



## **Parking Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting 4/6/2022**

#### Minutes

Attendees: John Moor, William West, James Bonanno, Jill Potter, Gene Dello, Barbara Krzak

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

- a. Laura Chapman

Ms. Chapman is a resident of Park Avenue and raised concerns to the Parking Committee regarding Residential Permit Parking. She stated in the past she has been able to purchase parking permits but this year was denied. She acknowledged that her residence is not along a metered/permited road but elaborated that during the summer months it becomes increasingly difficult to park on her road and so she relies on the permit parking on Sixth Avenue and sunset Avenue. Staff clarified for the Parking Committee that Ms. Chapman was denied a residential parking permit because residents not residing along metered/permited roads are not eligible for parking permits. Staff went on to inform the Committee that another resident had reached out with a similar issue along Heck Street. The Parking Committee recognized that as the ordinance stands Ms. Chapman is not eligible for a parking permit but requested Staff begin a dialogue outside of the meeting for the Committee to discuss a possible solution moving forward.

- b. Joyce and Liz Collins

Mrs. Liz and Joyce Collins are residents of First Avenue and raised concerns to the Parking Committee regarding Residential Permit Parking. They stated they live on the west side of Grand Avenue and the recent expansion of metered/permit parking along First Avenue to Grand Avenue has pushed churchgoers and others who do not want to pay for parking onto their street. They acknowledged that they do not reside along a roadway that is metered/permit parking but requested the Parking Committee allow them to purchase parking permits so they could will be able to park along First Avenue east of Grand Avenue when parking becomes difficult in front of their home. Staff informed the Committee that they were contacted by another resident of First Avenue who had a similar request for residential parking permits. The Parking Committee recognized Mrs. Liz and Joyce Collins' situation as it is common directly outside metered/permit parking areas around the city.

The Parking Committee asked Staff to add this to the discussion with Ms. Chapman's concerns.

c. Steve Honan

Mr. Honan works at a real estate office along Bangs Avenue and raised concerns to the Parking Committee regarding Employee Permit Parking. HE stated he has an employee who is concerned about their safety and chooses to park on Bangs Avenue and pay the parking meter rather than use an Employee Parking Permit. The reason being that Employee Parking Permit holders are required to park on Summerfield Avenue and this employee does not feel safe walking to Summerfield Avenue as she has witnessed a mugging in the past. Mr. Honan requested employee parking permit holders be permitted to park on Bangs Avenue. The Parking Committee explained that Employee Permit holders are not permitted to use Bangs Avenue to allow for more parking turnover for visitors and business patrons. Mr. Dello stated police officers are available to walk this employee to her car nightly to ease her concerns and offered his contact information to Mr. Honan. The Parking Committee felt Mr. Dello's suggestion was a fitting solution and directed Mr. Honan to try having police escort this employee to her vehicle for the month of April and beyond if preferred. If she is still uncomfortable the Parking Committee told Mr. Honan to attend a future meeting and additional possible solutions could be discussed.

4. Matters from the Director of Transportation

a. License Plate Reading and Permit Portal Update

Staff informed the Parking Committee that the new Permit Portal went live the week of March 28, 2022. While small correctable issues exist, the permit portal has been receiving positive feedback from staff and users. The last permit setup that needs to be completed in the new portal are Guest Permits. Once these are completed the IPS Permit Portal will be disconnected and the new Passport Permit Portal will be used exclusively.

The new License Plate Reading (LPR) Enforcement System is also live as of April 1, 2022. Staff is continuing to work with our Parking Enforcement Officers and the Parking Enforcement Company Minuteman to work out issues and complete setup of the LPR System. Special Officer Breslin asked if this new system was hosted on a dedicated server and Special Officer Antonucci asked if they system will allow officers to recognize if vehicles were already issued tickets. Staff was not aware of the server situation but will return with an answer. The system is able to determine if vehicles have already received tickets and Staff would make sure everything was tested and operating as expected.

b. Monthly Parking Report

Staff presented the Parking Committee with the monthly Parking Report that illustrated March 2022's parking revenue was 39.91% higher than March 2021's revenue.

Staff continued with the Review of Parking Meter Maintenance. The Committee was made aware that four parking meters are currently shut down for maintenance. Staff explained

that two were having software issues caused by the software upgrade implemented in December. This issue is being addressed by IPS Group. Another two meters are experiencing power issues and need their batteries replaced regularly. Staff and IPS Group are working to rectify these issues as well.

5.75% of parking tickets issued, or 55 in total were voided in the month of March. The largest reasons being Officer Error with 70.91% or 39 total, Ticketed While Paying with 7.27% or 4 total, 7.72% or 4 total due to User Error, and Subject Paid with 10.91% or 6 total. Parking Enforcement was suspended from February 21, 2022 to April 1, 2022 due to the installation of the new License Plate Reading Enforcement System. All tickets issued during the month of March were for alternate side parking regulations and improper parking. Other voided tickets related to metered parking were issues in the previous month of February.

## 5. Old Business

### a. Commercial Vehicle Parking

Staff presented the Parking Committee with a strategy to create a new permit for commercial vehicles as requested. Staff reminded the Committee that this was in response to public comments received earlier in the year. There were concerns about commercial vehicles parking along residential streets and taking spaces away from residents. The Parking Committee had reviewed strategies from other municipalities' commercial vehicle regulations within New Jersey and decided to recommend a commercial vehicle permit be developed.

The Permit presented by staff would apply to commercial vehicles under 6,000 pounds and under 19 feet in length parking along city roadways between the hours of 8:00 pm and 7:00 am. Commercial Vehicles fitting this description would need to apply for a Commercial Vehicle Permit through the online permit portal. Applicants would have to provide Vehicle Registration, a valid Driver's License, and Proof of Residency within the city. All commercial vehicles without a valid permit parking on city roadways between the hours of 8:00 pm and 7:00 am would be ticketed.

The Committee was in favor of establishing commercial vehicle permits and asked Staff to draft an ordinance for the next Parking Committee Meeting.

### b. Alternate Side Parking

Mr. Dello reminded the Council of their discussion regarding expanding Alternate Side Parking Regulations along Prospect Avenue. Staff offered to bring a draft resolution to the next meeting outlining the expansion discussed and a map of all Alternate Side Regulations within the city for further discussions.

## 6. New Business

### a. Residential Driveway Clearance Issues

Staff made the Parking Committee aware of requests that were received in reference to residential driveways being blocked. On a few occasions residents have contacted Staff to voice concerns regarding vehicles parking too close to their driveway and blocking the residents from leaving. They have requested the edges of their driveway aprons be painted yellow to communicate to drivers that they cannot park close to the driveway. Staff explained that there are many narrow driveways in the city that could easily become blocked especially those along narrow roadways. Yellow markings may be helpful in alleviating this issue. Staff continued that an ordinance could be drafted to allow for residents to request these yellow markings. To ensure there is no abuse, each request would be reviewed by staff to ensure the driveways and roadways meet specific width requirements to be eligible for markings. The Parking Committee favored this idea and requested Staff draft an ordinance for their review.

b. EV Tourism Grants

The Parking Committee discussed four EV Tourism Grants that the city received from the New Jersey Department of Public Utilities. Staff explained two of the locations were those being installed by Greenspot. These were the Seventh Avenue and Kingsley Street Station and the Springwood Avenue and Union Street Station. Staff is attempting to pass the money along to Greenspot for those stations but is unsure of their eligibility. The other two locations, Lake Avenue between Bond Street and Emory Street and Third Avenue and Kingsley Street were awarded money for the installation of DC Fast chargers. The Parking Committee was not in favor of recommending EV Charging Station be installed in metered parking spaces and instead recommended an EV Charging Station be installed at the Transportation Center. Staff explained to take advantage of these grants the city would be responsible for the purchase and installation of chargers as well as maintenance. The Parking Committee was not in favor of taking responsibility for charging stations and instead recommended the city continue to partner with Greenspot or other EV Charging Companies in regards to EV Charging Stations.

c. Jill Suggestion

In an effort to encourage more parking transaction by mobile application, Ms. Potter recommended that parking meter receipts be made to include phone application information. This would hopefully encourage users to use their phone to extend parking transactions rather than traveling back to a parking meter. The Parking Committee was in favor of this idea and directed Staff to investigate further.

7. Adjournment