

CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 27, 2003**

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Herzog (7:17 p.m.), Krol, McCarthy -4

EXCUSED: Ald. Matthews

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Capt. J. Sutter, Police Dept.; A. Kesner, City Atty.

Ald. Krol in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. -3

Report on 90-Day Trial of Loading Zone Removal at 8316 W. Blue Mound Road

Mr. Kappel reported that the loading zone at 8316 W. Blue Mound Road had been granted to the hardware store that formerly occupied that building. Since the site is unoccupied, neighbors requested that the loading zone be removed and the area returned to one-hour parking to conform to the rest of the block. There have been no complaints during the 90-day trial.

Mr. Kappel explained that the loading zone technically expired at the beginning of the year with the failure to pay for renewal of the privilege, but Council action is required to officially remove it. Should another business occupy the site, they could apply for a loading zone for their business.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Becker to recommend
to Council adoption of a resolution to restore one-hour parking
to the former loading zone area. Ayes: 3

(Ald. Herzog present. -4)

Report on 90-Day Trial of 15-Minute Parking at Wilson School

Mr. Kappel reported that the principal of Wilson Elementary School feels that the 15-minute parking zone on the north side of Portland Avenue has worked out very well. It was sought primarily to facilitate afternoon kindergarten drop-off.

Mr. Kappel recommended introducing an ordinance to make the 15-minute zone permanent and, at the same time, correct some related ordinance language for a 15-minute zone at Longfellow Middle School so that it conforms with the signs that are in place.

Moved by Ald. Becker, seconded by Ald. McCarthy to recommend to Council introduction of an ordinance to establish 15-minute parking on the north side of Portland Avenue adjacent to Wilson Elementary School and to correct ordinance language relating to a 15-minute zone at Longfellow Middle School. Ayes: 4

Request for Two-Hour Parking on W. North Avenue between N. 63rd and N. 64th Streets

Mr. Kappel reported that Dianne Halloran, owner of the business at 6318-20 W. North Avenue, has requested that the one-hour parking zone on the north side of W. North Avenue between N. 63rd to N. 64th Streets be changed to a two-hour zone. The blocks on either side of this area are zoned two-hour parking, and both district alderpersons support the change. Ms. Halloran is willing to bear the expense of changing the signage.

Dianne Halloran, 6318-20 W. North Avenue, said that she often has client appointments that last over an hour. Having a two-hour zone in front of the business would also better serve elderly clients, who want to park as close as possible and may have adaptive equipment.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Becker to approve a 90-day trial of two-hour parking on the north side of W. North Avenue between N. 63rd and N. 64th Streets with the understanding that associated costs will be reimbursed by the business owner at 6318-20 W. North Avenue. Ayes: 4

Mr. Kappel clarified that Ms. Halloran would be notified prior to installation of new signage and would be charged no additional fee if the new restrictions are made permanent after the 90-day trial.

Alternative Solutions to Parking Issues in Area of N. 77th Street North of W. Blue Mound Road

Referring to an aerial view, Mr. Kappel reported that he has put together a rough draft of what a cul de sac might look like on N. 77th Street at W. Blue Mound Road. He said that the only way this portion of the street can be vacated is to vacate the entire street in this area, not just one side of the street. Half of the vacated street would go to the property owner to the west and half to the property owner to the east. Any vacation would probably extend to the northern end of the property at 7700 W. Blue Mound Road so that the southernmost residential property on 77th Street would still have driveway access.

Mr. Kappel estimated the cost of tearing out the street and boulevard, rough grading, and installing sidewalks at \$25,000-\$35,000. The property owners acquiring the vacated areas would be responsible for sidewalk maintenance. Mr. Pollack, the owner of the building at 7700 W. Blue Mound Road, has stated that any decision on his part would be contingent upon the owner of Subway, the property on the east side of the street, being willing to deed or sell him their additional land or pick up 50% of the cost of converting the vacated land to parking.

In answer to questions, Mr. Kappel estimated that Mr. Pollack would gain nine parking spots on his half of any vacated land. He could possibly get 18 spaces out of both sides of the street. Driveway access would

have to be worked out, but staff felt that an access at either end would probably be preferable to one in the middle. Mr. Kappel emphasized that Mr. Pollack would prefer to do nothing and live with the situation as it now exists during the current 90-day trial, which restored some parking adjacent to his building. Mr. Kappel noted that he has not observed a lot of parking in the residential neighborhood on his recent visits to the area. The unlimited parking now available on the west side of 77th Street adjacent to the building is being used quite regularly, he observed. Regarding the turning radius for fire equipment, Mr. Kappel said that a cul de sac would not be the best situation from an emergency standpoint. Vehicles would be able to pull in but would have to back out.

Asked about contact with the owner of Subway, Mr. Kappel said they have not been contacted or involved in discussions at this point. He reiterated that Mr. Pollack would not be willing to pick up the whole expense himself; but at 50%, he is still willing to consider it.

Mr. Kappel reported that he has received at least two additional complaints from residents farther to the north on 77th Street who disagree with creating a cul de sac. He indicated that one difficulty he sees is the fact that there are other current requests for cul de sacs, and this kind of policy decision could start a whole new era affecting pavement and sidewalks at a time when capital dollars are very stretched. He advised that it may be appropriate to take some traffic counts to be sure that the situation here is as bad as has been portrayed. Although residents have complained of vehicles cutting through the area during rush hours, he felt that this is not any different than any other neighborhood situation adjacent to a busy street like Blue Mound Road.

Ald. Becker said that he visited the area on Monday and feels it would do the neighborhood an injustice to cut 77th Street off. Ripping out trees and bushes to create parking lots will change the whole character of the neighborhood, he said. He stated that he would not vote in favor of a cul de sac.

Ald. Herzog said that if the property owners are not willing to pick up 100% of the cost, the City certainly doesn't want to do it right now. He felt that it might be best to place the matter in file and let it come up again at some point when there is more information. We know now that it is feasible but not the best situation, he said. It was noted that the matter of parking restrictions will come back to this committee at the end of the current 90-day trial.

Moved by Ald. Herzog to place the matter in file –
Motion fails for lack of a second.

Ald. McCarthy noted that the committee has discussed these issues extensively and seems to generally be of one mind at this time. It is always possible to bring the matter back again, he indicated.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Becker to place the matter
of a cul de sac on file. Ayes: 4

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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