In the next month, put together a budget proposal to implement the study's recommendation to mark and sign the parking stalls on the near west side to create greater clarity about where people can and cannot park.
- 3) In the next month, ask staff to find out the disposition of vacant buildings in areas such as the former Kleinheinz Dairy and Pizza Hut. Are they for sale? If so, for how much? Are there inspection orders on any of those vacant properties?

Near East Side

- 1) In the next month, develop a proposal for possible inclusion in the 2016 budget to meter the two-hour parking stalls in front of businesses for the purpose of discouraging employee parking and increasing parking turnover (this includes researching and pricing out multiple kiosks that would be placed strategically instead of placing physical meters at each parking spot near our downtown businesses).

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to direct staff to move forward with the items presented by Winters. Motion approved 5-0.

**(9) Future Agenda items**

- 1) #8 from this agenda
- 2) Clarification on the length of closure (permanent or temporary) of N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street near McClellan Street.

**(10) Communications**

None

**(11) Adjournment**

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