

Lynchburg Parking Authority Minutes

900 Church Street- City Hall
2nd Floor Training Room

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman, Brandon Farmer
Vice Chair, Ed Koepenick
Council Member, Randy Nelson
Council Member, Michael Gillette
Anna Bentson
David Burnett
Tom Gerdy

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Venita Bradshaw, Norman Hale, Cynthia Kirkland, Danny Marks, Lee Newland, Dave Owen, Kim Payne, Marjette Upshur, Kent White

Others Present: Gary DuPriest, Tobi Jaeger, Alicia Petska

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farmer.

The January 10, 2012 minutes were approved.

Comments from the Public

- There were no comments.

Comments from Authority Members

- David Burnett briefed the members with some feedback from the Parking Informational Session that was held for downtown businesses and residents on Monday, February 13th. This session was held by Parking Manager Hale and the focus of the meeting was on parking updates associated with the areas of Main and Commerce Streets from 11th to 13th Streets. Mr. Burnett shared that he was able to take away a different perspective of what the vendors/owners' parking concerns were after they shared their point-of-views at the open session.
- Chairman Farmer also expressed that attending the meeting was very beneficial and it allowed the members to understand what the parking needs are for the vendors and business owners at the lower end of Main Street. Parking Manager Hale presented various options for consideration as possible solutions.
- Anna Bentson reported that enforcement and time zones (i.e. 1 hour, 2 hour limits) were hot topics. Another issue that Ms. Bentson mentioned that it appeared to be a lack of communication. Some vendors shared that they were not aware of the different parking facilities that are available for public use.

Parking Informational Briefs

- Parking Manger Hale informed the members that the decision has been made with Social Services to have parking enforcement begin effectively managing the DSS lots. The signs in the parking lots are currently being assessed and new signs are being created.
- The proposed date to begin Saturday enforcement in the Community Market parking lot is the 2nd Saturday in March reported Parking Manager Hale.

- Parking Manager Hale informed the members that the parking management office has been receiving several complaints about Police undercover vehicles being parked on the top level of the Clay Street deck (the lower level of the Clay Street parking deck has already been designated for LPD vehicles only) . He has plans to schedule a meeting with City Manager Payne and the Chief Parks Snead to discuss the issue.
- As of February 1st parking Lot J located at 211 9th Street is now being managed by the Parking Management Division and monthly permits are available at a rate of \$45.00 and has proven to be quite successful.
- Parking Manager Hale gave the members a recap from the informational session briefing them with some of the concerns and questions that were discussed. Parking Manager Hale reiterated to the citizens that the purpose of the meeting is to listen to their concerns in order to draft a plan that will address those needs and concerns. Vice Chair Koepenick raised the question if another ambassador could be hired and Parking Manager Hale's response was that no funds have been budgeted for another position at this time and that he and the City Manager will continue to look at different ways to address any future needs.

Business Items

- It was suggested by Parking Manager Hale that the Parking Authority take under consideration making Lot E (Farmers feed and seed lot) located at 1310 Main Street and possibly the Community market parking lot paid and/or permit parking. After much discussion on enforcement procedures, installation and operational costs as well as upcoming changes in the area surrounding the corner of Main and Commerce Streets the members all agreed that the possibility of paid parking in Lot E should be considered. Vice Chair Koepenick proposed a motion recommending the installation of paid parking in Lot E. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burnett and the motion passed 7-0.
- Chairman Farmer requested that Parking Manager Hale draft a recommendation for members to reconsider amending the Parking Authority Articles of Incorporation. Mr. Hale stated, in reviewing the General Assembly Act for creating the Parking Authority that in order to increase the number of members they would need to petition the General Assembly of the State of Virginia requesting an extension in membership because the State Legislature approves the number of members for the Parking Authority.

Parking Manager Hale presented an option to expand the Parking Authority's members. He suggested that the members be reconstructed to include the following: downtown property owners, a retail business owner, a resident of the Central Business District, Lynch's Landing board member and persons with financial, real estate and/ or development expertise. Council Member Gillette suggested that in order to satisfy the 7 member rule, the members should consist of the core group of the four (4) members listed above, an additional three (3) members will possess financial, real estate and/or development expertise and the liaisons will be non-voting members. The members agreed to discuss this matter in more detail and make a decision on a recommendation for Council at the next meeting.

Next Steps

- Applications for Parking Authority membership have been received and Parking Manager Hale will have the Clerk forward them to Council for consideration.
- The next Parking Informational Session will be Monday, March 12, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor training room of City Hall
- Mr. Gerdy asked for an update on the Cliff's Edge parking situation to provide 57 parking spaces for potential residents. Marjette Upshur informed the members that the plan for Cliff's Edge is to acquire about 27 parking spaces on the 7th Street Bridge; they have been given information on the available parking decks and lots within a 3-block radius in which they can purchase monthly residential permits as well as the parking at the actual

building. These three options will allow them to satisfy their demand for residential parking.

Next Meeting – March 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor training room of City Hall