

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 11, 2019

Committee Chair, Councilor Marc Lessard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilors Marc Lessard, Laura Seaver and Norman Belanger; Committee Members Renee O'Neil and Nathan Bean

Also present: Staff Members – Police Chief Roger Beaupre, Chief Operating Officer Brian Phinney, City Clerk Carmen Morris, Public Works Director Jeff Demers, Code Enforcement Officer Roby Fecteau,

The Committee, and all who were present, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Acceptance of Minutes: **December 10, 2018**

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to accept the minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion/Review:

A. Disability Parking Space Request – 17 Alfred Street

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to grant the individual an assigned disability parking space on Alfred Street.

The citizen who made the request, Jules Dennison asked that if not an assigned space, that something be done to allow residents in that area be able to park there, especially in the evening when parking is more challenging.

Councilors Seaver and Belanger both expressed that they are sympathetic to the request; however, there is no State or Federal Law that supports assigning an on-street disability parking space to an individual. Even if it were to get through this committee, it is unlikely the full Council would support such a request.

Member O'Neil asked if and what the next step might be for Ms. Dennison, if the request is denied by this committee. Chief Beaupre expressed his concern with accommodating such a request, and he feels uncomfortable going down this road, as it would set a precedent for others who might make the same or similar request. He does not want to be put in a position where he is required to determine who gets a parking space and who does not.

Member Bean also expressed that he is uncomfortable granting such a request, and did ask that the City at least ensure that there is sufficient disability parking in that area.

Vote on request: All opposed.

Motion fails.

B. Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-90-No Parking/Add on Granite Street – Odd-Numbered Side

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to recommend the ordinance amendment to the City Council.

Chief Beaupre explained that this amendment is being proposed from his own observations that if there are vehicles parked on both sides of Granite Street, it makes it virtually impossible for two vehicles to pass each other.

Vote: Unanimous.

C. Ch. 42, Motor Vehicles & Traffic/Sec. 42-66-Beach permit parking regulations enumerated/Change Violation Fine

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to recommend the ordinance amendment to the City Council.

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to amend the ordinance language to change the word “will” to “may.”

Vote on amendment: Unanimous.

Vote on ordinance, as amended: Unanimous.

D. Ch. 58, Solid Waste/Inclusion of language for Grandfathered Facilities Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Standards

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to recommend the ordinance amendment to the City Council.

Public Works Director Jeff Demers gave an overview of the proposed changes and why these amendments are being brought forward. The proposed amendments are an effort to deal with consistent contaminated recycling throughout the City. Through monitoring efforts between the Public Works and the Codes Office, and working with Casella, the recycling from the Grandfathered facilities were checked closely and it was found that there was at one point a 42% contamination just from these properties. Other residential units were also checked and came back at 18% contamination.

Code Enforcement Officer Roby Fecteau addressed the committee and noted that he has talked with many apartment building owners and worked with them to set up recycling plans for their tenants. All of the Grandfathered facilities have six or more units, and almost all of them are in town. Each property owner, under the ordinance amendment, will be required to submit a written Performance-Based Recycling Plan to the City, as well as post the Plan on site (at the apartment building).

Vote: Unanimous

E. Ch. 58, Solid Waste/Add New Article IV-Single Use Carry-Out Bags

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to recommend the ordinance amendment to the City Council.

Public Works Director Jeff Demers explained that the reason why this ordinance language is being proposed is because the plastic carry-out bags are a major cause of the recycling contamination. Further, by ridding the City of the plastic carry-out bags it would be, overall, better for the environment.

Councilor Belanger expressed concern that not all businesses are included who use the plastic carry-out bags, like restaurants and non-food retail store. He feels there needs to be more work on the ordinance language to make it more all-encompassing. He also expressed concerned that there has not been enough public notice and information given about this proposed change.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Seaver to table this item until the next Policy Committee meeting in March.

Vote: 4/1; Councilor Lessard opposed.

F. Recycling Station Fee Structure

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to recommend the ordinance amendment to the City Council.

Vote: Unanimous.

G. Special Event Parking in the Downtown

Chief Operating Officer Brian Phinney explained that this issue started with the Downtown Committee, which had referred it to the Policy Committee.

The policy was written with the intention to limit parking waivers specifically for City-sponsored events. This is being proposed not as an ordinance, but as a policy that the City Council can use as a guideline when considering parking waivers for Special Events.

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to recommend the policy to the City Council.

Councilor Seaver feels that this policy basically puts the City's interests above the downtown businesses who are already struggling with the imposed parking management ordinances.

Member O'Neil is of the opinion that there does need to be some kind of structure or policy for downtown event parking.

Vote: 4/1; Councilor Seaver opposed.

Motion by Councilor Seaver, seconded by Councilor Belanger to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:21 p.m.