

**Downtown Committee Meeting
November 15, 2018**

Committee Chair, Councilor Belanger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present were Councilors Norman Belanger, John McCurry, Jr., Michael Ready and Amy Clearwater; and Mayor Alan Casavant

Absent: Councilor Marc Lessard

Also present were City Staff:
Chief Operating Officer, Brian Phinney
Police Chief, Roger Beaupre
City Clerk, Carmen Morris
Economic Development Coordinator, Brad Favreau

NOTE: In the absence of Councilor Lessard, Councilor Clearwater (who serves on this committee as the DDC Rep and does not typically vote) will have voting authority.

Discussion/Review:

1. Residential Rental Inspection Ordinance:

Code Enforcement Officer, Roby Fecteau gave a brief explanation of what the residential rental inspection program is. The Codes Office has been working through the first round of inspections of all residential rentals in the City. The Codes Office has been and will continue to work with the building owners to bring their buildings and tenements into compliance. The Codes Office is doing what they can to give reasonable time to those property owners whose buildings are in need of more extensive work and repairs to come into compliance.

Mr. Fecteau went over the new ordinance language that is being proposed. Proposed in the ordinance language are fees for inspections, starting with the second round of inspections; as well as fees for penalties and violations of complying with this ordinance.

Councilor Belanger offered numerous “clean up” edits to the ordinance language. Councilor Ready clarified that this policy/ordinance will also be considered by the Policy Committee prior to being considered by the City Council.

*Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to send this ordinance amendment, with Councilor Belanger’s edits, to the Policy Committee for consideration.
Vote: Unanimous.*

2. Request by Katherine Hanify, DO of SMHC for dedicated disability parking space for a resident at 17 Alfred Street

A request was made to designate a disability parking space for an individual with health issues who lives at 17 Alfred Street. Chief Beaupre explained that disability parking spaces are not typically designated in residential areas in the same way that they are in business areas. For many years, it has not been City process to dedicate a disability parking space to a particular

resident. It was noted that there is currently a disability parking space in the area of 17 Alfred Street.

Councilor Clearwater asked if there are enough disability parking spaces in the business area to accommodate the number of businesses. Chief Beaupre explained that the City typically responds to demand and looks at the type of business when designating disability parking spaces.

Councilor Belanger explained that it is actually the Policy Committee that would need to consider this request, as this is out of the purview of the Downtown Committee.

Motion by Mayor Casavant, seconded by Councilor Ready to suspend the rules and allow a member of the public to address the Committee.

Vote: Unanimous.

Ms. Dennison offered an explanation of why this request is being made.

Councilor Belanger explained that a disability parking space has been provided in that area upon the request of a resident; however, the Committee cannot designate a disability parking space for a particular individual.

3. Disability parking and time limits. Discussion: applicability and incorporating by reference; implications of MRSA on Biddeford's Parking Management Plan; Committee Authority (MRSA, Title 29-A, Sec. 521(12))

Chief Beaupre explained that there is a State Statute that allows individuals with a disability plate or placard ~~folks~~ to park in ~~posted disability parking spaces~~ metered parking area for no fee and for twice the allowable time limit and at no fee. ~~This law applies to on-street parking, as well as in a parking lot.~~

Chief Beaupre will check with the Attorney General's Office about the applicability and the impact this law will have on the City's new parking regulations that have been implemented for the parking lots and permitted parking.

4. Letter from Dr. Rebecca Brouillette

Mayor Casavant, who has spoken with Dr. Brouillette, explained the issues that she expects to have with the new parking regulations in regards to parking for ~~you~~herself and her ~~your~~ husband, as well as for ~~you~~her patients.

Chief Beaupre explained that the way the parking lot permits and software works, up to five plates/vehicles can be assigned to one parking space. He suggested that certain parking spaces could be dedicated to businesses in the Washington/Franklin/Federal Streets area for their employees; and that those dedicated spaces be self-policed.

Councilor Belanger suggested that if Dr. Brouillette feels that the parking spaces near her business should be changed from two-hour parking to four-hour parking, then she should come forward with that specific request.

5. Request by owners of Louis Pizza and Georges' Sandwich Shop for additional short-term parking in the Franklin/Federal Streets Parking Lot

The request basically asks that there be more 30-minute spaces available for customers who are just running in for pick up and leaving. There are currently six (6) 30-minute spaces in the Franklin/Federal Streets parking lots. It was noted that there are also some 15-minute parking spaces right on Franklin Street. Of the six (6) 30-minute spaces, there are two (2) near Super Sub Shop, two (2) near George's Sandwich Shop and two (2) near Louis Pizza.

Mayor Casavant urged the Committee to look at this particular lot more specifically in that there be consideration for making some of the spaces in those lots be for free parking. Councilors Clearwater and Belanger agreed that some of the spaces be converted to timed spaces instead of paid parking. The Economic Development Office will need to re-look at this parking lot and come back with a proposed change. The Committee did ask that the businesses in that area give the City an idea of how many spaces they are asking for. Brad Favreau will reach out to those businesses. A more concrete proposal will be brought forward to the next Downtown Committee meeting.

6. The Owner of White Door Home on Alfred Street would like a loading zone near their building at 56 Alfred Street

White Door Home currently uses the gravel lot adjacent to their business for loading and unloading; however, that lot is no longer available for them to use. Since there was no suggestion made by the business owner, Councilor Belanger asked that Brad work with White Door Home and come up with a suggestion for the Committee to consider.

7. Recommendation to Finance Committee: Use of parking lot at 39 Sullivan Street (St. Andre's Senior Housing) to expend snow emergency parking. Biddeford Housing Authority will allow snow ban parking, provided that the City pays for snow removal.

The cost for snow removal in the 39 Sullivan Street parking lot is:

Plowing: \$400.00 per event

Sand/Salt: \$150.00 per event

Brian Phinney explained that the intention is to have this lot operational like the other City lots in that a kiosk would be installed and folks would pay the snow ban parking fee to park there during snow emergency events.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to recommend this expenditure to the Finance Committee.

Vote: Unanimous.

8. Owner of Louis Pizza would like an area for his delivery drivers to park

Councilor Clearwater suggested that the 15-minute parking spaces that are already in place could be used for this purpose and if more such space were needed that it could be taken up by the committee in the future; which was agreed to by the rest of the Committee.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:44 p.m.