

PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM –Thursday, February 12, 2009
City Hall – Conference Room A

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Councilor Kenneth Smith, Chair
John Bohenko, City Manager
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa
Andrew Purgiel, City Auditor
Jon Frederick, Parking Manager

Also present was Suzanne Woodland, Asst. City Attorney

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION made by Andrew Purgiel to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Request For Proposal (RFP) - In-Vehicle Payment System – Update – Jon Frederick reported the RFP has been published, was on the web and distributed to five known companies. The bid opening is February 20th. To help with the selection of this device, he would like to form a five member committee composed of two people from the test group, the controller, an enforcement officer (to gauge the device from an enforcement perspective) and himself. The goal is for a selection to be made by March 16th.

MOTION made by Andrew Purgiel to accept the report. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

(B) In-Vehicle Parking Devices – Possibility of businesses purchasing devices for their clients use – Jon Frederick does not see a problem with this as long as the device is loaded with parking time. This will be done by purchasing the devices at the Parking Clerk's office. An individual will pay a deposit and if sometime in the future would like to return it, the money will be refunded. The customer would go to the merchant, get the device and place it in their car. It is a small device that acts much like a parking meter.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to go with the proposal at this time. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DiSesa. Motion passed.

- (C) **Taxi Stand** – Request to Relocate the Taxi Stand in Market Square (City Council referral) – The Chair stated the request from the Taxi Commission was made to move the taxi stand on Market St. to the right side of the street. We moved it from the right hand side to the left hand side during the Market Street renovation project. It is now requested we now move it back to the right hand side. It is causing people to get into the cab on the road side and if moved to the right hand side they would be entering on the sidewalk side. It is not clear why a passenger could not enter the taxi from the left hand side of the vehicle. Jon Frederick stated that the Traffic Engineer knows of no regulation prohibiting entering a taxi from the left side of the vehicle. Additionally, his research yielded no results indicating that entering the left side of a taxi was not acceptable.

MOTION made by City Manager to postpone until we can invite representatives from the Taxi Commission to be present. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

- (D) **Snow Ban Parking Coupons** – Request to Eradicate this Coupon System (e-mail dated January 9, 2009 attached) – Jon Frederick received a request to eradicate the coupon system altogether. Last year we had 268 snow ban Coupon users, and this year we have 331. We are very flexible with the beginning and end time and have not had any issues this year beyond the usual complaints we receive during the first snow storm. Some customers park the night before especially when we issue an advance warning.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept correspondence and place on file. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

- (E) **Composition of Parking Committee - (Legal Information)** Jon Frederick reported this request is from the same individual. The City Manager does not want to see this Committee grow too large and feels no more than two members should be added. If there is a change, it would require an ordinance change by City Council. One member should come from the Traffic & Safety Committee due to knowledge of parking issues. We should have a member from Finance, Police, Department of Public Works and Parking. The City Manager would be an ex-officio. Suzanne Woodland stated that the Parking Committee was specifically created by Ordinance and therefore, any changes to the composition of the Committee need to be done by Ordinance change. The goal of this Committee is to provide an efficient means of evaluating parking concerns as they arise and having knowledgeable people in the room. We make changes prior to doing an Ordinance change to see if the change actually

works. This is beneficial to the community as an efficient response to parking related concerns.

The City Manager stated we have the Omnibus once a year, to ordain parking changes that have worked during the past year.

The Chair stated he likes the way they system works and does not want to change it. If it is to be changed, concerned individuals may bring it before the City Council.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept and place on file and send a letter to the individual stating the Committee feels it is a policy issue and appropriate to go before City Council. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Sticker Program** – Owners’ Validation – Update – Jon Frederick reported that the bank will not process parking tickets; it will entirely be a manual process at the Parking Clerk’s office.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept report and place on file. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

- (B) **Residential Parking** – Report Back and Schedule the Public Input Session – Jon Frederick stated we are looking at a public information session in March and will check the availability of the Council Chambers and report back to the Committee.

The City Manager is also concerned with unintended consequences. We are a community of 21,000 people, 17 sq. miles. In order for residential parking to work you’d need two parking garages, one at Parrot Ave and one at the Worth Lot. The City Manager suggested a pilot program.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Elaine E. Boucas, Secretary