

**PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 29, 2004**  
**City Hall – Council Chambers**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Alex Hanson, Asst. Mayor  
John P. Bohenko, City Manager  
John Burke, Parking & Transportation Director  
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director  
Police Captain Janet Champlain  
Judie Belanger, Deputy Finance Director

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Parking Committee meeting was called to order by Alex Hanson, Chairman at approximately 9:00 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

Motion made by City Manager John Bohenko to accept the May 20, 2004 minutes of the Parking Committee. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

(A) Validation Parking Program - Review of Merchant Discount Rate – City Manager John Bohenko informed the Committee that as a result of last evening's City Council meeting, the rates for the garage will increase to \$.75/hr effective July 1, 2004. The City Manager stated that there was a strong sentiment among the merchants that we should keep down the cost of the validation program. He recommended the discount be increased.

Paul Sorli, President of the Downtown Merchants Association stated that in his opinion the current cost for validation should be left alone to offset the \$.25 increase in the garage hourly rate. The City Manager suggested increasing the current hourly cost for merchant validation from \$.45/hr. to \$.50/hr., which would increase the merchant discount from 10% to 33%. He stated that this could be tried and monitored for a year with a report back.

Peter Egelstein stated he is happy to see the validation program continue to be discounted and his preference would be to keep it the same. The City Manager reiterated that we are actually lowering the discount rate significantly from the current 10%, where merchants now pay 45 cents at the 50 cents/hr. rate to 33%, where merchants would pay 50 cents at the 75 cents/hr. rate. Mr. Egelstein stated he could settle for this and feels the

validation program is a good thing for Portsmouth and hopes that more merchants sign on.

Natalie Hassold stated she thought the \$.50/hr is a fair compromise and is impressed with the number of merchants participating in the program. Alex Hanson suggested posting the list of merchants in the Garage so customers could take advantage of the program more readily. John Burke responded that this would be done.

**MOTION** made by City Manager John Bohenko that the Parking Committee recommend to the City Council that the Validation Program discount be set at 33.3% (\$.50/hr.) in the High-Hanover Parking Garage and that it be revisited in one year to evaluate the financial impact. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Bob Hassold stated he was disappointed in the fact that the forgiveness ticket was not considered. Chairman Alex Hanson stated that it will be considered in next year's budget.

- (B) Friends of the South End – Letter dated June 24, 2004 – Chairman Hanson read a letter to the Committee requesting resident permit parking in the south end for Gates Street between Pleasant and Marcy Streets. Homeowners aren't able to find parking because commuters are parking on the street to avoid paying for metered or garage parking in town. Street.

Friends of the South Ends are requesting that the Parking & Traffic Division look into this matter at their earliest conveniences. Residents of Gates Street are asking that the City consider designating their street Resident Permit Parking Only. The idea is that each Gates Street homeowner/renter could be provided decals for their registered cars and one transferable certificate for use by their guests. Chairman Hanson gave the letter to John Burke and stated that John had done research on Portland, ME's program and perhaps a pilot program can be initiated.

John Burke stated that resident permit parking was raised at a recent City Council meeting for Hancock St. Residents were unable to park in front of their houses. It was pointed out that Hancock Street was already in the Ordinance for 2-hr. parking. Public Works posted the signs and referred the matter to the next Parking Committee meeting. All indications are that the 20 or so parking spaces on Hancock Street are not being used efficiently since the 2-hr. signs were posted. Only 2 to 5 spaces seemed to be used at any one time.

Gary Fagan, 75 Gates Street stated there are very few residents on Hancock St. compared to Gates St. and feels it is a more severe problem on Gate St. and a totally different and severe situation.

Alex Hanson asked if the current 120-foot corner clearance interval at Hancock/Marcy was necessary. Steve Parkinson stated there was a parking issue as far as getting buses, larger vehicles, fire apparatus around the corner when vehicles were parked along the fence.

Carol Stow, 200 Marcy St. addressed the 2-hr parking on Hancock Street. She stated that she spoke with John Burke and requested the 2-hour parking become all day parking. John Burke stated that the 2-hour parking on Hancock St. needs to be changed in the Ordinance.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to change the Ordinance eliminating the 2-hour limitation on Hancock Street. Seconded by Police Captain Champlin. Motion passed.

Chairman Hanson asked John Burke to 1) see if the 120-foot corner clearance on Hancock at Marcy Street can be reduced; and 2) bring back report on resident permit parking and also find out how communities handle overnight visitors. The City Manager stated that more research needs to be done and we need to look at a broader policy as multiple neighborhoods will have the same issue and needs. He stated that the time has come for the City to look at a comprehensive program for resident parking in neighborhoods while considering the whole city.

***Other Business:***

Meter Time Changes - Natalie Hassold asked if signage will be on the meters to indicate new enforcement times. John Burke stated that on Wednesday night, all the meter rate cards, posted hour stickers and electronic rate changes will be made to the parking meters. Also fixed signs and electronic fee rate updates will occur at the parking garage. The City Manager suggested temporarily issuing warning tickets for a period of time.

Mt. Vernon Street Stop Sign - Robert Hassold referred to a stop sign on Mt. Vernon St. He noted that cars stop in conflict with joggers and walkers. John Burke stated that he would review the location and have it addressed.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

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Elaine E. Boucas, Secretary