



## **Parking Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting 2/1/2023**

#### Minutes

Attendees: James Bonanno, Jordan Modell, William West, Eugene Dello, John Moor, Jill Potter

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

Pamela Lambert

Ms. Lambert asked the Committee if they had any interest in expanding their scope of influence to other modes of transportation other than parking. The Parking Committee was open to the idea but informed Ms. Lambert that the structure and purview of this Committee is designated by the City Council and parking matters throughout the city keep the Committee very busy. They offered to pass the suggestion to City Council for their consideration.

Ms. Lambert also raised concerns regarding loitering and littering in the Central Business District and asked for increased enforcement and creative solutions. She suggested placing cameras along Cookman Avenue, posting special officers during popular nightlife hours, designating an Uber/Lyft pickup and dropoff location, and requested parking enforcement stop blocking roadways when ticketing. Detective Dello stated that cameras are already in place along Cookman and officers are posted throughout the Central Business District. He stated that he himself is often out there and the police are doing a lot to curb bad behavior. He also stated that loitering is not illegal and the police have no grounds to ask people to move. He did agree that an Uber/Lyft pickup and dropoff are would be beneficial. Staff assured Ms. Lambert that they would investigate designating uber/lyft areas and will work with parking enforcement to find alternate methods of enforcing parking regulations that do not block the roadway.

Ms. Lambert's final question pertained to the opening of Cookman Avenue to pedestrians. Staff stated that there is no current plan to open Cookman Avenue again and that that decision would have to be made by City Council. If the City were to open the roadway again, staff assured Ms. Lambert that it would operate somewhat differently as the City has learned from its past experiences opening the roadway.

#### 4. Matters from the Director of Transportation

##### a. Monthly Parking Report

Staff presented the Parking Committee with the monthly Parking Report that illustrated January 2023's parking revenue was 71.94% higher than January 2022'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 they were able to successfully solve some long-standing coin and opto faults and were now moving towards correcting errors with bill readers.

9.63% of parking tickets issued, or 307 in total were voided in the month of January. The largest reasons being Officer Adjusted with 45% or 138 total, Valid Permit Holder with 19.22% or 59 total, Duplicate Ticket with 12.05% or 37 total, Ticketed While Paying with 11.4 % or 35 total, 4.89% or 15 total due to User Error, Subject Paid with 4.56% or 14 total, and One Time Courtesy with 2.93 % or 9 total. Staff explained the high number of Valid Permit holders ticketed this month was due to an error where Employee Permits were supposed to be extended until January 31, 2023 to allow applicant time to reapply but the extension never took place. Employee Permit holders who received tickets had their tickets dismissed while waiting for their permit applications to be approved. This issue has since been resolved.

In the month of January, the Mattison Avenue charging station had an average of 22.33 hours of utilization and 106.9 kWh dispersed per day, the Seventh Avenue charging station had an average of 16.29 hours of utilization and 62.23 kWh dispersed per day, and the Springwood Avenue charging station had an average of 2.76 hours of utilization and 11.2 kWh dispersed per day. Mattison Avenue and Springwood Avenue exceeded utilization goals, and Springwood Avenue fell short of meeting utilization goals. January saw an increase in utilization from December.

#### 5. Old Business

##### a. Review of Parking Violation Penalties

At the previous meeting, Committee members expressed interest in the possibility of increasing fines for other parking violations. Specifically parking in front of a fire hydrant was requested. Staff informed the Committee that fire hydrant and other fire zone violations are put in place by Nj Title 39 and the City has no jurisdiction to edit the violation amounts. Staff was asked if it would be possible to add an additional fine or tow vehicles that are found in violation. Staff was asked to contact the City Attorney and report back.

##### b. Langford Street Parking Concerns

Staff reminded the Committee of public concerns that were raised at the previous meeting regarding a difficult parking situation along Langford Street. It was brought to the Committee's attention that many teachers and students park along Langford Street and residents are unable to park by their homes. Staff reported they visited the site many times

throughout the Month of January at different times during the school day. On no occasion did Staff witness a complete unavailability of parking spaces along Langford Street, Sunset Avenue, or Fifth Avenue. While it was clear the area was a popular place to park there was always parking available at the end of the block or around the corner on a neighboring street. Staff does not feel this area warrants any significant treatment and is of the opinion residents do have parking available to them. However, staff did witness vehicles blocking driveways. Staff intends to discuss these issues with the High School and learn more about their staff's parking situation and implement striping to better visualize the location of driveway aprons. The Parking Committee was satisfied with this solution

c. Lowering Speed Limits on Low Volume Roadways

The Parking Committee expressed at their December meeting that they were interested in possibly lowering speed limits on some lower volume roadways to twenty or fifteen miles per hour. Staff was tasked with generating a small report on the benefits of lowering speed limits. This report is currently being developed.

d. Sunset Drive

Ms. Potter asked if there was any update on previous discussions regarding Sunset Drive. Staff recalled the discussion and the Committee's interest in implementing alternate side parking and possibly changing the roadway to one-way eastbound traffic. Staff stated the addition of alternate side parking was agreed upon by the Committee and would be going before the City Council and that a one-way traffic pattern was being investigated. Staff is waiting for warmer weather to perform traffic counts to get a better representation of the volume of vehicles during the peak season.

6. New Business

7. Adjournment