



MINUTES

**Committee on Public Safety Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.
Pattengill Middle School, 626 Marshall Street**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 6:30 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
Council Member Washington
Nancy Mahlow
Loretta Myers
Walter Priebe
Teresa Panetta
Denise Kelly
Melinda Dickinson
Waylon Sanford
Cindy Tank
Ed Tank
Brian Baer
Kalea Sanford
Tanya Shirel
Mary Ellen Purificato
Evan de Almedia
Bob Pena
Marilyn Plummer, Mayor's Office
Jody Dorin DeLong
Sarah Lehr, LSJ
Kathryn Schafer

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

• Ordinance on 2am – 5 am Parking

Council Member Wood outlined the history to the parking ordinance, and agreed neighborhoods are different. Some with shared driveways, wider aprons and wider streets. In the past there were more officers patrolling so enforcement was done on a regular basis, and

at one time there was a parking enforcement officer. His position was moved to days, so it is now back to the Police Department to enforce. Options that have been discussed in the past were limiting street parking to certain times of the year, or parking based on the odd/even house number, and even a permit option was offered. With the permit process could involve zoning sign off to determine if there was enough space on the property to add a parking space so they would not need to park in the street or need a permit. Different plans in different areas of Lansing will be hard to enforce. Council Member Hussain acknowledge their frustration and was anxious to hear their concerns. Council Member Garza also acknowledge the concerns and understood that the neighborhoods are different so there need to be consideration for the narrow streets, emergency vehicle access and driveway size. He also was encouraged with discussions on enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Panette spoke on her concern with cars parked on the street, asked about enforcement of multiple cars in a driveway, and if the cars can hang over the sidewalk. She pointed out in her neighborhood there is a resident with 7 cars; 4 in the driveway and 3 in the street. Ms. Panette spoke in support of enforcement no matter what was decided on but was also in support of the current no parking 2 am – 5 am if it would be enforced. Council Member Wood informed her that the ordinance on the books now states you cannot have more than 4 on the property, and asked Ms. Panette to provide the address of where the 7 cars are.

Mr. Priebe spoke on his concerns with a neighbor who has multiple vehicles, trucks and trailers because of a construction business. He then did suggest changing the restriction to midnight to 6 am with enforcement. A suggestion Mr. Priebe had for permitting was a sticker in the car window and different colors for different parking zones. Council Member Wood assured them she was aware of the parking issues in his neighborhood, and that they cannot park unhitched trailers on the street, and no commercial vehicles in residential area.

Mr. Sanford, who was a resident of the 4th Ward, spoke on his experience with selective ticketing in his neighborhood, and so asked for regular ticketing procedures and practices. Based on his experience in Kalamazoo, Mr. Sanford then suggested alternate side of the street parking based on the day of the week. Council Member Garza noted to Mr. Sanford he understood the idea, but what might work in some areas might not work in other areas.

Ms. Kelly voiced her concerns with shared driveways and rentals. Ms. Kelly encouraged the continued no parking 2am-5am parking for overflow parking.

Ms. Dickerson spoke to the Committee on her neighborhood which resides a majority of college rentals because of its proximity to MSU. Her concerns were with the lack of enforcement on the street because most of the homes have an alley and garage behind the home to park. She asked the Committee to consider a rental ordinance that would speak to the number of cars a rental could have. Council Member Wood noted that the no parking 2am – 5am parking was partially established to address rentals also. Ms. Dickerson then spoke about her concern with parking on both sides of the street, with a suggestion of allowing parking in her area of Fairview and Clemens to one side only. Lastly, she asked about enforcement of blocked alleys.

Mr. Pena voiced his concerns with vehicles blocking hydrants and requested enforcement of parking in front of hydrants.

Mr. Baer spoke in support of alternate sides of the street parking.

Ms. Schafer spoke specifically to her street, Horton, which is a dead-end street and was part of an experiment on parking. When it was done temporary parking signs went up, but nothing has ever been enforced. The 2-year experiment, once complete went back to the current ordinance which is it is illegal to park on the Horton. They were told the results would be presented to the Council in 90 days, back in 2014, and Council would make a recommendation. Committee Members confirmed they did not see a proposal, but they would ask Mr. Kilpatrick to attend a future Committee on Public Safety meeting to update them on the findings. Ms. Schafer made them aware if it is illegal, no one is getting ticketed.

Council Member Washington stated that on behalf of the North Town Association, they wanted the Committee to know they want no parking 2am-5am to be continued, because they are concerned with crime in the area and no vehicles on the road would help. Other areas in Ward 1 Council Member Washington voiced her concern with included rentals and parking, wanting limited permits per address, a concern with the confusion that comes with alternate side parking, and the need now for enforcement for parking over the sidewalks.

Ms. Sanford noted her concerns with no parking near parks, and some parks not having parking lots, so the resource of having park is restricted to users. She suggested no matter what the Committee considered, to put up signage, let their expectations be known, accept no less and start enforcing it.

Ms. Tank asked how the Committee is suggesting to enforce any of the ideas. Council Member Wood assured them that with the new Administration, the Mayor has informed her if Council has a reasonable plan he would help to make sure enforcement is done. It was also noted that staffing a parking officer is cheaper than a Police officer.

Ms. Shirel asked if enforcement has to be a sworn officer, and if they could hire multiple officers. Council Member Wood clarified it does not have to be a police officer, but they have to have the power to write tickets and go to court. Mr. Smiertka added that the tickets are civil infraction tickets and the enforcement officer has to be an authorized City official under the City ordinance.

Ms. Shirel asked if volunteers could do the enforcement, and Council Member Wood reminded the public that enforcement is in the middle of the night and could be a hazardous atmosphere.

Ms. Panetta asked again about enforcement of 4 vehicles at a home.

Ms. Dickerson asked for enforcement of snow emergency ticketing and towing, and her opinion that four (4) permits per house too many.

Ms. Kelly suggested following the every-other-week recycling schedule for the opposite side parking schedule.

Mr. Priebe requested a dedicated person for enforcement, maybe even two, but not police officers.

Ms. Mahlow supported permit parking with a sticker in the front and rear windows of the vehicles, not the same policy in the whole City, but asked for enforcement of the current no parking 2am-5am. Council Member Wood stated her research on permits is there are some that can be read remotely by a machine in the vehicle. Ms. Mahlow concluded by asking for enforcement on the parking in front of hydrant or and those that park too close to a corner.

Mr. Tank suggested a new ordinance that would tow cars instead of ticketing them.

Ms. Mahlow suggested a parking permit cost.

Mr. Panetta spoke on his experience as a City employee who had work on street plowing, noting to everyone that the issue has been going on for years, and needs to be addressed.

Council Member Hussain acknowledged all the comments and the unique challenges. With the options discussed tonight, he added that there are models throughout the country, do Lansing will not have to recreate the wheel, but can utilize what has already been established.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved: April 17, 2018