



MINUTES

Committee on Public Safety Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Alfreda Schmidt Center; 5825 Wise Road- Sandy Allen Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair

Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice Chair

Council Member Jeremy Garza, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Jim Smiertka, City Attorney

Deb Parrish

Elaine Womboldt

Kathy Miles

Marilyn Plummer

Mary Ann Prince

Thomas Hamlin

Sean Bertolino

Mike Redding

Ruth Fox

Dave Mead

John Miles

Mary Ann Prince

Vicky Miller

Brian Yarovall

David Rule

Marilyn Ball

Nancy Mahlow

Ms. Womboldt provided introductions for the Rejuvenating South Lansing meeting and that regular business will be discussed after the discussion on "No Parking 2 am- 5am".

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- **Ordinance on 2am – 5 am Parking**

Council Member Wood recapped for the Committee and public that the City currently prohibits parking on streets between 2 a.m. – 5 a.m. Over the years it was enforced by the Lansing Police Department, when they have time. Throughout the years, the structure of the City has changed with larger lots, smaller lots, shared driveways and narrower streets, which makes it unique to enforce. In 2016 the Mayor and the Chief of Police brought to the Public Safety Committee suggested changes, which included an option to eliminate the 2 a.m. -5a.m. parking, allowing the residents to park on either side at any time; an option for even day and odd day parking, and also an option to designate one side of the street to park on. At that time, Council Member Wood added, Council suggested a permit, which the resident would have to apply for and provide proof, that they need additional parking. During these discussions, the Council saw to leave the 2 a.m.- 5 a.m. no parking, but start enforcing it, and that was also agreed upon by neighborhood organizations. Council Member Wood pointed out that at some point there was a designated parking enforcement just for this restriction, however that employee was eventually moved to the day shift. Council Member Wood then outlined the process she hoped to accomplish with the Committee, which was to take the question of keeping the enforcement or change it to neighborhood meetings in each Ward to find out what the concern was. Then the Committee will craft a concise plan that will help the entire city. Council Member Hussain asked why the proposal by Council in 2015 was pushed back. Council Member Wood stated that in 2015 the Council also started working on medical marihuana which took a lot of their time, and in 2015 they reached to community neighborhood watch coordinators who indicated they did not support any changes at that time. Council Member Hussain admitted to the group that he himself had researched other communities in other States even and everyone is addressing it but doing it differently.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident asked if they would exempt any streets, and voiced his concern that the LPD does not have the manpower to enforce. Council Member Wood clarified that if a street currently is signed to prohibit particular parking in the day that would continue to be enforced.

Resident on Rundle spoke in support of the current ordinance being enforced, and if the LPD does not have time, they should hire someone. She also noted a concern with parking on both sides of the streets.

Resident supported the suggestion of a permit to park, but asked for a continued discussion on parking on both sides of the street, with his concern with emergency vehicles getting down the street.

Ms. Fox agreed with a permit and permitting on one side of the street, and the need for determination on helping emergency vehicles access the street.

Resident from Churchill Downs provided her opinion that if it is enforceable, the City should put funds behind the enforcement. She also suggested that every resident be given a permit, and if need more than they pay. She also wanted a focus on safety and the need to determine which side of the street to park on. Lastly, she brought to the Committee attention it is not just car parking but trailers and recreational parking that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Redding agreed with enforcement without the permit, and that would encourage people to get permits or they would get tickets.

A resident asked if the recreational vehicles on the street mentioned earlier would get tickets. Council Member Wood confirmed they are not allowed to park on street at all anytime, so asked for any addresses to be provided so that enforcement can be sent.

Mr. Mead supported a first ticket warning, with additional enforcement.

Mr. Rule spoke on his frustration with the enforcement of the current no parking designations particularly in the area where there are rentals. He encouraged the City to look at East Lansing and their PACE program. (Parking and Code Enforcement)

Mr. Yarvall was encouraged with the permit process, but was also concerned with parking in his neighborhood on yards, blocking sidewalks, and parking it the street during snow falls. He encouraged tickets, on a continual basis, and the residents would then stop doing it after multiple tickets.

Mr. Bertonlina asked if the changes would affect the downtown area, because of his concern with safety for people who work over night and have to park on the street for their job.

Mr. Miles encouraged using permits for visitors, students that come home, and family.

Ms. Parrish supported the previous night time parking enforcement, and encouraged everyone that if they see something to call LPD.

Mr. Hamlin asked for enforcement of what is in existence because his opinion was the permitting would be confusing. His concern in the past has been where to report violations. Council Member Wood assured the group that when there was night time enforcement, that person drove around different quadrants of the City at night.

Ms. Miller did not support alternating parking on different sides of the streets for different months, but wanted parking on one side of the street. She noted she also manages a multifamily complex built in 1960 and there is not enough onsite parking because when it was build households had one car, so now they need overnight parking on the streets for the residents.

Ms. Ball asked how long a car is tagged before it is towed. Council Member Wood answered that it should be 7 days, and encouraged Ms. Ball to call Code Compliance if it is not. Ms. Ball then asked if someone has 4 vehicles how many permits they would get. Council Member Wood assured them that zoning would have to determine if the owner has sufficient parking on their property, if they do have sufficient parking, then no permit.

Ms. Mahlow described the parking in her neighborhood on the east side of Lansing, where there are double driveways, shared driveways and in some cases, no driveways. She noted that if there was parking allowed by permit on one side of the street, no emergency vehicle could get down the street. Ms. Mahlow suggested the need for no parking signs posted that say "no parking here to corner".

Resident in Colonial Village also voiced a concern with parking and the narrow streets. She requested the continuation of no parking 2 am – 5 am.

A resident voiced an interest in a free permit and then after that charge for permits, and supported different options for different parts of town.

Ms. Prince stated her concern with street parking when residents are working on their vehicles and supported enforcement with a larger ticket.

Residents were considering the permit process, but not a free permit.

Ms. Womboldt spoke on her concerns with cul-de-sac's and supported the "No parking 2am - 5am" for safety issue. She also encouraged educating residents.

Council Member Wood acknowledged all the participants, and stated they would be holding a similar meeting in Ward 1 in April. She assured them she would pursue getting information on fire and emergency vehicle access width, and let the public of future meetings.

Council Member Hussain recapped what he heard from the residents which was they encouraged "education" and his opinion that their consensus was to enforce what is there, consider a permit process with proof you need it, and further down the road apply zoning to the address because of the different areas of Lansing.

Council Member Garza supported hiring more parking enforcements and the entire City to capture more funds. He also suggested that with permit process there could be consideration for when residents have home projects and have to park in street, with giving a free permit.

Council Member Wood encouraged any additional comments to be emailed to her.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved: April 17, 2018