

PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING
9:30 AM –Thursday, June 14, 2007
City Hall – Conference Room A

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 10: 10 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Councilor Ken Smith, Chair
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Police Det. Sargent, Michael Schwartz
Jon Frederick, Parking Manager
Andrew Purgiel, City Auditor

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION made by Andrew Purgiel to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Parrot Avenue Lot** – 24 Hour Parking Time Limit, Monday-Friday – Jon Frederick looked into this to see if we could change the time limit. It is within the Parking Committee’s authority to experiment with adjusting the time limit as suggested at our last meeting, 24 hours Monday through Friday. This was brought about from an individual’s observation that Parrott Lot is more of a storage facility for residents in that area taking a lot of the daytime parking and felt it would be something to help facilitate movement of the lot. It stands now that someone can sit there for 3 days and is legal for them to do so.

The Chair asked if we are looking at Parrott Ave. lot to have pay and display.

Jon Frederick responded not at this time.

Jon Frederick stated that enforcement is frequently at the lot and feel they have a hold on the parking trends. If it becomes an issue we can make an adjustment.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept the report. Seconded by Jon Frederick. Motion passed.

- (B) **Taxi Stand** – Request for Mixed Use of 15 Minute Space – Jon Frederick provided a map of the overall area of availability of current status of taxi stands in the City. This goes hand in hand with Item C. There is discussion with the Taxi Commission of implementing a 15 minute space during the day that turns into a taxi stand at night somewhere in the

vicinity of Hanover, Bow and Market St area. There was past discussion 15 minutes spot in the Hanover St. lot. We have the ability to turn a 15 minute spot that already exists into a taxi stand in a mixed use space but during the day it is a 15 minute space and turns into a taxi stand at night. Three Current spaces are Hanover St. at the Intermodal facility, High St. and Market St.

Steve Parkinson stated there is a need for a 15-minute space in the small parking lot at corner of Hanover and Market and taxis are expressing that in evening hours there is a lot of activity in this area and if they had a space available to them there it would make it easier for patrons of the various establishments for a ride home. Creating a 15-minute space in a mixed use taxi stand would be something different we would like to try and the creation of the 15-minute space in that little lot at some point in time in the evening would convert to a taxi stand, 15-minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and at some appropriate time after that either 7:00 or sometime after that become a taxi stand.

Steve Parkinson stated a 15-minute space from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. then a taxi stand from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. or whatever you decide, but a dual use space so during daytime and high use time it is a 15-minute space and reverts back to a taxi stand for visibility in that area late at night.

The Chair asked if the loading zones after enforcement hours become free parking areas? Correct. Could a loading zone in that area be converted to a taxi stand which would be at the corner of Hanover?

The Chair thinks this would be a good idea to give this a try and maybe put on the Omnibus to see if it works and a good space instead of putting in that lot, there is one space that sits by itself on the corner of Bow, Hanover and Market, has good visibility, across of Fat Belly's and not tucked into a valet parking lot and does not want to move any handicap spaces.

Jon Frederick asked if it should be left as a 2-hour space during the day? Still would meet the mixed use and keep it at its current 2-hour limit.

The Chair responded "yes".

Andrew Purgiel suggested signing it well.

Bob Hassold 15 Mt. Vernon St., asked if the spot where the horse and buggy was, could be turned into a taxi stand.

The Chair responded this has been looked at in the past and decided to put in back into a regular parking space.

Jon Frederick stated another desire of the Taxi Commission is a right hand loading area, would prefer to be on the right side of the street versus the left and that was on the left side.

Bob Hassold stated on Ceres St. people leaving establishments who had been drinking thought a taxi stand near there would be excellent.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to take the first space on Market St. from Bow and designate it as a taxi stand from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Seconded by Jon Frederick. Motion passed.

Det. Schwartz asked if this would impact the loading that starts earlier than 7:00 a.m.?

Jon Frederick responded loading actually starts at 6:00 a.m. would be okay if we ran concurrently with that. Steve Parkinson stated it has no impact, it is not a loading zone area.

Det. Schwartz stated they use what they can in the morning, especially the restaurants.

- (C) **Taxi Stand** – Proposed Exchange of Space from High St. to Pleasant St. (memo dated May 21, 2007 attached) – Jon Frederick referred to the map and the issue the Taxi Commission has with the High St. space is visibility and does not afford them the visibility they are looking for. Jon Frederick attended their last meeting and talked with them regarding an alternative and were amenable to the space on Pleasant St. heading northbound into the square is the first space on the right hand side just about the angled parking in front of Piscataqua Savings Bank. This would afford them visibility from State St. while keeping it directly out of the square.

The Chair stated this removes all taxi stands on High St.

Jon Frederick stated that High St. had 3-15 minute spaces and 2 taxi stands. Suggested going back to the 3-15 minute space configuration and add two 2-hour spaces there making up for the loss of the space on Pleasant St.

Steve Parkinson stated you have two on High St., two in Market Sq. two on Market St. itself plus four on Daniel St. right in the square.

Steve Parkinson stated we need to let the Taxi Commission know that there are a number of nights that space will not be available due to street closures. Certain Saturday nights that space won't be available from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00-11:00 p.m.

MOTION made by Jon Frederick to turn the one stand alone space on the right side of Pleasant Street into a taxi stand and reconfigure High St. to three 15-minute spaces and two 2-hour spaces, ones closest to the garage. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- (D) **Municipal Lots** – Proposed Penalty over 72 Hour Time Limit on Both Off-Street and On-Street Parking (memo dated 6/6/07 attached) – Jon Frederick stated currently municipal lots and on-street parking time limit is 72 hours outside metered areas. There is a maximum penalty that is proposed per Ordinance but there is nothing by Ordinance that dictates a violation of the 72 hour limit. This would allow us to enforce the Parrott Ave. lot for instance more effectively if we have that tool available. The proposed penalty suggested by the Parking Division to make it a \$50

penalty for violation of the 72 hour time limit. Jon presented the members with a memo the first part is from the Ordinance discusses the use of a parking lot states unlawful for any vehicle to park or leave unattended any vehicle for a period greater than 72 hours in any one week. Paragraph D states anybody violating provisions of the above named article shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100 for each offense and that would include the late fee.

MOTION made by Jon Frederick to submit to the City Council the following recommended addition to Chapter 7, Article IX Section 7.901 of City Ordinances that establishes a \$50.00 violation for violating the 72 hour parking restrictions for both on and off-street parking and that failure to forfeit that penalty within 30 days will amount to a \$100 total penalty. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed..

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Islington Creek Neighborhood – Brewster Street - Residential Parking – Report Back** – Jon Frederick presented the members with a copy of the Consulting Engineers Residential Parking Permit Program recommending how to implement such a program. An issue talked about last month was what we would charge of the program such as this? The last page shows the consultant’s recommendations of the cost of this program.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to table until the next meeting for a chance to review the report and come up with a recommendation. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

The Chair reported he has received telephone calls from residents of the Keefe House requesting the spaces at the old library be opened to them... Steve Parkinson stated it is a public lot and we cannot use it for the public then nobody can use it until the legal issue is resolved.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Pay and Display Meters** - Jon Frederick commented on an item not on the Agenda was the placement of pay and display meters. Part of the CIP is that pilot program for the pay and display meters, currently in negotiations trying to set up so that the first of the year we can start this pilot program as quickly as we can. We need to determine the appropriate placement of pay and display meters. In looking around the City the ideal spots are areas of highest concentrations and highest use. Priority 1 would be a parking lot that is highly utilized and that would be the Worth Lot and two meters are required to cover that area, there are 77 metered spaces in the Vaughan Lot and would require two pay and display meters to cover that area. The other areas best to look at for these would be angled spaces. We have angled parking on Pleasant, Congress and Bow Streets. The other criteria to be considered is the level of use. Pleasant Congress and

Bow fit this criteria. Recommendations are Vaughan Lot definitely area #1 taking two meters leaving us with four. Pleasant St., two banks of angled parking just north of State St. and Bow Street. The DBA has concerns about doing it there because of configuration of street and proposed signage. Another issue is also the concentration, if we have two sets of meters at Worth Lot, some at Pleasant and some at Bow, we are spreading them giving us better coverage throughout the City but are not getting concentration. Another way is four meters on Pleasant St. covering 1 angled parking bank and below Market Sq. one on each side of the street as well.

Steve Parkinson asked what the issue was on Bow St.?

Bob Hassold would rather see the meters placed at the curb so they can plainly see where they should put the money in. Some people don't know there is a meter against the building. The two metered parking signs on each telephone pole are too high to be seen. He likes the meters against the building as they are not so ugly, but on Bow St. they should be moved out to the curb.

Steve Parkinson stated that the pay and display meters are convenient and can use both case or credit card.

Bob Hassold stated he is for whatever you consider best.

Jon Frederick stated that one meter covers 8-9 parallel parking spaces. Jon proposes two in the Worth Lot, one on each side of the angled parking on Pleasant St.(north or State) and Bow St. requires two.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to proceed with the pilot program on the pay and display utilizing these meters in the Worth Lot, angled parking on Bow St. and angled parking on Pleasant St. north of State St. to the intersection of Porter St. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

The Chair asked if the credit card service fees were taken into consideration?

Andrew Purgiel responded the revenue actually increases and compensates for credit card fees.

Jon Frederick stated credit card fees can range anywhere between 20 and 30%, however the net revenue with that being considered is roughly 20%.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted
Elaine E. Boucas, Secretary