

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
Parking Authority
Regular Meeting
July 3, 2008

The July meeting of the Parking Authority of the Town of Southington was held on July 3, 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 and Ms. Davis, Chair.

A quorum is determined.

Rebecca Davis, assuming the Chair:

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salmeri and was passed on a voice vote.

Police Communications

None

Public Communications

None

Commissioner Communications

Ms. Davis announces the Council's decision to purchase the My Bar property and the additional needed municipal parking there.

Mr. Salmeri commented that the additional parking space is welcome but it should be noted that the Parking Authority's budget has been cut this year. Another lot will mean more maintenance and he is also concerned about any funding that will be needed for the dumpster relocation project which is in the final planning stages.

The Chair reported on the new finance rules for payment of bills in this upcoming fiscal year and her request to carryover funds from last year. She plans to meet with Amelia soon to become acquainted with the new procedures.

Ms. Davis has submitted a letter to the Town Attorney about the voted agreement with Mr. DelBuono, so that arrangements can be formalized on the 56 Center Street project.

Ms. Zommer submitted a letter, in her absence, stating that she thought the Riccio Way project looks great. She reinforced her opposition to overnight parking in the municipal lots.

Bills and payments

Mr. Salmeri made a motion to pay the stenographer's fee of \$106, it was seconded by Mrs. Zoni and carried with a voice vote.

Old Business

Mr. Salmeri has spoken with the Public Works Director about the tree at Merrill Ave. and leaning fence in the Riccio Way Lot. The feeling is that the tree needs to be removed and it is the responsibility of the parking authority to pay for it. Public Works does not have the equipment to handle it. Mr. Salmeri made a motion that they contract with Dlugos Tree Service to remove the tree as soon as possible, since it is becoming a safety hazard. It is a complicated job and they have done satisfactory work for the parking authority in the past. This was seconded by Mr. Myers and the discussion raised the question of using carryover funds from last year for this, since the project has been under investigation and planned last year. Mr. Salmeri withdrew his motion. Mrs. Zoni made a motion to take the tree in question down, ask for carryover funding for this project as a first choice, but since it must be done without delay, to contract with Dlugos to do the work at a cost of no more than \$2500. Mr. Salmeri seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote. Mr. Salmeri will call the tree people to facilitate the work.

Regarding the leaning fence in the Riccio Way lot, Mr. Salmeri explored this with town officials. There is no official building inspection on fencing and the only way to be sure that it was installed properly is to dig down beside it to assess the depth of the footing. It was decided to contact John Meade to dig and Mr. Salmeri will supervise. The Chair will speak with John Meade.

Mr. Salmeri met with Sgt. DePalma to discuss the recent changes in the Riccio Way Lot. People are parking in all areas equally now. Parking in the egress lanes is no longer a problem and the lot as a whole is much safer. The signage is clear and easily enforceable by the police. Sgt. DePalma feels that the environmental changes, made by the addition of islands, brought about efficient usage of that lot and recommends that any changes in signs should be put off, at least until September, while parking patterns are studied.

Lot Usage

Ms. Davis reported on her conversation with the Town of West Hartford regarding overnight parking in their municipal lot--an issue raised by Mr. Domian at the last meeting. West Hartford does allow overnight parking in their new covered parking garage at Blue Back Square. Snow plowing and night maintenance is not an issue. Anyone can secure a permit for \$110 per month. Mr. Domian also asked why overnight parking in Southington's lots does not seem to be

discussed on an ongoing basis. Mr. Salmeri felt that it had been discussed at some length and the consensus is that the regulations will not be changed in the near future. Mrs. Zoni commented that it had been adequately discussed and the Chair agreed with her. Mr. Myers wondered how the long futile discussions about this could be curtailed. After some discussion Mr. Salmeri made a motion to add this to today's agenda under new business. Mrs. Zoni seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote. It is added to today's agenda.

New Business

There is a broken fence at the parking lot abutting the Dunkin' Donuts. There was a discussion about removing just the section involved or replacing it. Mr. Salmeri made a motion that the Chair explore having just the one fence section removed by the town. Mr. Myers seconded his motion and it was voted in the affirmative. Ms. Davis will follow up.

There was a discussion about the new So.Center St. lot. Ms. Davis wonders if the lighting there is adequate. Mr. Myers wonders about paving, striping and landscaping. Mr. Salmeri commented that it is great to expand but it all costs more money for maintenance and the parking authority's budget has been cut for this fiscal year. The Chair expects that the lot will be presented ready for use.

Mrs. Zoni expressed concern about the condition of the dumpsters in the Riccio Way Lot. After a discussion, it was decided that the Chair send a letter alerting the involved property owners to monitor maintenance of the dumpsters.

Mr. Myers notes that the No. Liberty lot needs weeding; Mrs. Zoni adds that Riccio Way does, as well. The Chair reported that this falls under maintenance which is done monthly, but she will talk with John Meade.

Mr. Salmeri suggested that a letter be sent to the Chief of Police reinforcing the parking authority's mission to enforce the lot regulations. He also thinks it would be a good idea to educate the public about present rules and regulations for use of the municipal lot. He made a motion to submit such a letter to the Police Department. Mr. Salmeri's motion was seconded by Mrs. Zoni and passed on a voice vote. Ms. Davis will draft and send the letter.

Mr. Myers made a motion that during the public communications section of the parking authority meeting, there will be a five minute limit for each speaker. Mrs. Zoni seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously affirmative.

Vacation schedule of commissioners was discussed and it was decided to hold the August meeting as planned.

Adjournment

Mrs. Zoni made a motion to adjourn at 5:13 pm, seconded by Mr. Myers. All present were in favor of adjournment.

Rebecca Davis, Chairperson
Town of Southington
Parking Authority