



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

Parking Committee
37 Green Street, City Council Chambers
Approved Minutes
April 29, 2024

Attendees:

Brent Todd, City Councilor, Parking Committee Chair
Stacey Brown, City Councilor
Karen McNamara, City Councilor
Paula McLaughlin, City Councilor

Staff:

Amanda Lombard, Fiscal Tech III, Parking Division
David Florence, Parking Division Supervisor
Tim Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development

Attendees:

William Hart
Fred McLaughlin
John Nevin
Erin Nevin

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Todd at 5:01 p.m.

- 1) **Overview of Agenda:** Councilor Todd provided an overview of the meeting agenda.
- 2) **Adoption of Minutes:** Councilor McNamara moved to adopt the meeting minutes of March 25, 2024. Councilor McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Citizen Requests and City Council Referrals:**

- a. **William Hart, US Marshall, District of NH-Request for 4 parking spaces near the Federal Courthouse be designated for US Marshall Service use:** Mr. Thompson referred to a break-down sheet of the potential revenue loss if the 4 requested parking spaces were designated for US Marshall use only. The loss would be about \$1,570.40 per meter with a total estimated revenue loss of \$6,281.60 for all 4 meters.

Mr. Hart introduced himself and thanked the committee for taking the time to discuss his request. He stated he is aware of the financial impact of his request to the City. Mr. Hart expressed his concern about the growth within the past several years and the increase in vehicles. He added that prior to his request to the parking committee, they attempted to secure spots either inside the federal complex, or in the exterior parking lot. However, according to the GSA (Government Services Administration) unfortunately all spaces are already designated and cannot be modified. Mr. Hart's concern is, they are emergency vehicles that are fully unmarked but fully dressed vehicle because they are law enforcement vehicles. The concern for not enough parking spaces in front of the Court was became very apparent and serious in the response to the recent active shooter at the New Hampshire State Hospital late last year. He stated valuable moments were lost as they moved vehicle to gain egress from the building.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) process creates obstructions to paying for public or other types of parking, Specifically, the USMS as a part of DSOJ cannot prepay parking nor can it pay by cash or check as this is prohibited by departmental policy.

Back in 2019 the City Council which eliminated law enforcement only parking on sections of Pleasant Street along portions of the Federal Building and Courthouse. A portion of the law enforcement parking was re-established by the Council in 2020.

The Federal Courthouse currently has 18 parking spaces under the building. They currently have 20 unmarked vehicles. They are asking for 4 additional spaces because they have Deputies from other counties assist in prisoner transport that utilize parking spaces.

The Committee is requesting that Mr. Hart do some research and see if there are any type of Pilot program that could assist with the funding to pay for the requested spaces.

Councilor Todd asked Mr. Hart if he anticipates needing adding spaces in the future. Mr. Hart stated he does not see them needing and additional spaces other than the 4 they are currently requesting.

Councilor Brown stated she would not be comfortable making any changes to parking at this point as there is a lot going on within the City and would like to wait until some of the dust settles before making any decisions. She would also like to reach out to the community and see if collectively they can come up with a solution.

Councilor Todd would like to have the actual break down of what each meter is receiving in revenue in hopes to find the most unutilized spaces closest to the Court House. Mr. Florence stated that he will run the numbers for South Spring, Pleasant, and and South Streets and have the report available for the next parking committee meeting.

The committee collectively decided to table this request until the next parking meeting.

- b. **Thomas Binnette - request examination of parking spaces distances from intersections along South State St (in particular the intersection with Concord St.):** Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Binnette was not able to attend tonight's meeting. He gave a quick overview of Mr. Binnette's request stating the parking spots are too close to the intersection and is causing a dangerous situation as you cannot see pulling out of these intersections from side streets. Mr. Binnette is requesting that at least 3 parking spaces be removed at each of the intersections on South St.

Councilor Todd stated that when you go for your driving test they teach you to stop at the stop sign, if you are unable to safely pull out you then inch forward until you can get proper visibility see oncoming traffic and pull out when it is safe to do so.

In 2022, General Services reclaimed South State and the City constructed bump outs at several intersection and shifted parking spaces and several crosswalks. Transportation Engineer Karen Hill presented the following regarding accident data for the intersections between 2019 and 2023:

- i) S State /Fayette-1.2 accidents/year
- ii) S State/Thompson-1.4 accidents/year
- iii) S State/Concord-1.2 accidents/year

5 accidents/year is typically cause for further analysis/improvement.

Fred McLaughlin was in attendance and stated he lives on the other end of Concord St. He comes down Main St on Concord St. When you are looking at traffic coming South it is difficult to see oncoming traffic.

Councilor Brown asked what the speed is on S State and suggested a reduction in speed. Mr. Thompson stated that would require a speed study. A suggestion from Mr. McLaughlin was to increase the enforcement on S State St. The speed is currently set at 30 mph.

Councilor McNamara stated she does not think there should be any changes at this point as work has already been done on S State St. The Current parking spacing complies with City regulations. All of the spaces meet or exceed the City's requirement

Erin Nevin, whom was in attendance for her own request stated she disagrees with the committee and agreed with Mr. Binnette's request to remove spaces. Ms. Nevin lives on Thompson St. and has the same concerns about pulling onto S State.

The consensus of the committee is to not remove parking spaces at this time.

- c. **Request for Additional Parking Spaces in front of 13 Thompson St:** Councilor Todd welcomed Mr. and Ms. Nevin whom reside at 13 Thompson St. Ms. Nevin explained that she has a bone disorder called Avascular Necrosis in both of her ankles. This means that her ankle bones lack blood flow which caused the bone tissue to die and it is painful. She stated that the number of days she will need mobility devices will increase. Mr. Nevin built a ramp going into the house which removed one of the two parking spaces they had in the driveway. Ms. Nevin is requesting an additional accessible parking space outside of their house either on Thompson St or Chesley St. They were under the impression that they could not park on the street overnight. David Florence the parking supervisor explained to them that parking overnight is allowed as long as they adhere to the 48-hour ordinance.

Per NH law you cannot designate a Handicap spot to one person. If the committee did approve a Handicap parking space anyone could utilize that space.

Mr. Florence offered to have a Parking Officer go to their house and show them where they can legally park their car on the City Streets. That idea was welcomed by the Nevins.

4) Financials: Parking Fund financial statements Year-to-Date (YTD) for Fiscal year 2024 through March 31, 2024.

- i. **Revenues:** Total revenues Year to Date were \$2,251,804.63 or 73% of budget. This figure was approximately \$424,538.89 lower than revenues received in prior year.
- ii. **Expenditures:** Actual total expenditures for Year to Date were \$2,499,257 or 77% of budget. This figure was \$110,855.48 higher than prior year.
- iii. **Gain/Loss** Through February 28, 2023, the Parking Fund has negative net operating income of \$247,452.79

5) Updates:

- a) **School District Staff / CHS Area Parking:** Mr. Thompson stated the City has not heard from School as of yet.
- b) **Lease to Permit Transition for School Street and Storrs Street Garage:** Mr. Thompson stated, a meeting was held a couple weeks ago with Foxfire Management Company and they seem to be on track for the transitioning from lease parking spaces in the School St garage. Hopefully soon we can start working with Simchik whom are lease holders in the Storrs St garage to start to transition to permit parking spaces.

- c) **NH Legislative Parking Garage:** Mr. Thompson stated the NH Legislative parking Garage is on schedule.

6) Other Business:

- a) **Parking Space Striping Policy Discussion:** Councilor Todd stated the space in front of the State Library that has an X on it but it is very worn out. These types of striping issues will be on the TPAC agenda for the upcoming meeting.

7) Future Meetings:

- a) May 27, 2024 has been set however it falls on a Holiday and will depend on attendance of Councilor's and if there will be a quorum. Mr. Thompson stated he is unavailable to meet in June so the next meeting would be in July.

8) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Lombard
Parking Division Fiscal Tech III