

CITY OF STEVENS POINT

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

Monday, July 9, 2018

Police Department – 933 Michigan Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairperson Mayor Wiza, Director of Public Works Scott Beduhn, Comptroller/Treasurer (C/T) Corey Ladick and Tricia Church; **Alderspersons:** Tori Jennings(1st) and Mary Kneebone(7th), Mary McComb(9th) and Shaun Morrow(11th).

EXCUSED: Jeremy Slowinski(6th).

ALSO PRESENT:

DIRECTORS: Tom Schrader – Parks & Recreation, Joel Lemke – Public Utilities & Transportation and Michael Ostrowski – Inspection & Development.

OTHER CITY STAFF MEMBERS: City Attorney Andrew Beveridge, Assistant Police Chief Tom Zenner, Fire Chief Bob Finn, City Clerk John Moe and Streets Superintendent Dennis Laidlaw.

ALDERPERSONS: David Shorr(2nd), Heidi Oberstadt(4th), Meleesa Johnson(5th), Cathy Dugan(8th), Mary McComb(9th) and Mike Phillips(10th).

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandi Makuski – Stevens Point Metro Wire, Trevor Roark – 601 Washington Avenue and Armin Nebel – 1100 Phillips Street.

Chairperson Mayor Wiza called to order the Board of Public Works meeting at 7:38 p.m. The meeting was held on Monday, July 9, 2018 at the Police Department located at 933 Michigan Avenue in Stevens Point.

1. Consideration and possible action to accept the Director's Report and place it on file.

Aldersperson Jennings asked if we were going to work on changing the parking lot signs from the typical green and white to blue and white to which Director Beduhn stated that is the direction we have been and are going.

Aldersperson McComb moved; seconded by Aldersperson Morrow to accept the Director's Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. To accept the ordinance changes for the multi-space kiosk parking zones.

Director Beduhn added that Aldersperson Nebel had emailed him some concerns regarding putting the kiosks in residential areas; however, she could not be at the meeting. He explained that her concerns are how we are going to accommodate those homeowners. Director Beduhn is proposing that we issue a permit to those folks to park in the kiosk areas.

C/T Ladick stated that he hopes these changes will help the overall performance of the parking program as far as moving some of the kiosks. Director Beduhn and Alderperson Nebel talked with the neighbors in that district to come up with what he feels is a reasonable solution for those owner occupied homes.

Mayor Wiza mentioned that Alderperson Nebel had a neighborhood meeting that was attended by about 15 residents to get feedback.

Alderperson Jennings asked if there will be a fee for the owner occupied permits to which Director Beduhn said no, that would be the exception to the kiosk use.

Alderperson Jennings stated that in other cities residents pay a fee for permits. She feels that if we are moving away from free parking a minimum fee should be associated with that.

Director Beduhn stated that it was agreed on that no fee would be charged from the meetings with Alderperson Nebel as well as staff, at least as a starting point so those people aren't targeted because of where they live. Director Beduhn also stated that we are only looking at granting one permit per household and the permit would be by license plate number.

C/T Ladick added that the permit would only be good during the daytime for the kiosk hours, not overnight parking. If they need an overnight permit, they would have to pay the fee for that permit provided the next item on the agenda is approved.

Armin Nebel, 1100 Phillips Street was asked by Alderperson Nebel to state her concerns in her absence. In her notes, she requested that parking on Phillips Street between Briggs Street and College Avenue be designated for permit parking only. She also suggested parking spaces on Phillips Street between Briggs Street and Portage Street to be changed either to permit parking or two-hour parking during the day. She feels that would solve both issues between homeowners and renters in need of short term on street parking and she feels it would also be easier to enforce. He read on that another concern from her constituents was placement of the kiosk boxes. She explained that none of the home owners are in favor of having a kiosk box in front of their homes.

Alderperson McComb asked if Alderperson Nebel's request for permit only parking on Phillips Street is so if someone is using the kiosk parking in front of the residential homes, they could park on Phillips Street to which Director Beduhn stated that he cannot speak for Alderperson Nebel.

C/T Ladick commented that we all want to accommodate the homeowners. He feels the concern is if the kiosks are at high demand and there are no places to park, how will we accommodate those homeowners to which we will not know until the kiosks are installed.

Alderperson Johnson requested to postpone this until next month so we can better assess the situation. Her concerns are with how Phillips Street should be used as well as how we are going to enforce permits in a kiosk area.

Assistant Police Chief Zenner explained that the issue they were having was that the kiosks versus permits are located in two separate databases so when a parking enforcement officer checks a license plate in a kiosk area, that license plate number will not show up in the kiosk system when it is a permitted vehicle. He explained that the area we are discussing is only a few houses so it

could be done by hand or we could look into a visible permit to be placed on the permitted vehicles.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue stated that he feels this is a step in the right direction as far as managing transportation demand on campus. He feels that if we should also put some of the revenue back into those neighborhoods and make that known to encourage more buying from those neighbors.

Aldersperson Morrow reiterated Aldersperson Nebel's concern with placement of the kiosk boxes in a residential neighborhood. He added that he would not like to see one outside of his house. Another concern he has is those homeowners who have guests and those folks having to pay to visit the homeowner.

Mayor Wiza stated that the reason we have been talking about this for a couple of months is so we can get something implemented before the start of school. If we are going to put parking restrictions in this area we should have them in place before the students come so we do not create confusion. He feels we should consider approving this and letting it play its course and see what happens. He pointed out that although this is the first residential area to have kiosks, it is not the first residential area to have parking meters so it is not new to have paid parking in the residential areas.

Aldersperson McComb asked what the current status is on parking on Phillips Street between Portage Street and Briggs Street to which Director Beduhn stated that it varies throughout that area. He explained that currently there is no parking on the east side and no parking from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the west side in that block on Phillips Street.

Aldersperson Morrow feels we should let this go through with the notion that Aldersperson Nebel will be at the Council Meeting if there are changes that need to be made.

With that, Aldersperson Morrow made a motion to approve the ordinance as written; seconded by Aldersperson Jennings.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. To accept the ordinance amendment for on-street overnight parking and "No Parking Here to Corner" restrictions.

Mayor Wiza explained that the sheriff sent him a letter that was forwarded to all the Aldersperson's and Department Heads regarding the communication center, who currently handles the overnight parking requests, will no longer do that after August 1st.

Aldersperson Jennings requested that the time frame for the on-street overnight parking restriction be changed from 2:30 a.m. to midnight or 12:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Mayor Wiza stated that this is not specific to any business; however, there are employees of businesses that work through those times and changing that time could create a significant expense for them. He recommended keeping the ordinance from 2:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. as written.

Alderson Jennings stated that comparable cities have it set around midnight and other cities have the same issues in terms of businesses and employees.

Alderson Jennings made the motion to amend the ordinance for on-street overnight parking restrictions to between 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.; seconded by Alderson Kneebone.

Alderson Kneebone commented that the people that work after midnight should be getting their permits before they go to work and not while at work.

Alderson McComb does not feel that folks that work the bar hours should have to purchase a permit to park every time they work the bar closing hours.

Alderson Oberstadt stated that the downtown square area is her district and she was approached by both business owners and employees with concerns regarding this. Another concern from the business owners is the folks that come out to their establishment and leaving by midnight to go to another establishment where they don't have to pay to park. She stressed her concern over this negatively affecting the downtown businesses.

Assistant Police Chief Zenner pointed out that this change would also apply to public parking lots and there are not enough private lots that would accommodate the amount of folks that wish to go to the downtown businesses after midnight.

Alderson Jennings stated that it seems to her that we are preferencing one particular business and if we are going to be consistent, the same argument could be put forth regarding the kiosks at other times of the day. She stated that we write an ordinance that applies to everyone, not for one kind of business. She is concerned about the inconsistencies and pointed out that the reason we are doing this is because we cannot pay for our streets but yet we want to keep this such a short time period and therefore losing out on quite a bit of funding.

Alderson Morrow echoed Alderson Oberstadt's comments and constituent concerns.

Alderson Kneebone reminded that we do have a late night bus service on Friday's and Saturday's that is free for students as part of their activity fees.

C/T Ladick voiced the same concern he had with the kiosks and social events at houses and guests having to leave by midnight or risk getting a parking ticket.

City Attorney Beverage reported that the only signage requirement by State Statutes with this change would be to post it at certain places around the corporate city limits meaning you will only find them as you enter the city on the major streets. He stated that it would be pretty easy for people to miss this change and end up with a lot of angry people because they were ticketed.

Mayor Wiza echoed that this would not only target a specific business or customer base, it would also impact the residents.

Alderson Johnson mentioned that we should not be making public policy based on the fact that we are going to have a lot of angry people because we would not make any decisions that way.

Aldersperson Oberstadt suggested making the downtown square area its own separate rule with different times. Her main concern is with pushing customers away from the downtown businesses.

Director Beduhn reported that the original reason for these times were to provide time for snow removal and other night time maintenance activities. He mentioned ordinance times from 8 other comparable communities that pointed out that we are for the most part in line with them.

Aldersperson McComb stated after listening to all the arguments, she feels that the benefits of extending the time does not outweigh the costs.

Mayor Wiza reiterated that the motion was made by Aldersperson Jennings to change the time from 2:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the ordinance and it was seconded by Aldersperson Kneebone.

Aldersperson Jennings requested to withdraw her motion.

Mayor Wiza stated that he did not think we could withdraw a motion; however, the second motion may be able to withdraw.

That was confirmed by Attorney Beveridge.

Aldersperson Kneebone agreed to withdraw her motion.

Aldersperson Shorr stated he is open to have overnight parking with no fees; however, he understands the reasons it would not be feasible. He is proposing that we at least give a onetime waiver to folks if this does go through.

Aldersperson Phillips stated that he hopes we would not consider open overnight parking.

Aldersperson Morrow moved to accept the ordinance amendment for on street overnight parking as well as the amendment for No Parking Here to Corner; seconded by C/T Ladick.

Aldersperson Johnson asked if we have an online system set up to purchase these permits to which Mayor Wiza stated that we do; however, we do not have it active yet.

Assistant Police Chief Zenner to Aldersperson Shorr replied that on our website where you purchase parking tickets, you can also appeal. He further expanded Mayor Wiza's statement that the overnight parking permits were created but they still need to be activated.

Aldersperson Kneebone requested that the we also have other places besides online and the Police Department to purchase a permit for folks that do not go online and also add that wording to the ordinance so we do not have to change anything in the future to reflect that.

Attorney Beveridge stated that none of those aspects have to be written in the City Ordinance. He stated that we have it over specified in the current draft and the wording should be changed.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Discussion regarding curb and sidewalk damage as it relates to snow plowing and picking.

****Due to the length of discussions curb and sidewalk damage due to snow plowing and picking, please visit our website to view the recording of all that was discussed.****

- 4. ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Mayor Wiza adjourned the July 9, 2018 Board of Public Works Meeting at 7:59 p.m.**