

PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30 AM –Thursday, April 8, 2010
City Hall – Conference Room A

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Councilor Kenneth Smith, Chair
John Bohenko, City Manager
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Andrew Purgiel, City Auditor
Steven DuBois, Deputy Police Chief

Members Absent:

Jon Frederick, Parking Manager

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION made by Andrew Purgiel to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT – Andrew Purgiel referred to the projected Apr – Jun FY 10 Budget which he presented to the members showing a slight surplus over budget.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Library/Middle School Parking Lot – Report Back - Police Department – Deputy Police Chief DuBois reported that his midnight shift checked the lot three nights in a row. Between two and three vehicles were in the lot each night and they thought one of the vehicles was a maintenance employee of the library.

(B) Parking Enforcement Officers communicating with the Police Department - Report Back – Police Department – Deputy Police Chief DuBois reported there are three or four options for Parking Enforcement communications with Police Dept.: 1. Giving them a police radio would be a large expense (\$2-\$3,000); 2. Carrying a scanner so they could monitor police transmissions (\$500 expense); 3. Using Public Works radios to communicate with the Police.

Steve Parkinson stated that Police radios are digital and Public Works radios are analog, so any communications to PEO's would have to be

dispatched. He also reported that Jon Frederick felt it was a minimal return for the investment.

Deputy Police Chief DuBois stated the only other option is the cell phones that PEO's carry. If they were enabled to receive text message, we could put them on the Police paging system and send out messages.

Steve Parkinson reported having restricted text message service but will continue researching this issue.

- (C) **Parrott Avenue Lot – Metering – Results of March 31, 2010 Public Input Session –** The Chair reported that 19 speakers plus a letter addressed the Committee. Basically, all said the same thing, “No”.

The City Manager stated that this issue has been looked at before. Each time, people came out to say they work in the hospitality/restaurant industry making \$9.00/hr and that paying \$.75/hr to park reduces their take-home pay. There was a survey done to determine who uses the lot and the City Council decided not to proceed in metering Parrott Ave. lot. The other free lots we have are the Masonic and South Mill Playground. He also reported that Jon Frederick talked about the possibility of making no time-limit restriction from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., looking at a different rate structures for that lot, and the possibility of using Pay and Display meters. The City Manager feels at this point that more study is needed through reaching out to businesses and other people for further input.

Steve Parkinson stated that this issue has been looked at a number of times and always comes down to diverse population that uses the lot. He suggested that Jon Frederick look at the vehicles parked there for an extended period of time. People take advantage of the 72 hour parking time limit which becomes problematic.

The City Manager stated another issue that came up - people will move to on-street parking in the South End if the lot were metered. There is a need to recognize that we do have low wage earners downtown and metering the lot would put a burden on them.

The Chair stated we will leave this open for more study. The City Manager recommended looking at other options before making a recommendation.

Councilor Dwyer spoke on behalf of Dexter Legg and herself as Chairs of the Middle School Building Committee. Since the Parrott Ave Lot discussion is going on, she felt it worth stating that part of the agreement with the State entails permitted parking for school staff. We should anticipate a lot of parking pressure from library staff, patrons, and school staff in this area during the Middle School construction. A detailed traffic and parking study is forthcoming. Construction will be happening as early as spring of 2011.

The City Manager suggested we look at both the South Mill Playground and the Parrott Ave Lot for temporary permitted parking space.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Andrew Purgiel to adjourn. Seconded by Steve Parkinson.
Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.