

PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 15, 2017

6:00 p.m.

A Public Safety and Transportation Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6 p.m. in Town Hall Council Chambers.

Those present were: Robert H. Kravetz, Chairman, Vice Mayor Sunny Reynolds, and Councilman Kevin T. Carter. Also in attendance: Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager, Police Chief Lou Battle, Edward B. Tucker, Jr., Director of Public Works/Utilities, Paul Bernard, Assistant Director of Public Works/Utilities, Jason Golden and Rodney Woodward, Warrenton Fire Company, Brandie Schaeffer, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Evelyn J. Weimer, Town Recorder.

Parking Study recommendations

After discussion of the parking study recommendations by consensus the Committee decided to recommend to Council that parking fines be as follows: \$10 first offense, \$25 for the second offense and \$50 each subsequent offense. Discussion of a warning for the first parking ticket, once parking enforcement starts was discussed. Putting notice of the fines on the website and notification of the County was discussed. The Town Manager gave an overview of the parking study. (A part of the official file). He stated that staff would start the process to get long term agreements with County and Warrenton Baptist Church for their parking lots.

Mr. Kravetz recommended the “P” parking sign be posted in parking lots. Along with identification that it is a public parking lot and here are the rules.

Ms. Reynolds noted that those Town residents who live above retail have no place to park so there had to be some 24 hour parking. Mr. Tucker noted that most work during the day so they are not on street when parking enforcement comes by.

Mr. Kravetz asked the Chief if he had the authority to do parking enforcement in shopping center lots and he responded he could for handicapped parking but no other type of enforcement.

Ms. Reynolds noted that as far as parking time limits some parking spots are three hours. She noted that some people have expressed concern that if the time limits on Main Street remain one hour, it would force those shopping downtown to shopping centers. Mr. Carter felt it did not seem logical for the one hour spaces to change to two hour. Mr. Godfrey noted that one hour would not give the parking enforcement officer long enough time to do a circuit.

Mr. Godfrey noted that peripheral parking needed to be turned to long term because it is where the employees would be directed. Mr. Carter stated that employee parking and resident parking should be worked on.

There was further discussion about parking for residents and Chief Battle noted that he had not received any complaints from people who work at night. Mr. Kravetz asked if one hour parking should go to two hour and unrestricted parking on the street to two hour. Mr. Kravetz felt nothing should be done about the parking lots. Mr. Kravetz asked if down Culpeper Street beyond St. James Church should go from unlimited or be two hour. Mr. Carter asked that the resident parking in that area stay as is. Mr. Kravetz agreed to leave the unrestricted spaces the way they are. Mr. Carter was unsure that the change to two hour would make it better. Mr. Kravetz noted that it could always be changed. Mr. Carter noted he was leaning toward meters.

After discussed, by consensus it was decided to recommend to Council that one hour parking in the central area move to two hour except on Main Street, which will remain one hour.

Mr. Carter asked that perhaps a committee could be assigned to work on a parking garage. Ms. Reynolds noted it has started in the Liaison Committee and there was a public/private group involved. The group gave a proposal for Fifth Street but it was a minus parking venture. She explained that the same group did a study behind the post office and because of the levels they thought they could put one semi-underground. Condos would be on top and she pushed for figures but they dropped out. Mr. Godfrey stated that the Town had gotten figures and once the parking added in for the units there was not a positive gain in parking for the Town.

Chief Battle asked about the other fines currently noted on the parking citation and the Manager stated that he could add fines to the additional schedule when Council considers overtime parking fees.

Mr. Carter stated that the parking study had a good deal of budget recommendations included. Mr. Godfrey stated that it would be good if it was in a clearly

presented place where the parking costs are but they are spread throughout the budget, mostly in Public Works. Mr. Tucker stated that the parking lots are not specifically tracked but a Department of Justice audit was conducted seven or eight years ago which resulted in the Town starting on the south of Main Street and milling and resurfacing the lots. They were made handicapped compliant within 2% and some curbing work was done. Behind the Post Office the same thing was done except for the lower lot on Fifth Street, which will be paved in the next two weeks. He stated also that parking lot "A" is next to be milled, repaved and restriped. He said it should be the decision of Council, Experience Old Town Warrenton and the Economic Development Department to decide what the parking lots should look like. He commented that the lots may need additional landscaping and benches.

Mr. Godfrey noted that the Town does not discreetly indicate parking lot maintenance in the budget. Mr. Tucker stated that if every hour that the street sweeper sweeps parking lots, all the snow plowing, emptying of trash cans which is all hidden in the budget, it would probably amount to about \$60,000 to \$100,000 spent per year. Mr. Kravetz asked if it was necessary to see the costs and the Manager felt it was because parking does cost something. There is no free parking. Mr. Kravetz asked if the Manager was recommending revision of the budget to show those costs and he commented that that is something he would do for the next fiscal budget. Mr. Carter asked if the wayfinding signage was part of the signage being discussed and the Manager noted that he was referring to parking signage.

Mr. Godfrey noted that all brown parking signs should be replaced with the blue and green "P" signage. Mr. Tucker asked about the administrative signage and the Manager stated that something easier to read needed to be developed and the parking instructions are still needed. Mr. Tucker noted he would have to get a demonstration down in one of the lots.

Line-of-sight issues at 5th and Main

Mr. Kravetz noted that the Committee had talked about eliminating one parking space at each corner and he felt that that the parking space in front of Mr. Merle Fallon's office should be eliminated.

Ms. Reynolds noted that she had spoken with Mr. Fallon and he has no problem with it. Mr. Kravetz felt it could be done administratively.

Complaint re: speeding on Winchester Street

Mr. Kravetz asked that the speed tracker be set up on Winchester Street. Mr. Tucker asked location and Mr. Kravetz noted that the complaint had been received from Mr. Charles Shepherd.

Citizen Survey and Annual Report.

Chief Battle reported on the citizen survey recently completed. He stated that it is a good management tool. He stated the 350 responses were received which was about 150 more than two years ago. He detailed all the responses for each category. (a part of the official record).

Chief Battle gave an overview of the Police Department's annual report.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Evelyn J. Weimer, Town Recorder