

City Council Committee Reports for 2020

DATE: Feb 26, 2020 RECORDER: McCauley-Chair

COMMITTEE: Public Safety

Councillors Attending		Others Attending	<i>Address</i>
Barry N. Connell		<i>Deb McNeil</i>	
Joseph H. Devlin	<i>x</i>	<i>Tyler LeBlanc</i>	
Afroz Khan		<i>Bob Porrier</i>	
Byron J. Lane	<i>X</i>	<i>Deb Condon</i>	
James J. McCauley	<i>X</i>	<i>Abby Dodge</i>	
Heather L. Shand		<i>Keith Condon</i>	
Charles F. Tontar		<i>Pat Fuller</i>	
Bruce L. Vogel		<i>Joyce Scott, Atty</i>	
Christine E. Wallace	<i>X</i>		
Sharif I. Zeid			
Jared J. Eigerman	<i>x</i>		

AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION TAKEN

[illegible]

Notes:

ORD166: Chair asked the co-sponsors , Councillors Devlin and Eigerman, if they would give the committee and overview of the ORD.

Councillor Eigerman: There was previous issues with parking availability. The council acted by making the street 2hour parking which seems to exacerbate the issue, so the proposed changes are to reach a compromise and make Harris street 2hour on 1 side (northeasterly) and no-restriction on the other. This compromise has worked previously with streets like State, Liberty etc.

Councillor Devlin: has familiarity with the parking situation on Harris St, supports the new ORD.

Getting the parking rules right isn't always easy, and we should adjust when we find them not working.

Councillor Wallace asked how many spots were in question: Ans: 18 and 15 respectively.

Chair Opened Public Comment: (summarized below)

Deb McNeil: works at 1 Harris. Large number of employees (17) that come in/out all day. In Winter conditions, Garage too far/unsafe path. The 2hour restriction affects productivity as employees are shifting cars. In Summer, YH creates similar issues, but only for that week.

Tyler LeBlanc: Works 1 Harris. One side could work if policed (enforced) better. Noticed many folks park then walk towards downtown.

Bob Porrier: Works 1 Harris. Been there 19 years. Feels the squeeze has been put on because of restrictions on Park St.

Deb Condon: works 1 Harris. Formerly lived on Spring St, understands the parking turnover. Harris St Parking has shifted towards the Mall. Suggested 2hr parking be tried on the weekends and removed during the week. Feels there is one Harris St owner seems to have the biggest complaint.

Abby Dodge: works 1 Harris. The restrictions on parking on Park st do not seem to be working the way they were intended.

Keith Condon. Bus owner at 1 Harris. Frustrated for employees. Bad winters have implications for his workers. Seems to be a growing disconnect between business and residential owner. He has a business downtown to be part of the vibrancy of the community. These conflicts may put pressure on him to move. His clients now have issues. Additionally, conditions of sidewalks during the winter is dangerous, more should be done to enforce sidewalks clear of snow/ice.

Pat Fuller. (Eagle St res), works 1 Harris. OK with the compromise, but feels its probably temporary and we'll be revisiting this. Park St restrictions are the main cause of the parking issues.

Atty Joyce Scott. Harris St. City facing issues it never faced prior. Feels the garage has exasperated the parking issues as we now have urban creep in the hunt for "free" parking. The city is approaching this haphazardly, first Park St, then Harris St, which street will be next.

Chair Closed Public Comment.

Public Safety Committee began deliberations.

Councillor McCauley commented that the assumptions on parking are changing: No longer is it that residents leave for work during the day and return at night; People are able to work remotely; shift in demographics to older, retired residents. All of these are challenging the "Spot-Sharing" assumption and is putting pressure on availability.

Councillors Wallace and Lane: The status quo on Harris St doesn't seem to be working, we should move to implement this change, even if we have to revisit. Recommend 3-0 to move this to full Council with a recommendation to approve.