

**TOWN OF SOUTHINGTON
PARKING AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
November 9, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Town of Southington Parking Authority was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 1:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers of the Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John J. Solury, Jr. at 1:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by all present.

Roll Call Present were John J. Solury, Jr., Chairperson, and Commissioner Mark Dziubek. Commissioner Mathew Florian had been excused. The chairperson declared no quorum.

Approval of Minutes of September 14, 2011 The Chairperson, John J. Solury, Jr. administratively approved the minutes as presented, due to the lack of quorum and pending reappointment.

Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2011 The Chairperson, John J. Solury, Jr. administratively approved the minutes as presented, due to the lack of quorum.

Submission of Bills and Payments Chairman Solury presented a bill from the maintenance contractor in the amount of \$740. This represents a contractual obligation and will be filed for payment.

Public Communications Art Cyr, 103 Berlin Ave. He continues to be concerned about the defect in the municipal parking across from Apple Alley, next to 98 Main St., and behind the Masonic building. He is aware of a claim filed against the town for an injury. "This was supposed to be fixed two years ago, it was supposed to be fixed one year ago and we are now into November and it appears that it will not be fixed this year." All this needs is for Tilcon to come in and mill it down and resurface it and the water will flow away rather than pooling and then freezing to make walking there hazardous. Cyr finds it "outrageous" that it is now the third winter without this being fixed. He requests that someone in authority send a separate note to the Town Manager making him aware of this, since he was not here at the time this all occurred. "The Town Attorney is aware of it, the Town Engineer is aware of it. The people who want to sit at 75 Main St and forward e-mails back and forth and think they are doing their job; they are wrong." He notes that public safety is number one and he intends to follow up on

this personally and reappear until this is fixed. He also notes, in the same parking lot, broken curbing from last winter. "They weren't fixed last April and they weren't fixed in June, they weren't fixed for the Apple Harvest Festival and now we begin another winter. They may well nearly eliminate some of the landscaping." He is appalled. He feels if it was done by the Parking Authority contractors, this needs to be repaired in the spring or if it was done by the town crews, it needs to be done in April or May. He says that the municipal parking lots need to be a priority, not the last thing on the list. He says that some of the municipal parking lots look "disgraceful."

Commissioner Communications Chairman Solury follows up on Mr. Cyr's comments. He shares Cyr's frustration on these two issues. The slip-and-fall hazard of which he speaks, Solury says that he is well-aware. Since he has been on the parking authority, this has repeatedly been brought to the attention of town staff and it continues to fall on deaf ears. The last communication Solury had was during August of this year, from the Town Engineer who replies that he has sent a letter off to Tilcon asking them to review and discuss solutions to this problem. Solury has received no response. He followed up on this during September and still nothing to report. There was some discussion about when the paving of that lot was done and consensus was probably sometime in 2008. Regarding the second issue concerning the curbing, Solury reports numerous discussions with the Southington Public Works director and he has been assured that they always go throughout the town each spring and repair all of the damaged curbs. Solury has spoken with him about curbs disturbed during snowplowing season and again, it falls on deaf ears. Cyr asked who he had spoken with and Solury answered "the highway superintendent."

Chairman Solury reported that he had contacted the Town Planner to secure a resolution of some outstanding issues in the Hearthstone Pub parking lot. One is that the two-hour parking signs are not according to approved design, there are a few missing, and some of the posts holding the signs are of substandard quality. Also, the Rules signs need to be addressed. He was hoping to discuss this with Commissioner Riccio today. He has several communications by e-mail dating back to last month, when the Town Planner has contacted Mr. Michanczyk's attorney, requesting that the sign situation be discussed with the Parking Authority. Solury reports his on-site walks there as well, in an effort to get these projects completed in a timely fashion.

Overnight Parking Unfortunately, Chairman Solury notes no quorum. Therefore, this item must be tabled. Commissioner Dziubek makes a comment for the record: He is opposed to the overnight parking. He feels that municipal parking is an asset of the town. He does not agree with the fees for overnight parking quoted by Commissioner Riccio (\$5 per year), and says that

this accommodation is undervalued. Dziubek considers such an arrangement giving a town asset away. "If we are going to do this, fair market value should be charged."

Signs . Commissioner Dziubek speaks on the record. He is opposed to the new parking signs. "They are overpriced. We have signs which are more visible and will drive business into the commercial area. I do not believe a black sign with a gold P on it, in the middle of the night, will slow people down to stop in at the commercial zone or anywhere down in Plantsville center. It is a terrible waste of taxpayer's money at " triple ten-times" the cost."

Handicapped Parking Tabled in the absence of Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues. He noted legal issues regarding the placement of handicapped parking in the municipal lots.

56 Center Street/Dumpster Mr. DelBuono is not present to discuss this.

Budget Solury expresses his disappointment at the absence of the commissioners and their suggestions for the upcoming budget.

Calendar for 2012 Meetings Tabled. Solury wishes all commissioners to have a fair opportunity to discuss this.

Chairman Solury spoke in closing. He thanked Commissioner Dziubek for his service to the Southington Parking Authority. Dziubek is advised that if no replacement is appointed before the December meeting, he should plan to be present. Solury expressed his pleasure to work with Commissioner Dziubek. Dziubek thanked him and commented that it had been his pleasure to serve the town.

Adjournment Chairman Solury adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

John J. Solury Chairman
Parking Authority
Town of Southington