

Planning, Streets and Traffic Committee
Thursday, October 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
City Service Center – 915 Quarrier Street – Conference Room

Members Present

Mary Beth Hoover, Chair
Jennifer Pharr, Vice Chairperson, via phone
Becky Ceperley
Pam Burka

Staff Present

Dan Vriendt
Terri Allen
Matt Hartline

Others Present

Bruce King
Chelsea Steelhammer
Sam Richardson - Regional Intergovernmental Council
Jake Smith – Regional Intergovernmental Council
Dan Lattanzi

1. Call to Order

2. Unfinished Business

3. New Business

Bill No. 8016 - A Bill to create a NO PARKING ANYTIME zone on the northerly side of Franklin Ave on the paved area of the public right-of-way northwest of the sidewalk consisting of the approximately triangular area between a point 160 feet north of Quarrier to a point 195 feet north of Quarrier, which is also 680 feet west of Greenbrier Street, then continuing to a point 645 feet west of Greenbrier Street and returning to the original point 160 feet north of Quarrier and amending the Traffic Control Map and Traffic Control File, established by the code of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, two thousand and three, as amended, Traffic Laws, Section 263, Division 2, Article 4, Chapter 114, to conform therewith.

Matt Hartline presented Bill No. 8016 to the committee. This involves a space off Franklin Avenue, which comes off of Greenbrier Street that heads west and makes a 90 degree turn onto Quarrier Street. The World's Scouting Museum is located at 1615 Franklin Avenue. They have a dumpster at this location and the trash truck has to back in in order to collect the trash. They are having problems getting in and out when accessing the dumpster due to the car that blocks access. The request is to make this a NO PARKING ANYTIME zone to allow for trash to be picked up.

Mary Beth asked if it was a resident parking in that space. Matt stated that he assumed it was a resident. Only one spot would be affected.

Mary Beth asked if there were any questions or concerns.

MOTION AND VOTE: A motion was made by Becky Ceperley to adopt Bill No. 8016. The motion was seconded by Pam Burka and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

Bill No. 8017 - A Bill to establish an ALL-WAY STOP at the intersection of Virginia Avenue S.E. and 40th Street S.E. by placing a stop sign on the right-hand side of each access to the intersection and amending the Traffic Control Map and Traffic Control File, established by the code of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, two thousand and three, as amended, Traffic Laws, Section 263, Division 2, Article 4, Chapter 114, to conform therewith.

Councilman Bruce King presented Bill No. 8017 to the committee. A resident contacted him with a request for a stop at the aforesaid intersection. Councilman King said in Kanawha City there is typically one stop sign at intersections such as MacCorkle and Kanawha or MacCorkle and Lancaster, but, on some of the avenues, there are instances where there is a 3-block area where there is not a stop sign. Motorists tend to speed up through those areas. Councilman King says he is aware that Matt Hartline did a study that does not support a stop sign at this location, but he would like to proceed with Bill No. 8017. Mary Beth noted that there were a few letters in support of this bill from the neighborhood.

Mary Beth asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Pam Burka stated that she was in that area a few years ago with a carload of girls going to an Eagle Pride concert and somebody ran their stop sign. It gets confusing. Half the traffic is stopped one way and half another way. Pam said, regardless of what a study shows, the residents in this area deal with this situation day in and day out.

MOTION AND VOTE: A motion was made by Becky Ceperley to adopt Bill No. 8017. The motion was seconded by Pam Burka and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

Request to remove parking meters in front of the IUOE Local 132 building in the 600 block of Tennessee Avenue.

Dan said that the green building has been demolished and IUOE desires to turn space into a parking lot.

Terri Allen stated that in order to accomplish the request they will have to remove a total of four parking meters during the construction process in order for them to be able to take care of the entrances and exits. Those moves may end up being permanent moves or one or two may be put in place after the project. Terri said she met with Dan on Thursday of last week and reviewed the request. IUOE is agreeable to leaving the meters until they want to begin construction. If their plans are approved the city will have to do some restructuring of those locations. Notably, they do intend to have an additional amount of free parking in that parking lot for the public during the day. Replacing the parking meters may be counter-productive and Terri stated that they will not know until the end of the project. A total of four meters will have to be removed to make the transition work for IUOE.

Becky Ceperley asked if there will be public parking in the proposed parking lot.

Dan Lattanzi, general counsel for IUOE 132, since the green building has been completely demolished, IUOE is working with their contractor to make that entire space into a very large parking lot with approximately 20 spaces. Where the timeframe is concerned, this work may not be completed until next spring, because of the sidewalk work that will be required between lots 606 and 608. The

ultimate plan is to allow the new parking lot to be open to the public during the day. There is only a couple of times during a month when the IUOE will utilize the parking lot and that is to accommodate members that attend meetings a couple of times a month. Ultimately, those parking spaces will be free and clear throughout most workdays. Additionally, most of the meetings are held in the evenings.

Becky asked if there was some way to tell how often those four meters are used. Terri said that this particular block of Tennessee Avenue is utilized often where parking is concerned because of the number of businesses that are on that block, primarily from 10:00 am to noon and in the evening when the dance studio has classes.

Mr. Lattanzi said they would be able to put some type of signage that notifies the public that parking is available in the lot and that it is not a tow zone. The current meters are located where the IUOE has planned an exit from the proposed parking lot.

Becky asked if meters could be placed in the parking lot. Terri replied that, in order to place meters on private property, there would have to be an agreement with the property owner. The city has entered into those agreements a few times with CURA's properties. To Terri's knowledge, it has not been done with other private property.

MOTION AND VOTE: A motion was made by Becky Ceperley to continue this request to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Burka and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

Request to remove one parking meter in front of House of Hounds located in the 1100 block of Lee Street.

Terri Allen said they received a request through the Building Commission for the removal of the meter located in front of what was formerly known as The Bark. That property has been acquired by House of Hounds, which is next door. House of Hounds would like to remove the deck and the space in the front to create parking spaces for their employees. In order for their employees to access the area for parking, this one on-street parking meter would have to be removed.

Terri stated further that this particular meter is not used often. Collections at this particular meter are very rare. The demand for this particular space is not good.

Dan said he worked with the property owner on this matter, because the city does not allow new parking spaces that back out into the street. The removal of this meter would allow for a parking lot where the employees could pull in and make a right-hand turn and do parallel parking with the street. The YWCA Building is behind this building, and they have a large giant parking lot and that is where their staff and several customers park. It was based on a handshake agreement with the YWCA, which is now being renovated into apartments and a lot of that parking lot is going away to allow for green space. So, this owner is losing all his parking. The business next door is grandfathered, so they can continue to back into the street.

Mary Beth asked if there were any questions or concerns.

MOTION AND VOTE: A motion was made by Becky Ceperley to approve this. The motion was seconded by Pam Burka and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

4. Discussion

5. Approval of the Minutes of the September 25, 2023, meeting

MOTION AND VOTE: A motion was made by Becky Ceperley to adopt the minutes of the September 25, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Burka and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

6. Adjournment

MOTION AND VOTE: A motion was made by Becky Ceperley to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.