

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 11, 2011

There was a regular meeting of the Town of Southington Parking Authority on Wednesday May 11, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Chairman John J. Solury, Jr.

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, Dolores Babkirk-Rodrigues, Vice Chairperson, Commissioners Michael Riccio and Matthew Florian. Also present were Assistant Town Manager/Town Attorney Mark Sciota, and Officer Watson of the Southington Police Department. Chairman Solury noted Commissioner Dziubek excused.

Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2011 Commissioner Riccio made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2011 minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues and passed on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2011 Attorney Sciota administratively approved the minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting upon the suggestion and approval of Chairman John J. Solury, Jr. since he was the only member of the Parking Authority present at that meeting.

Use of Municipal Lots

Italian-American Festival

Chairman Solury presented a letter dated May 3 requesting the use of the municipal parking lot on lower Center Street and the No. Liberty lot for the annual Italian-American Festival to be held from Friday evening July 29 (set up) through July 31 (breaking down at 11p.m.) Attorney Brian Maccariello spoke to the Parking Authority on behalf of the Unico Organization, a co-sponsor of the Festival and as a member of the Southington Italian-American Festival Committee. He notes that the festival is being co-sponsored by the Sons of Italy. He spoke about a new set up plan and answered questions. The Police Department is aware of the changes. Commissioner Riccio expressed no issue with the changes proposed and commented on the excellent control that the police maintain during the festival. Maccariello reports that the business owners affected have been contacted. Chairman Solury asked Captain Palmieri, present in the audience, if there were any police concerns to be considered. He knew of none. Certificate of Insurance will be furnished to the Town Attorney. There were some concerns from Pamela DePaolo in the audience about keeping the way clear in the area for delivery trucks and customers, reminding the commissioners that there are businesses open in the area on Friday and through the weekend. Commissioner Florian made a motion to approve this request as presented with the same stipulations as last year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riccio. The Chairman called

for a roll call vote. Riccio-yes, Florian-yes, Babkirk-Rodrigues-yes, Solury-yes.

Public Communications

Pamela DePaolo 54 Delahunty Drive and 8395 Center Street

She read a letter she has submitted to the Parking Authority regarding her companies' position in regard to the proposed overnight parking to be provided from space in the public parking lots in the downtown central business district. She includes her brother Val DePaolo in her stance. She is opposed to carving out public parking spaces in the area of downtown Center Street for private use. She feels it is unfair to property owners who do not have residential tenants. She notes an ongoing misuse of street parking spaces by residents in the area who habitually violate the two-hour parking rule. She feels that once the space is given to tenants they will never be returned to the public.

Joseph LePore 719 East Street

He owns property downtown for at least 35 years and has residential tenants. He has never had a problem with them parking in the municipal lot. He asked about the rules. Chairman Solury answered that there is no parking in municipal lots between 2:30 and 5:30 A.M. LePore feels that his property is "grandfathered in" to park somewhere. He advises his tenants to go out and move their cars periodically to avoid tickets.

Arthur Cyr 103 Berlin Avenue

He owns no property downtown. He is opposed to overnight parking in the municipal lots as a taxpayer. He feels that it is unfair to use taxpayer dollars to provide off street parking, especially overnight. During the winter there is a snow removal problem. He comments on the reason that the no-overnight-parking rule was instituted. People were abusing the privilege to park in municipal lots. Cars were parked there for days and weeks on end, sometimes with tires removed. He feels that when citizens drive downtown to use any of the businesses there and can't find parking because there are tenants or employees using them, it is unfair. He feels that public parking is at a premium. He is opposed to any designated parking or sticker parking in the municipal lots and he feels that he speaks for the majority of the taxpayers in Southington. Property buyers should consider their needs before purchase.

Joseph LePore As a property owner he wants to state that when he bought his property, 35 years ago, there were no regulations.

Chairman Solury proposed moving the Overnight Parking item forward on the agenda. Commissioner Riccio made a motion to move **Overnight Parking** to be addressed at this point on today's agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Florian and passed on a voice vote.

Overnight Parking

Chairman Solury read some letters that have been submitted. The first was signed by Lou Perillo III, who clarified, that contrary to what had been indicated at the last meeting, he was not in need of overnight parking. He has discovered that parking needs can be privately met by working with property owner Mike DelSanto. Mr. DelSanto has indicated that he has sufficient accommodations for a significant amount of overnight parking for a reasonable fee. He also recommended that the Parking Authority review this opportunity with Mr. DelSanto and suggest to others who may require this accommodation to contact him directly.

The second letter was submitted by the proprietor of Machiavelli's on Center Street. She is opposed overnight parking for residential tenants, feeling that it is unfair to grant special considerations to specific property owners.

Chairman Solury did contact Mike DelSanto based on the information received from Lou Perillo. DelSanto responded that he has space behind his property at 136 Center St that is suitable for overnight parking. He will discuss this with all interested.

Solury acknowledged receipt of a written copy of Pamela DePaolo's statement.

Commissioner Riccio suggested that procedurally it would be correct to set a public hearing date on overnight parking. He made a motion to set a date for a public hearing on the topic of overnight parking, to allow the Parking Authority to establish overnight parking in the municipal lots. Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues seconded his motion. A date was discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8 at 1 p.m. Attorney Sciota suggested that in light of this public hearing the meeting should be rescheduled in the evening and must allow for proper notification. Since the regular meeting date is being changed, Commissioner Riccio made a motion to schedule a special meeting one week later. Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues seconded his motion. The Chairman called for a roll call vote: Riccio-yes, Florian-yes, Babkirk-Rodrigues-yes, Solury-yes. The public hearing with special meeting to follow was scheduled for Wednesday June 15 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Officer Watson had no issues with this.

Commissioners Communications

Commissioner Riccio noted that at the March 16 meeting, the motion for the waiver for 130 Center Street was made and the vote was tied. A second motion was then made by Riccio to table the waiver request until "next month" seconded by Florian. Without discussion a roll call vote unanimously approved the tabling of this request. He notes

that the waiver request was not on the April agenda. Therefore, Commissioner Riccio made a motion that the parking waiver for 130 Center St be added to the agenda today for action. Commissioner Florian seconded his motion. During discussion, Chairman Solury reported that the applicant did contact him directly after the March meeting and asked for a special meeting to discuss his application since Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues did not have an opportunity to voice her opinion. Solury did contact Mrs. Babkirk-Rodrigues and discovered that her opinion was not in favor of the applicant. Solury related an unpleasant conversation with the applicant upon hearing this, who made various irate threats about leaving town. Solury asked him to calm down and call back when he was ready to discuss this. He never did so. Town staff has heard nothing. Commissioner Riccio remarked that all of this was during private conversation. He continues to feel that any motion sitting on the table must appear on the agenda until it is resolved. Therefore, since Riccio's motion was moot, he made a second motion to place the parking waiver for 130 Center St on the agenda for next month. Commissioner Florian seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a roll call vote: Riccio-yes, Florian-yes, Babkirk-Rodrigues-yes, Solury-no. Commissioner Riccio spoke about the folly of private conversations and points of protocol.

Chairman Solury presents a report on the My Bar property from Mary Savage, the Town Planner. The lot should be completed this year.

Chairman Solury also reported a call from the Town Planner about the municipal lot in Plantsville regarding the signage there. There are some required signs still to be installed. Solury will follow up with her.

Bills and Payments A bill from the stenographer for \$118 for this meeting is filed for payment.

Signs Commissioner Riccio, in charge of signs, reports. He is not in favor of using the big blue P signs that have been purchased. He has chosen something more decorative. He has also approached a different vendor, Sign Pro. He presented a different sign graphic for review and new pricing. Officer Watson offered that the rules signs must be placed. He also cautioned about placement of the parking rules signs and recommended that the Chief be consulted before changing the design on two-hour parking signs. Commissioner Riccio will secure a rendering of the new design on paper for review. Commissioner Florian expressed his approval and notes that a change in sign graphics has been discussed for decades. Chairman Solury liked the design but was cautious about the new colors from a visibility standpoint. Specific locations and the numbers were discussed. Commissioner Riccio spoke about the placement of new mulch in the lots over the existing mulch. He shared a different idea for these areas. Funding was discussed. Commissioner Riccio made a motion to request rollover funds from the ground maintenance account to next year's budget in the amount of \$7000, for the replacement signs and landscaping project. Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues seconded his motion. There was a short discussion about what to do with the purchased blue P signs.

Commissioner Riccio will see if he can make an exchange deal with the new sign people.

Bank of America Lot Islands/Restriping

Chairman Solury reported that he did a field study and review of plan with Commissioner Florian. The new design has been rendered by the engineering department and is available for review. This plan should fall within the allotted budget for this project and it retrieves the lost parking space. The plan met with approval by the commissioners. Commissioner Florian will secure some new bids. Attorney Sciota suggested that the commissioners authorize the chairman to sign off on the best quote and move ahead without delay. Commissioner Florian made a motion that the chairman be authorized to award the contract for the islands to the lowest responsible bidder. Commissioner Riccio seconded his motion. Commissioner Riccio offered a suggestion for the landscaping within the islands. Funding was discussed. Bank of America is in favor of this project. Attorney Sciota suggested that the Chairman ask Mary Savage to administratively approve this project, since engineering has rendered the design, in the interest of saving time. Chairman Solury will contact Tony Musto about the striping. The chairman asked for a roll call vote: Riccio-yes, Florian-yes, Babkirk-Rodrigues-yes, Solury-yes.

2012 Budget

Chairman Solury reported on the new budget numbers. The Parking Authority has suffered a 28% reduction in funding, with the total now being \$11,225.00.

Commissioner Riccio asked for the total number of parking spaces under the control of the Parking Authority. Chairman Solury answered him.

Adjournment

Commissioner Florian called for adjournment at 2:14 p.m. Commissioner Babkirk-Rodrigues seconded his motion and all were in favor.