



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

City Manager's Office

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Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.
City Manager

Parking Committee Minutes

January 27, 2020

Attendees:

Byron Champlin, Chair, City Councilor
Linda Kenison, City Councilor
Brent Todd, City Councilor
Jim Bouley, City Mayor

Staff:

Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager
David Florence, Parking Division Supervisor
Amanda Lombard, Fiscal Clerk-Parking Division

Absent:

Nathan Fennessy, City Councilor
Matt Walsh, Dir. of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects

The meeting began at 5:00 PM

1. **Overview of Agenda:** Councilor Champlin welcomed members of the public in attendance and provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** Councilor Kenison moved to adopt the minutes of December 23, 2019 as presented. Councilor Todd seconded. The minutes were adopted on a unanimous voice vote.
3. **Request / Referrals:**
 - a. **School Street (Pine to Liberty) 2 Hour Parking Zone:** Michelle Radie Coffin, a resident of School Street, addressed the Parking Committee concerning the 2 hour time zone on School Street between Pine and Liberty.

Ms. Radie Coffin's property is a duplex. She stated that she has inadequate on-site parking for her household and her tenants. She requested that the City revise the current parking regulations so that her family and tenants would be exempted from the 2 hour time limit.

Discussion ensued. It was noted that the purpose of the 2 hour time limit was to restrict parking associated with Concord High School in the neighborhood. If the time limit is eliminated, student parking will likely increase and may consume available parking.

After additional discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to eliminate the 2 hour time limit on School Street between Pine and Liberty Streets. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

- b. **District 5 Road No Parking at Cul-de-sac:** Don Ross, resident of District 5 Road, addressed the Parking Committee concerning his request to establish a “no parking zone” within the cul-de-sac at the end of the street. The cul-de-sac has an “L” shape configuration. Mr. Ross and other members of the Ross Family own several properties on District 5 Road associated with Rossview Farm.

Mr. Ross discussed City Ordinance #2900, which established no parking areas on certain sections of District 5 Road. Although this Ordinance created some no parking areas on District 5 Road, it did not address the cul-de-sac.

Mr. Ross requested that a no parking zone be implemented at the cul-de-sac. He stated that parking within the cul-de-sac is problematic as it hinders school buses, garbage trucks, as well as agricultural and logging equipment associated with Rossview Farm. He also stated that parking hinders access to a right-of-way which he uses to access portions of Rossview Farm.

Mr. Ross also discussed snow plowing in the cul-de-sac and stated that snow piles block access to a right-of-way, which he uses to access portions of his property.

Mayor Bouley moved that the City establish a no parking zone within the cul-de-sac at the end of District 5 Road. Councilor Todd Seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

- c. **Pleasant Street 10 Hour Meter Zone:** Councilor Champlin reported that Remi Hinxhia has requested that the City establish 20 minute parking spaces along the frontage of his property located at 60-62 Pleasant Street. The property is a restaurant. This location was recently metered and is regulated as a 10 hour meter zone. Mr. Hinxhia was not in attendance at the meeting.

Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager, reported that staff has communicated with Mr. Hinxhia about this issue. Specifically, staff suggested that Mr. Hinxhia consider establishing short-term parking on his property for his patrons. Staff stated that on-street 20 minute spaces are not preferred as they would likely be misused by the public and, therefore, would not address Mr. Hinxhia’s concerns. It was also noted creation of 20 minute on-street spaces for Mr. Hinxhia’s restaurant may create a difficult precedent as all other restaurants and coffee shops in Downtown would likely want similar accommodations.

Staff suggested that 10 meters along the frontage of the restaurant could be converted to 3 hours. It was noted that a similar accommodation was recently granted for Concord Antiques on Storrs Street near Dixon Avenue.

Councilor Champlin reported that Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects, had contacted Mr. Hinxhia concerning a curb cut at his property. Specifically, Mr. Walsh suggested that closing the apparently unused curb cut between Mr. Hinxhia's restaurant and a new residential condominium project developed by Mr. Hinxhia at 2-10 North Spring Street would allow the City to create more on-street parking along the frontage of Mr. Hinxhia's restaurant. However, closing the curb cut would require installation of curbing. Mr. Hinxhia has not responded to this suggestion.

Councilor Todd moved to change metered parking along the frontage of 60-62 Pleasant Street from 10 hours to 3 hours. Kenison seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

4. **Other Business:**

- a. **Law Enforcement Parking at Federal Courthouse:** Mayor Bouley reported that he and the City Manager recently met with security personnel at the Federal Courthouse concerning recently installed meters along the Pleasant Street frontage of the Court. This area had been converted to law enforcement only parking approximately 10 years ago. The Court stated that the meters will need to be removed and the area converted back to law enforcement only parking due to federal security regulations.
- b. **Meter Zone Expansion:** Discussion ensued about Phase II meter expansion. In total, approximately 315 meters were installed. Phase II meter expansion was completed on January 10, 2020.

Mayor Bouley stated that supporting meter expansion was a "mistake" on his part and he broached the idea of removing the new meters and using them to replace broken traditional meters or malfunctioning existing kiosk areas. Councilors Champlin, Todd and Kenison were sympathetic to the Mayor's position, and also expressed concerns about anecdotal lack of utilization of meters within the expansion zone, as well as revenue implications for the Parking Fund associated therewith. However, they were inclined to give the expansion more time to collect and review data on usage of the new meters.

Discussion also ensued about newly metered parking on Court Street. Councilor Kenison expressed concerns about a proposed Ordinance to remove some of these meters, which will be considered by the City Council on March 9th. She noted that the Ordinance has been proposed to specifically accommodate a resident at 10 Court Street that has no on-site parking. Councilor Kenison stated that she was concerned that the City was considering enacting parking policies to accommodate a single individual, and that this may create difficult precedent for the City.

After additional discussion, it was the consensus of the Parking Committee to monitor utilization and revenue data for the expanded meter area before considering any modifications. Councilor Champlin closed the conversation by stating that parking is a commodity. He cautioned the Committee about making any hasty decisions about changes to the meter expansion zones, and suggested that the Committee monitor utilization and revenue data associated therewith for the foreseeable future.

5. **Adjourned:** Councilor Todd moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Kenison seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6.33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda Lombard
Parking Division Fiscal Tech III

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