

PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM –Thursday, December 13, 2007
City Hall – Conference Room A

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 10:20 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Councilor Ken Smith, Chair
Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa
Jon Frederick, Parking Manager
Andrew Purgiel, City Auditor

Also present were Professor Dr. Roslyn Chavda, Rob Geoffroy and Shaun Mulholland, students from UNH.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION made by Deputy Police Chief DiSesa to accept the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **UNH – Parrot Avenue Lot – Survey** – Mr. Geoffroy gave a presentation of the Parking Survey for the Parrott Avenue 186 space Municipal Parking Lot prepared by UNH Statistical Analysis Students for the City of Portsmouth. Mr. Geoffroy explained that the survey identified the destinations of the lot users, occupations, reasons for using lot, and length of time. This survey will assist the City in gathering demographic information of the lot.

Jon Frederick stated that this is an update from a similar survey conducted in 1997 with a 55 % response rate 10 years ago and this survey achieved 89%. Jon Frederick stated they did an excellent job and thanked them.

The Chair stated that he received correspondence from Mr. Coker. Jon Frederick stated that this is tied to the residential parking program which we will be addressing in January. The Chair stated that Mr. Coker is a downtown resident who received a ticket for parking over the 72 hour limit. The chair stated we need to look at the residential parking as it is an issue for downtown residents.

- (B) **Howard Street** – Resident request for Tow Zone – Jon Frederick stated a request was received from a Howard St. resident for towing of cars that park in spite of the “no parking either side” sign. There were a couple of

individuals living on Howard St. who park their vehicles all day and were getting ticketed, but was more convenient to park there and pay the tickets than to move their vehicles. This individual issue has been resolved. The issue of making this area a tow zone came up. Every street in the South End could be made a tow zone and thinks it would be more a Traffic & Safety issue. Doesn't feel we need to go this far, what is lacking in the Ordinance is an enforcement tool regarding towing in any "no parking" zone. If the Ordinance could be strengthened to state that if a vehicle is parked in a "no parking" zone, it is subject to towing. Jon Frederick would like to work with the Legal Department to see how we could change the Ordinance and come back to it at a later time.

The chair suggested a two tier motion, 1. To go to Legal to strengthen the Ordinance and 2. To look at this whole area for the residential parking program in January.

MOTION made by Jon Frederick to go to the Legal Department to strengthen the Ordinance and to look at the whole South End area for the residential parking program in January. Seconded by Andrew Purgiel. Motion passed.

- (C) **Customer Service** – Free Parking Coupons – Jon Frederick requested a tool to use for Parking Division as a trial between now and the end of the fiscal year (June 30th) to have 100 parking coupons available to the Parking Division for 2 hours free parking as a thank you device for "sorry for the inconvenience" or any issue that can be used at our discretion to use as a customer service tool. They would be numbered and signed by the individual they are assigned to and we would have control as the attendant would check off as they come in to ensure there is no duplication.

The Chair commented this is a great idea. When something happens we say "Sorry, there is nothing we can do about it", now we can say "Sorry, this is what I can do."

Jon Frederick stated it is a thank you not so much sorry, feels it's important if a person calls in a malfunctioning meter, picks up paper in the garage, etc. to say thank you, we appreciate it, thank you for being considerate.

MOTION made by Andrew Purgiel to accept the free parking coupons between now and the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2008). Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DiSesa. Motion passed.

The Chair referred to a conversation with someone who went to him saying that water from a leaking pipe was leaking rust spots on her car and the garage staff cleaned her car getting all the spots off and when she returned found her car absolutely spotless and was thrilled.

Jon Frederick stated that she wrote a letter to the editor as well.

The Chair stated it was nice of the staff to do that.

- (D) **New Parking Garage** – Jon Frederick stated that the proposed second tier and Portwalk issue will be addressed in great detail at the December 17th Council Meeting. Essentially, it will provide 325 public parking spaces to the City and the City would operate the entire garage.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted
Elaine E. Boucas, Secretary