



Parking Advisory Committee

Meeting 1/4/2023

Minutes

Attendees: James Bonanno, Barbara Krzak, Jordan Modell, William West, Eugene Dello, John Moor

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Public Comment

Tony Freid

Mr. Freid raised concerns regarding parking along Langford Avenue near the High School. He and his neighbors have been having a difficult time finding parking and they believe this is due to teachers and students of the High School parking their personal vehicles on Langford Street. He stated it is difficult to park during school hours and is requesting the Parking Committee's assistance in finding a solution. Additionally, Mr. Freid make the Committee aware that driveways along Langford are often blocked by these vehicles. The Parking Committee directed Mr. Freid to contact the police whenever a vehicle is found to be blocking a driveway. As for the parking concerns, the Committee discussed the issue and felt Residential Only Permit parking was not an appropriate solution as the issue only occurs during school hours and parking does not seem to be an issue at any other time or during the summer. It was decided the best course of action would be to have Staff contact the school to find out more about teacher and student parking conditions and investigate alternatives to Langford Street. In addition, Staff would evaluate the severity of the parking conditions along Langford Street during school hours.

Anette Harrell

Ms. Harrell requested the Parking Committee address safety and parking concerns along Atkins Avenue. She stated the roadway is narrow and in recent years parking has become in such high demand that Atkins Avenue is often full of vehicles. She feels this has resulted in a dangerous situation as vehicles traveling in opposite directions have limited room to pass each other. She suggested bus traffic be rerouted to another street as the buses are the largest vehicles to frequently utilize Atkins Avenue. She also raised concerns regarding dirt bikes and ATV's utilizing Atkins Avenue. The Parking Committee directed Ms. Harrell to contact the police regarding dirt bikes and ATV's, and directed Staff to reach out to NJ TRANSIT to discuss the bus route. Staff made the Committee aware that moving the bus

route is ultimately up to NJ TRANSIT and there is most likely a reason for the use of Atkins Avenue.

4. Matters from the Director of Transportation

a. Monthly Parking Report

Staff presented the Parking Committee with the monthly Parking Report that illustrated December 2022's parking revenue was 7.67% higher than December 2021's revenue.

Staff continued with the Review of Parking Meter Maintenance. The Committee was made aware that all parking meters are operational and zero are unavailable or inactive. Staff continued that there are some existing coin and cash issues at a few select meters that are causing small issues and staff is investigating solutions.

7.59% of parking tickets issued, or 219 in total were voided in the month of December. The largest reasons being Officer Adjusted with 54.34% or 119 total, Ticketed While Paying with 17.81 % or 39 total, Duplicate Ticket with 17.81% or 39 total, 5.02% or 11 total due to User Error, Subject Paid with 2.28 % or 5 total, Valid Permit Holder with 1.83 % or 4 total, and One Time Courtesy with 0.91 % or 2 total.

In the month of December, the Mattison Avenue charging station had an average of 19.3 hours of utilization and 99.55 kWh dispersed per day, the Seventh Avenue charging station had an average of 11.9 hours of utilization and 57.24 kWh dispersed per day, and the Springwood Avenue charging station had an average of 2.76 hours of utilization and 20.52 kWh dispersed per day. Mattison Avenue exceeded utilization goals, Seventh Avenue nearly met utilization goals, and Springwood Avenue fell short of meeting utilization goals. December saw an increase in utilization from November.

b. New Employee

Staff informed the Parking Committee that a new Parking Clerk has been hired to assist with parking permit management and review. Erika Desir began on January 3, 2023.

c. Valet Parking

Staff stated Valet Parking Licenses are being implemented in 2023 and all businesses actively operating or planning to operate a valet parking service on City Right of Way in 2023 will be required to be in possession of an approved license to continue operations. and pay a fee for the parking spaces used for valet parking ramping. The use of licensing will allow the city to better manage the use of valet services and make the best use of under-utilized parking lots and on street parking.

d. Ordinances

Staff updated the Parking Committee that their ordinance recommendations to the City Council were presented to the City Council on December 7, 2022 and they are currently being reviewed by Council Members.

5. Old Business

a. Land Development and Loss of On-Street Parking Spaces

Staff made the Committee aware their concerns raised by Committee members at the previous meeting regarding public parking being removed by developers for private parking was discussed internally with Planning and Redevelopment staff members. Staff has come to the conclusion that the city is unable to penalize developers for the removal of on street parking in relation to city requirements. The City may amend redevelopment plans to include payments into the Transportation Fund or the inclusion of on-site parking requirements in relation the removal of on street parking spaces provided the spaces were not required to be removed to meet City regulations and requirements.

b. Residential Permit Requirements

Staff has reviewed the Residential Parking Permit requirements and explored optional amendments to reduce abuse and lower the number of permits issued to non-residents. It is the opinion of Staff that amending the regulations will cause a burden on current residents. It would be best for staff to review each case as it is brought to light instead of changing regulations in a way that might leave some residents unable to meet the requirements. The Parking Committee agreed with Staff and decided not to recommend changes to the Residential Parking Permit requirements.

c. Review of Parking Violation Penalties

Staff provided the Parking Committee with a list of parking violations and their associated fees. While the Parking Committee felt there were none that stood out as in need of change. They tasked Staff with reviewing the penalties in neighboring municipalities to see if there were any stark differences in amounts.

d. Parking Committee 2023 Meeting Calendar

The Parking Committee was made aware of a change made to the 2023 Meeting Calendar. The Committee's December meeting date was pushed back one week to December 13, 2023 to avoid a conflict with a scheduled City Council Meeting.

6. New Business

a. City Roadway Speed Limits

The Parking Committee was made aware of a suggestion from the public that was made to lower speed limits on some roadways within the city to twenty or fifteen miles per hour. Staff explained that lowering the speed limit would improve safety for all roadway users but should not be considered as a tool to slow down speeding vehicles. The Parking Committee was interested in investigating further into the possibility of lowering the speed limit on side streets such as, but not limited to Bond Street, Emory Street, Heck Street and

other lower volume roadways. Staff offered to put together information and speak with the City Manager.

b. Langford Street Parking Concerns

The Parking Committee received two requests to discuss parking concerns along Langford Street. These were discussed in the conversation that resulted from Mr. Freid's public comment.

7. Adjournment