

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 2009

The regular meeting of the Parking Authority of the Town of Southington was held on July 2, 2009 in the conference room of the Southington Town Hall at 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. The meeting was called to order by John Solury Chairman, at 1:05pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chairman John Solury, Jr., Dolores Babkirk, Vice Chairperson Erin Kane, Mark Dziubek. A quorum is determined.

Also present were Town Engineer, Anthony Tranquillo and Louis Perillo, Economic Development Director.

John J. Solury, Jr. assuming the Chair:

Approval of Minutes of the June 3, 2009 Meeting

Commissioner Babkirk made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second came from Vice Chair Erin Kane. The Chairman called for a roll call vote: Solury-yes, Babkirk-yes, Kane-yes, Dziubek-yes. The motion is passed on a roll call vote.

Public Communications

Pamela De Paolo, downtown merchant, De Paolo Furniture, Inc., 83-95 Center St addressed the Parking Authority. She addressed the downtown parking situation at some length and cited individual incidents of abuse of regulations. She read her recent letters to the Parking Authority and to Chief Daly of the Southington Police Department. She had some suggestions; one being more handicapped curbing and crosswalks in the downtown area, placed between blocks. She objects to the two hour parking restriction being suspended on Saturdays after noon and Sundays. She says that drivers are ignoring the posted signs and at times they block access if an emergency vehicle should be needed. She thanked the Parking Authority for their good work.

Commissioner's response

Regarding the crosswalk, handicapped curbing issue, Commissioner Babkirk thought that she needed to take it up with the Commission on Disabilities since this request did not fall within the purview of this commission. Town Engineer, Anthony Tranquillo added that such an undertaking would not be inexpensive and that safety could become an issue with people crossing busy streets mid-block where drivers are unaccustomed to

watching for them. Chairman Solury noted many telephone conversations with Ms. De Paolo and suggested that a meeting be set up with the police department and Ms. De Paolo to see if some of her complaints can be addressed. She said she was happy with that.

Commissioners' Communications

There was a discussion about Ms. De Paolo's presentation. Commissioner Babkirk agreed to meet with her at her office.

Vice Chair Kane updated the Parking Authority regarding signage.

Submissions of Bills and Payments

Chairman Solury presented for approval a bill from the stenographer for \$106 for today's meeting. Commissioner Babkirk made a motion to approve this bill for payment, seconded by Commissioner Dziubek. The Chair called for a roll call vote: Solury-yes, Kane-yes, Babkirk-yes, Dziubek-yes. The motion passed.

Also presented by the Chair was a bill from the New Britain Herald in the amount of \$93.81 for required advertising published in November of 2008, recently billed. Since there is not adequate funds to cover this in the advertising account it will be necessary to transfer funds from the sign account which has a budget fund in the amount of \$300. Chairman Solury will take care of this. He will also petition the Town Manager to carry over the residual grounds maintenance funding from the last fiscal year.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Engineer's Report

DUMPSTERS

Mr. Tranquillo reported that he met recently with Commissioner Florian to discuss the central dumpster option. He feels that the property in question is appropriate in size and shape, but he has concerns about its acceptance by neighbors on the perimeter. He suggests that the best placement would be in the middle of the lot. He will discuss this further with Commissioner Florian.

RICCIO WAY FENCE

Rustic Fence has completed their work on the fence in the Riccio Way lot at the agreed-upon cost of \$1450.

BANK OF AMERICA STEPS

Mr. Tranquillo suggests that all of the steps be replaced. The curb needs to be removed and all of the risers incorporated in one unit. This was discussed. Chairman Solury asked Mr. Tranquillo Town Engineer, to provide him with specific engineering requirements so that he can put this project out to bid. After some discussion it was decided to make a final decision upon the return of Commissioner Florian. Chairman

Solury asked about an expansion of the Riccio Way lot presently being explored. Mr. Tranquillo reported that it remains pending.

Parking Questionnaire

Commissioner Babkirk reported on the progress of this project. 25 questionnaires have been distributed to date. She reports that the merchants are cooperative.

Budget for 2009-2010

Chairman Solury handed out the finalized budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He noted a substantial cut in the grounds maintenance funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Use of Municipal Parking Lot

No requests.

Parking Waiver

148 Center Street

Mr. Perillo, Director of Economic Development, spoke in favor of this request.

Steven DelGiudice of Cole Engineering presented the request for parking waiver. He reported on the progress in renovation of the building and detailed the plans for the parking lot. The business will consist of a deli area on the main floor and a professional kitchen to be used for catering preparation to events off premises upstairs. The deli will offer a few seats but expects to primarily provide food for take out. There will be professional offices on the second floor, as well. John Mayo was available to answer questions. He said that they plan to seek Planning and Zoning approval as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kane asked about the hours of operation. The deli area will be in operation from late morning to early afternoon and should require all short term parking. The catering kitchen will be in use as needed for special events.

The developer will prepare the municipal parking area, complete with signs. A loading area appears on the plan, as required by Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the parking waiver for 148 Center Street*as requested. Commissioner Babkirk seconded her motion. The Chair called for a roll call vote: Solury-yes, Kane-yes, Babkirk-yes, Dziubek-yes. The motion passed.

Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule was discussed. Commissioners agreed to change upcoming meetings as follows: August 5 at 1:00PM; September 10 at 1:00PM, October 8 at 1:00PM and November 5 and December 3 both at 1:00PM.

Commissioner Kane announced that she has accepted a transfer to Florida and will soon tender her resignation from the

Parking Authority. The Chair expressed the Parking Authority's loss and she indicated that she has enjoyed her associations here.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Babkirk made a motion to adjourn at 2:43PM. This was seconded by Commissioner Dziubek. All were in favor of adjournment.

John J. Solury, Jr.
Chairman
Parking Authority
Town of Southington