

MINUTES
PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

8:00 A.M. – Thursday, August 9, 2012
City Hall – Conference Room A

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chair
John Bohenko, City Manager
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Stephen Dubois, Deputy Police Chief
Steve Achilles, Assistant Fire Chief
Ron Cypher, Member
Ted Gray, Member
Harold Whitehouse, Member

Staff Advisors Present:

Tom Cocchiaro, Parking Operations Supervisory
Rick Taintor, Planning Director

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Cypher moved to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2012 meeting as presented. Seconded by Public Works Director Parkinson and voted.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Deputy Public Works Director Parkinson moved to accept the Financial Report and place on file. Seconded by Mr. Whitehouse and voted.

VI. WORKSESSION with Planning Staff:

(A) Parking – Maplewood Avenue – Referral from Mayor Spear

A work session was held regarding the creation of new on-street spaces along Maplewood Avenue in the area of the future Portwalk Phase 3 development which would serve as a buffer between the new mixed-use development and the heavily traveled roadway.

Planning Director Rick Taintor explained that the proposal involves the creation of as many as 14 new spaces along the roadway between Deer and Hanover streets. He continued that this would be a trade-off as the road would lose some capacity for vehicles and create potential problems with bicyclists. He stated that keeping the four current travel lanes on Maplewood Avenue and adding a parking lane would be the preferred approach, but would mean narrowing the widths of the lanes and sidewalks.

He concluded by stating that the entire Maplewood Avenue corridor is scheduled for major changes in conjunction with the construction of Portwalk Phase 3 and the mixed-use development of 30 Maplewood Avenue.

Some issues of concern raised by public safety and public works officials included:

- The impact of going from 4 lanes to 3 in regards to trucks turning, bike lanes and heavier vehicle traffic;
- The possible reduction of response time for the Fire Department
- Funding issues with the State and Federal governments per previous agreement
- Installation of crosswalks and lighting

The work session concluded with the expectation that the proposal would be studied further.