

**MINUTES JONIT MEETING OF
PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AND PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

April 6, 2012

Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers City Hall

7:30 a.m.

EDC Members Present: Everett Eaton, Chairman; Lisa DeStefano, Vice-Chairman, Dana Levenson, Eric Gregg, Ron Zolla, Tim Allison, Robert Marchewka, Philip Cohen, Christine Dwyer, Josh Cyr, Jack Thorsen, John Bohenko

PTS Members Present: Ken Smith, Harold Whitehouse, Ron Cypher

City Manager Bohenko opened the meeting at 7:35 a.m. and welcomed members of the Economic Development Commission and Parking and Traffic Safety Committee. Referring to the Parking Omnibus flowchart, he said that the purpose of the meeting is threefold:

1. to present the Parking Omnibus process and the Guiding Parking Principles adopted by the City Council on March 19th
2. to present highlights of the Parking Supply and Demand Analysis recently completed for the City by Nelson Nygaard
3. to have a facilitated discussion on parking pricing and supply issues.

He said the discussion points from this meeting will inform the City's strategies for a comprehensive approach to solving downtown parking issues.

The Manager introduced Parking and Transportation Director Jon Fredrick who provided a summary of the Guiding Parking Principles. Next, Mr. Bohenko introduced Planning Director Rick Taintor who discussed the salient points of the Parking Supply and Demand Analysis Report. He also summarized zoning ordinance changes that the Planning Board is proposing as part of the parking omnibus such as reducing the parking requirements for all downtown uses except for residential use, and the elimination of the payment in lieu option which is currently available to developers instead of creating parking on site. The rate is currently \$2,200 per parking space not provided on site.

Following Mr. Taintor's presentation, the City Manager introduced Parking Consultant John Burke who the City has retained on a short-term basis to identify, evaluate and recommend parking supply and demand management strategies consistent with the City Council-adopted Guiding Parking Principles. John is a registered professional engineer (PE) and Certified Administrator of Public Parking (CAPP) with more than 25 years of experience in the parking and transportation sector.

Mr. Burke explained that there are many parking practices that the City of Portsmouth is doing correctly such as promotion of shared parking and the practice of encouraging drivers to park once and walk to destinations. However, as the parking report stated the current pricing does not consistently reflect demand, creating some imbalance with areas of overused and underused parking. Quoting the report, he said, "Pricing is not high enough in the core leading to over-utilized prime parking and drivers hunting for spaces."

He provided examples of parking strategies and policies relative to pricing and supply that may be appropriate for Portsmouth to consider such the tiered rate structure of Northampton, MA and the

flexible monthly garage pass discounts of Lowell, MA. He also cited Plymouth, MA and that city's use of lower-cost employee and resident parking permits.

Other examples included Newport, RI's extended on-street paid parking into the evening to better regulate demand during heavy night activity, and the Worcester, MA example of not extending on-street hours and lowering garage rates in the evening because there is less night activity. He next facilitated a discussion on the four parking omnibus topics of pricing, time limits, enforcement hours and supply.

Following the discussion, the City Manager thanked the participants for their input. He said the dialogue provided clear information useful for moving the parking omnibus forward. The next steps are to compile the discussion points for email distribution to EDC and PTS members. Staff will then combine these discussion points with the Planning Board proposals to move the parking omnibus forward.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Carmer
Economic Development Program Manager