

**TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
Parking Authority
Regular Meeting
September 4, 2008**

The September meeting of the Parking authority of the Town of Southington was held on September 4, 2008 in the town council chambers of the Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Davis, Chairperson at 4:32 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by everyone in attendance.

Roll Call

Mr. Myers, Mr. Salmeri, Mrs. Zoni, Ms. Davis. Arrived soon after roll call, Ms. Zommer.

All members of the Parking Authority are present and voting.

Rebecca Davis, assuming the Chair:

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salmeri and approved on a voice vote.

Police Communications

The Chair announced that a letter had been submitted since the last meeting to the police department, requesting active enforcement of parking violations in municipal lots. She had received a telephone call from Sgt. DePalma reporting that the police department had starting the overtime ticketing in May.

Public Communications

John Pucci, proprietor of the Fireplace Restaurant at 44 Center St addressed the Parking Authority. He was requesting having a space allotted as a walkway in the parking lot behind the Fireplace Restaurant behind his building. He explained that the required rear entrance to his business needs to be moved and a safe and accessible walkway area established. Loss of a municipal parking space will be required.

Mr. Salmeri made a motion that Mr. Pucci's request be addressed under new business. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Zoni and all were in favor of adding it to this meeting's agenda.

Commissioner's Communications

Mrs. Zoni had a conversation with Mr. Florian and another property owner about the two hour parking in the Riccio Way lot.

Mr. Myers made note that he had received an e-mail from Councilman Art Secondo about the construction going on in the Riccio Way lot resulting in the loss of parking. Frank Bonillo of Branford Hall had some concerns about the temporary loss of parking there. Apparently, more spaces are being taken up than had been projected and approved. He also wishes to project an additional 75 parking spaces will be needed when the school year begins.

The Chair acknowledged that Mr. Myers had handled this situation, and a dialogue between Mr. Bonillo and Helen Archangelo of the Housing Authority had produced a mutually agreeable outcome.

Submission of Bills and Payments

The Chair prefaced the presentation of bills by explaining that she has met with Amelia, who outlined new procedures for budget and payments. The requisition procedure was explained at some length to the members of the parking authority.

Ms. Davis presents four monthly bills from John Meade for maintenance of town parking lots: June, July, August and September. The lots are serviced once a month. The monthly fee is a total of \$280. Ms. Zommer made a motion that these bills be paid, seconded by Mr. Salmeri. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mr. Musto sends a bill for some striping in the North Liberty lot for \$150. A motion was made by Mr. Salmeri to pay this bill, seconded by Mrs. Zoni. Voice vote was in the affirmative.

Mrs. Zoni made a motion to pay the stenographer's bill for \$106 for this meeting. Seconded by Ms. Zommer, it was approved by voice vote.

Old Business

Riccio Way Tree and Fence

Two diseased trees were removed from the Riccio Way lot. Mr. Salmeri was able to negotiate application of this expense to last year's budget.

Ms. Davis reported that the fence issue is pending and will be addressed before the October meeting.

Municipal Lot Usage and Signage

Mrs. Zoni commented that when the barriers were entertained in the Riccio Way lot, it was her impression that the intent was to increase the number of two-hour parking spaces. With the advent of the school year she feels that it is apparent that this lot is used primarily for long term parking.

Mr. Salmeri states that he has been to this lot on different days and varied times and he never found the lot full. He suggested that members of the parking authority monitor the parking patterns in this lot during September. He feels that in the absence of a professional parking study, consensus is no more than unproven opinion and he does not advocate spending any more

money moving signs around. This amounts to restricting the use of a public lot at the request of specific groups, without professional input. There is also an issue about enforcement, as outlined by the police department. Signage as it stands now is declared clear and enforceable. Mr. Salmeri notes that the two hour parking was moved to where it is by request and now there is a request to move it back. Mrs. Zoni thought that the original intent of the new islands was to add to the two hour parking. It was additionally done for safety reasons.

There was a discussion about different avenues of securing a professional opinion in this regard. Funding for this has not been approved in the budget.

Mr. Myers suggests that he could prepare a schedule for members of the commission to check the lots at varied times and this was discussed. Mr. Salmeri feels that the present arrangement has been very well received from the majority of users and that it is not prudent to change it without a professional study to support such a move. He has viewed the lot with Sgt. DePalma and it was agreed that there is no way to properly place signs to add enforceable two hour parking by the islands.

Mr. Salmeri continued to maintain that it is his position that the signs are placed in collaboration with the Southington Police Department and there is no reason to move the signs again. He states that he has yet to see the two hour parking places full and there has been only a few complaints. He does make a point, however, that he is not opposing change, but change simply for change's sake.

Ms. Zommer suggests that the original intent be revisited. Mrs. Zoni read from the minutes of the April 3, 2008 meeting.

The Chair asked how members felt about Mr. Myers' idea of visiting the lot at random times and days to personally record parking patterns, in the absence of funds for a professional parking study. This met with the approval of all commissioners and Mr. Myers will set this up.

Ms. Davis also suggested that perhaps another town commission would consider partnering with them to fund the necessary study.

South Center Street

The Chair reported that she has received a reply from the Town Engineer regarding the new parking lot and she spoke with him directly. He has been to the site during the evening hours and found the lighting appropriate as it exists. The highway department is responsible for the snow plowing of the lot. The Parking Authority will be responsible, if the lot is acquired, for the maintenance. She pointed out that this lot became available following budget discussions and this expense is not reflected in this year's figures.

Dumpsters

There are 6 dumpsters in the Fleet Lot area. Mr. Salmeri has spoken with all property owners about moving them to one

central location at the back of the lot. All are in agreement for participation. Mr. DelBuono will finance the slab and the others will absorb the cost of the fencing. A verbal agreement has been accomplished and this project is ready to move forward toward design. Mr. Myers made a motion that the dumpster issue be added to the new business section of today's agenda. Mr. Salmeri seconded his motion and all were in favor. This is added to today's agenda.

Carryover

The Chair announced that the Parking Authority has a carryover of \$9674 from last year's budget.

New Business

Request of John Pucci

Mr. Salmeri explained the request of the proprietor of the Fireplace Restaurant for a walkway area outside his relocated rear door. He suggests that by moving the dumpsters to a central location, there is room to add a parking space, realign it and allow a walkway area per the request, without loss of the space. He also feels that when the dumpsters are relocated, there should be two additional parking spaces.

Ms. Davis wishes to view the site and she questions the time frame. Mrs. Zoni questioned the removal of the raised curb and was advised that it has been moved as it was on private property. Mr. Pucci is under contract to move his door within the next two weeks. Ms. Zommer comments that this lot change is clearly a safety issue. Mrs. Zoni asks about a temporary arrangement in the interest of public safety. Mr. Myers agrees with the safety issue but wants to view the site. Ms. Davis is concerned about the temporary loss of a parking space and the aesthetics of the change. Mr. Salmeri says it is simply a matter of redesign.

Mr. Salmeri made a motion that a special on-site meeting be held to see what would be best. Mrs. Zoni seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote. Ms. Davis set up a meeting of the Parking Authority at 44 Center St, rear entrance, on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 4:30 pm.

Mrs. Zoni reported that the dumpsters in the Riccio Way lot are in need of cleaning up again. Ms. Davis will send a second letter to the Town Attorney and Sanitarian about this. Ms. Zommer did suggest that the property owners need to cooperate with their trash company--there are many ways to eliminate these problems. Mrs. Zoni volunteered to speak with the property owner again, in lieu of a letter from the Chair.

Use of Plantsville Lot

Ms. Davis explained that there had been a vote in favor via vote of confidence, three members of the parking authority, to allow the Maplewood Condominium Assn. to use the Plantsville lot for August 26-27, while their parking lot was being repaved. This prompted a discussion about the procedure surrounding this

permit. Mr. Salmeri announced his negative vote on this request, and felt that a computer poll of the commissioners, which excludes an interactive discussion, is not an acceptable manner to make a decision about the waiving of explicit rules. He also felt that such a last-minute request places undue duress on this commission.

Ms. Davis said that the request came to her on an urgent basis, only a few days before the work was planned, because the party involved was not aware that special permission would be required to use the public parking area. She feels that sometimes there are extenuating circumstances when it doesn't hurt to extend temporary reasonable accommodation to taxpayers, and instances when that grace needs to be expedient. There was no meeting of the Parking Authority in August.

Mrs. Zoni suggested that perhaps the building department could advise residents who apply for a permit to repave parking lots that it is necessary for them to make alternate arrangements, and that if they plan to utilize municipal parking they must seek approval from this authority in plenty of time for their request to be on our meeting agenda. The Chair will speak with the Building Department.

Mr. Myers made a motion that Maplewood Condo Assn be granted permission to park overnight in the Plantsville Lot for August 26-27. This was seconded by Mrs. Zoni and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Additional Maintenance

Ms. Davis explained that she has had a request to step up maintenance, specifically clean up, in the municipal lots. It is being done on a monthly basis but debris does pile up. She spoke with Mr. Meade, who said that it would cost an additional \$100 per month (May thru Oct) to clean up the lots bi-monthly.

Mr. Salmeri asked about the feasibility of additional trash receptacles, but the Chair explained that this has been discussed in the past. The problem is: who will empty them, control the use and maintain them?

Mrs. Zoni made a motion that Mr. Meade be contracted to do clean up in the lots twice a month. Mr. Salmeri seconded this motion and it passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Adjournment

A motion was entertained at 5:45pm and proposed by Mrs. Zoni, seconded by Mr. Myers. All present were in favor of adjournment.

Rebecca Davis, Chairperson
Town of Southington
Parking Authority

