



**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
S T R E E T C O M M I T T E E M E E T I N G
M I N U T E S
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016
AT SHELTON CITY HALL, AUDITORIUM
54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
AT 6:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alderman McPherson on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen Street Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Auditorium, of Shelton City Hall and led the group in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present

Alderman McPherson, Chairman

Alderman Kudej

Also Present

George Stachowicz, Highways & Bridges, Superintendent

Sergeant Mark Ptak, Police Department

Sergeant Mark Siglinger, Police Department

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mike DeCamp, 147-149 Oak Avenue

I have owned the house on 147-149 Oak Avenue since 1997, and this is the second time now that the police were called to my house because of the parking. This is because my next door neighbor decided to park parallel, instead of parking perpendicular to his house; he has been there 3 or 4 years. I have not had a problem for almost 20 years, and now we had police come to my house, to my tenants complaining and that is not good.

Alderman McPherson, did you get anything further about that tree that needs to be removed? You said that you were going to speak with the Mayor.

Chairman McPherson: Yes, Stan and I both spoke with the Mayor on that. He said they need to send someone out there to take a look at the issue of that tree. We felt that it was best for the whole tree to come down. The other thing that we had talked about was the road that needs to get repaved because it is really in a deplorable condition. I am not so sure if we can go a little wider; I think we could if that tree could come down however we do need to take a good look at that.

Mike DeCamp: I think I might need a retaining wall if you are going to take that tree down. If that occurs, then everyone could then be parking normally. I am fortunate now that both of my tenants have one car to their family. I am assuming that everyone at least has two cars per family. If my tenants have two cars and one tenant leaves, then how am I going to rent to someone that has two cars?

Alderman McPherson: Is the big truck the one that is parallel parking?

Mike DeCamp: Yes it is next door, and I believe his house number is 152. He is right next door to me.

Alderman McPherson: The sergeant and I were out there and the sergeant took measurements; there is not enough footage. He took measurements and we have discussed this that there is not enough footage for any parallel parking there.

Sgt. Siglinger: I grew up in that neighborhood and that is the way they always parked.

Mike DeCamp: Well I cannot blame the guy who bought a \$40,000 truck and the acorns bombarded it; he said it cost him \$6,000 to get all of the dings out.

Sgt. Ptak: The truck is just too big.

Mike DeCamp: The tree is huge.

Sgt. Ptak: Have you talked to him about that?

Mike DeCamp: He got them to come and trim it; they did a great job trimming but he still wants to park parallel.

Chairman McPherson: We measured the truck and it is 27 feet long.

Mike DeCamp: I do not even know if he was the one that complained the second time around? My tenant had called me to tell me that the police were there.

Chairman McPherson: There is a number of things that we are looking at besides getting the road repaired. We want the tree gone.

Mike DeCamp: If the sergeant went up to him and said, by the way you cannot park that way? That would solve the problem because he has the driveway for his wife's car, and then he has that one truck. The next door neighbor only has the one vehicle. The first time the police came over was when the lady next door was not able to move her car. The second time looked normal, but the police officer said something about my tenants parking in that direction. I looked and there was not another car in the road. Why is everything all of a sudden getting onto my tenants? One of those tenants have been there for fifteen years, and now you are telling him that he cannot park like that; that is just crazy.

Chairman McPherson: The only reason that we got involved was because we got the first complaint with the tree. Then, your neighbor had asked us about the issue of doing this kind of parking and they can't.

Mike DeCamp: He continues to do it.

Chairman McPherson: We are now looking at winter, then we looked even further to look at the garbage removal because I know the other part of Cliff Street where the dead end is, whether or not the trucks are going to have a problem getting over there. How do those trucks even get in?

Mike DeCamp: There are no other smaller trucks on the lot? Have we had any problems within the last couple of weeks?

George Stachowicz: There is no smaller truck. I do not handle a lot of those complaints but I do not remember that being an issue.

Mike DeCamp: It has not been an issue for the last three or four weeks, and the police come two to three days ago.

George Stachowicz: It is within our means to have a smaller truck go out, but since we have started the program we never had an issue.

Mike DeCamp: We never get plowed, either. The Parks Department will come with the smaller pickup.

George Stachowicz: Our trucks cannot get into there and for us to back out of there is a nightmare.

Mike DeCamp: Neil used to come in the neighborhood to plow, and I would tell my tenants to move to one side. Neil would swipe it and they would all move back, and everyone was getting along with everyone. Then this guy moves in and it sucks.

Alderman Kudej: So we either take the tree down or reinforce the parking. That should solve all of the problems, right?

Mike DeCamp: Is there a possibility of actually putting lines in the road, where we could actually have parking lines? From the stop sign going out to the main road to the main tree, when I moved in there in 1996 as a tenant, the girl said you need to do something with the parking. There is plenty of parking but no one goes where they are supposed to go. So I took three spots because the guy downstairs had two cars, I had one car and the people upstairs had two cars but they parked across the street. From the

stop sign to the tree, I had three parking spots on the road. Now, I park on my grass because my front door is basically an apartment, is in back of the house so I avoided one parking spot right away. We are working on two parking spots but the guy is still complaining. When we actually should have three, and it has been 3 spots since 1996.

Chairman McPherson: Well I suppose that is something that we will have to look into.

Mike DeCamp: I think once that tree comes down, it will make more room.

Chairman McPherson: We are definitely pushing for the tree to go.

Mike DeCamp: That tree is very big; it might need a retaining wall but if that wall gets done I believe parking with the lines should not be a problem after that.

George Stachowicz: If you take the tree down you are not gaining any more room.

Alderman Kudej: All you are going to eliminate are the acorns and the shade.

Mike DeCamp: If you are talking about widening it and repaving, it would take out if you were to go where the tree is actually embedded into the hill.

George Stachowicz: We need to check out property lines; it would be expensive.

Chairman McPherson: It should get looked at. We will deal with the winter issues when it gets here; that whole area has issues over there.

Mike DeCamp: Well I need those three parking spots because that is my livelihood; that is my business. That is what I was living on for the past ten years and if I cannot rent to people because of the parking then the house is going to sit there and I will not be able to rent it.

Chairman McPherson: We will look into these things.

Mike DeCamp: Anything that you do, I will appreciate. Thank you.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 STREET COMMITTEE MEETING- MAY 3, 2016

Alderman Kudej MOVED to waive the reading and approve the Street Committee Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2016.

SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Full set of minutes can be found at www.cityofshelton.org

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 SPEEDING ON HUNTINGTON STREET FROM COMMERCE DRIVE TO GRISTMILL LANE (REQUEST BY PH&S COMMITTEE)

Discussion:

Chairman McPherson: This item came from the Public, Health and Safety Committee, and they have requested that the Street Committee look at it. I find it hard to believe that this is the only spot where speeding occurs.

Sgt. Ptak: They speed everywhere; in the whole City they speed everywhere.

Chairman McPherson: Can you enlighten us? What are they talking about with some sort of a rotary?

Sgt. Siglinger: Some of Scinto's tenants complained to him they cannot take a left onto Commerce Drive, from Commerce Drive onto Huntington Street in the evening. They are trying to figure out what to do with all of that. We just

came up with a couple of options: a traffic light or a rotary. I do not know if you know this already, but the State is going to put a rotary on Route 110 in Monroe. Rotaries are becoming a pretty popular traffic control measure. This is something that we have thought of to control speed, you would be able to make a left or maybe a rotary at Trap Falls Road and Commerce Drive, with a right turn only. There was some kind of engineering study, you have to put your money there; Is it worth it? Is it feasible? Can Scinto fund half of it? I do not know; it is up to you.

Chairman McPherson: You are right. You need to look at that; it would have to be design. Would this be feasible?

Sgt. Siglinger: Where is the money coming from? Is the rotary really needed? Scinto has another approval for an office building on Commerce Drive, between Research Drive and Progress Drive. That has been approved and he is also going to do something with Tetley Tea, so who knows what is going to happen on Bridgeport Avenue.

Chairman McPherson: This plays into the issue with the new proposal on the Wells property. You already have an enormous amount of traffic; one other study said they are going to make another lane. How you are going to make another lane? When you come down Long Hill Cross Roads to Bridgeport Avenue and you want to take a right, that is a stream over there; there is no room to widen that. Then, on the other side you have the utility pole that go almost all of the way down. Where are they going to widen this? I do not see this, and as being on the Street Committee I am certainly opposed in putting any kind of road that was going to come out onto Buddington Road. Now that is going to change and they are going to make that into a cul-de-sac, but even the traffic coming in and out – you cannot even come out where Planet Fitness is, in that housing development. You cannot even come out there to take a left to go onto Bridgeport Avenue because you will never get out of there.

Sgt. Ptak: The State did not request a light over there.

Chairman McPherson: I thought they were looking at that?

Sgt. Siglinger: At that new apartment complex?

Chairman McPherson: You have the light when coming out of Sears and Chipotle; you have a light there. It would be crazy to have a second light there within 100 yards.

Sgt. Siglinger: It is a new project so the State approved it as is.

Chairman McPherson: I just cannot see up further where the 121 acres is. The traffic flow is very busy as it is.

Alderman Kudej: That road is too narrow; that road should be twice as wide.

Chairman McPherson: That is a state road; there is no way to widen it. The stream is on one side and the utility pole is on the other side.

Alderman Kudej: We still keep squeezing businesses in there.

George Stachowicz: There are studies to be done about it and the impact on all of those areas.

Chairman McPherson: Stew Leonards said they would not come here because the traffic study said there is not enough volume, there is not enough traffic. Stew Leonards was looking at the property where Big Y is going to go and their study showed they did not generate a lot of traffic over there. I do not know what he was looking at, but there is a lot of traffic there. Now they have to make improvements to do some turning lanes there.

Sgt. Ptak: Bridgeport Avenue needs to be reconfigured.

Sgt. Ptak: They are putting in more and more rotaries in, and they are finding they are a good alternative than traffic lights. Once you have a traffic light, you own it. You have to maintain it and you have to pay for the electricity; it is your forever. With a rotary, it just flows.

Chairman McPherson: We have the light here but coming out of Aspetuck, they own that light, I think because they agreed to pay for that light.

Sgt. Ptak: There are a lot of interesting sites that are available on the Internet regarding roundabouts, rotaries. This sheet is something quick that I pulled up from the Internet, from the Department of Transportation, which is very good. It basically gives some of the highlights of roundabouts. We

have already talked to someone regarding roundabouts and a possibility of one going in there. We realized that Huntington Street and Commerce Drive is actually a narrow spot, but if you take a look there is one on the Milford/West Haven line along the shore; there is a roundabout over there and it is working fantastic. It is a small area, a lot of commercial and it works.

George Stachowicz: There is also one on Route 188.

Sgt. Ptak: The State is also looking to put a roundabout on Route 15, on the Merritt Parkway, Park Avenue in Fairfield. Now they are starting to them on Route 110 and Route 111. There are a bunch that are starting to work their way into Connecticut; there are a lot of rotaries upstate. They are a proven alternative. If you get us an engineer to take a look at it, to see if it is feasible to do it. It reduces crashes, it reduces speed. That is the reason why we are here to present it.

Mark and I are not engineers. You come to us, we then offer our proposals or some ideas to get the ball rolling. We really do need someone that is geared towards traffic, to basically take a look at our entire city, to say what we can and cannot do. We can go out there and enforce the daylight out of it; the average speeding tickets go for around \$128 at minimum.

Chairman McPherson: Is that more of a state ticket?

Sgt. Ptak: That is all state infractions. Our tickets are only for parking and ordinance violations. Anything else as far as motor vehicles go, that goes to the state.

Chairman McPherson: They get most of the money for that too?

Sgt. Ptak: They get a portion of it back.

Chairman McPherson: I am really glad that you came out because we needed some insight on this issue, and I am glad that you gave us this information.

Sgt. Ptak: A few nights ago, I was up at Scinto Towers watching traffic, especially around 5:30 PM. There are times when people go up Commerce Drive and they want to go left, or southbound to Huntington Street. They are

actually sitting there for a minute, which is a long time. That is because everyone is coming off the Merritt Parkway and Route 8; there is a lot of traffic. A roundabout put in those two areas would add some space so they could get into a loop, which keeps traffic moving at all times and you are not sitting there waiting for the opening. That might be a solution, and that is why we presented that.

Sgt. Siglinger: A professional needs to be brought in to see if it is a solution, to say yes or no.

Sgt. Ptak: You need studies, you need design work, funding; it is very expensive.

Chairman McPherson: There may be grant money; everything is worth looking at here.

Alderman Kudej: We are looking for an engineering firm who is well versed in this kind of thing.

Chairman McPherson: I am glad that we were asked to take a look at this, at least now that I have a better idea. I will make a note to bring this up at the Tuesday morning meeting.

George, can you give me an update on Woonsocket, 19 and 20?

George Stachowicz: We put a pad in there. I do not know if we are going to put a curb in there; we are going to wait and see if the landscape holds the water.

Chairman McPherson: Wasn't there a curb over there?

George Stachowicz: I did not see a curb there. If a curb was there in the past, it was removed one way or another. I believe people were parking there but we did mill it out, repaved it. We will keep an eye out on it; if it starts to run out then we will install a curb.

Chairman McPherson: Do you have anything Stan?

Alderman Kudej: The sightline problem on Prospect Avenue and Myrtle Street. If you are coming down Huntington Avenue-

George Stachowicz: I think we had cleared that. Was that brought up at last meeting?

Alderman Kudej: We brought it up a couple of times, but you cannot see the cars coming up Myrtle Street. It is either our job, or the property owner's job to clear out the trees/bushes. Kiddie corner to that, there is a big truck that always parks on the corner. When come up to Prospect Avenue to cross Myrtle Street, you cannot see the traffic coming down. I was wondering if we should push the Police Department to make them move the car. It is supposed to be parked 25 feet from the intersection; no parking from what I understand and this truck is there constantly. During the day it is gone, but it is back in the evenings. The other thing that I was pushing for was the guardrail on Laurel Heights Road, where Ballaro is building a new building, coming down to River Road. Either we need to put a guardrail in, or force him to put the guardrail in?

George Stachowicz: I believe that is a zoning problem.

Chairman McPherson: I will have to speak with Rick Schultz on that.

George Stachowicz: I think they are aware of it.

Alderman Kudej: I have brought it up many times. When they had first started, I talked to Joe Ballaro. He had the guy put the yellow tape to indicate that the road does not go any further; that you need to turn left.

George Stachowicz: We do not know what the final slope; grade is going to be.

Alderman Kudej: I look at it as an accident waiting to happen.

2.2 AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 14- STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES (ORD. #877)

Discussion:

Chairman McPherson: I was asked to take no action on this ordinance. I see that there are a lot of changes that are underlined.

George Stachowicz: The engineer had some changes and Paul wants to review everything again to make it simpler. When they are done we need to get it to counsel for review. This way, I could get it here and get it to the Full Board so I am thinking it will go to Public Hearing in July. Then we can get it on the agenda for the Full Board, for approval in August.

George Stachowicz: Yes I think Paul can get through it by then.

Chairman McPherson: Everything else looks good from what I was reading, and these are really the only changes to it.

Just one item: In the post office parking lot, the middle lane coming up from Coram Avenue and you take a right turn, you go in where the entrance is. At the middle row right where the mailbox is, there is a pretty large pothole.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 NO ITEMS

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN- none presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Kudej made a motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Street Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Brittany Gannon
Brittany Gannon

