

**CITY OF WAUWATOSA**

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**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 10, 2003**

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Herzog, Krol, Matthews (7:34 p.m.); McCarthy -5

ALSO W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Capt. J. Reit, Police Dept.; A. Kesner, City Atty.;  
PRESENT: Alds. Bruderle-Baran, Sullivan

Ald. Krol in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. -4

**Proposed Ordinance Creating 15-Minute Parking Zone at Wilson Elementary School**

The proposed ordinance amends Section 11.32.080 of the Code to create a 15-minute parking zone on the north side of Portland Avenue at Wilson Elementary School. Mr. Kappel reported that there has been no opposition from the public and the school's principal is in favor of the change.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Becker to recommend  
to Council adoption of the ordinance. Ayes: 4

**Consideration of Change in Time on Overnight Parking Regulations**

Referring to his memo of June 4, 2003, Mr. Kappel reported that he has been asked to consider how a change in overnight parking regulations would affect public works and police operations. A change from 3-6 a.m. regulations to 3-5 a.m. regulations has been proposed. Mr. Kappel said that three major public works operations are done during third-shift hours: snowplowing, street sweeping, and leaf collection, and the biggest impact would be on the latter two. Reducing nightly hours of street sweeping by one hour would result in a potential loss of 120 hours during the street sweeping season when the sweeper could not effectively reach the curb. Mr. Kappel said that when he had similar responsibilities in the City of Milwaukee, different measures were used in an effort to sweep curbs, such as shifting the sides of the street on which parking was allowed, but all were unsuccessful.

(Ald. Matthews present. -5)

Capt. Reit said that moving the restriction back to 5 a.m. would give police only two hours to patrol 170 miles of streets, which would not provide adequate time for consistent enforcement, an essential for compliance. He said that over the past year as liaison officer to the private company handling parking ticket collections, he has been concerned with use of the term "overnight parking" on citations, since they are violations not of overnight parking but of the prohibition on parking between 3 and 6 a.m. Rephrasing the violation might better educate people of the prohibition and reduce complaints, he felt. Noting that the prohibition is an inconvenience to some residents, he indicated that it may not be any greater than that of someone who wants to park elsewhere where parking is restricted.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran said she wrote the original letter and thanked Mr. Kappel and Capt. Reit for looking into this. She said that she gets calls on a regular basis about the overnight parking ordinance, primarily because her district

and several others on the east side have extremely narrow driveways, one-car garages, and many duplexes. One resident recently suggested pushing the time back to 5 a.m., which could help some people who must move cars around when going to work at that time. She said that the committee needs to recognize that the current limitations are a burden, particularly on the east side. Although this may not be the best way to do it, perhaps alternatives can be considered, she said.

Ald. Sullivan supported the previous comments. People frequently say that the ban on overnight parking should be repealed, he said, but he disagrees with that from a security perspective. He indicated that he would support anything to make it work more efficiently for those people who might need to juggle cars between 5 and 6 a.m.

Ald. Herzog noted that some signs at entrances to the city still say 2-6 a.m. Mr. Kappel said he has found that two of the 11 signs erroneously carry the 2-6 a.m. time, which was changed in 1998 because of being too restrictive. Ald. Herzog raised the possibility of a 2:30-5:30 restriction, noting that it is still a three-hour stretch and is well after bar time so that people can get to their cars. Mr. Kappel explained that sweeping takes place between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., although little is probably done from 6:30-7:00. When cars are parked, the sweeper just does not get to the curb, which is something that is not insurmountable.

Ald. McCarthy asked if those people who are shuffling cars early in the morning would be ticketed if they leave the motor running and lights on for any car left on the street while doing that. Capt. Reit said that there is an ordinance against leaving a car unattended. When not left running, police use discretion in enforcement since they can often tell, especially in winter, if someone is in the process of shifting vehicles. The problem comes with those who move cars around and then go to work with a car left on the road. If the ordinance is changed to 5:30 a.m., he speculated that people would put the cars out at 5 a.m. Police would do a little less enforcement with a 2:30 start time, since they are often quite busy from 2-2:30 a.m. Asked about budget impact, he said that revenue is not the reason for issuing citations, but there would be a revenue impact. It takes little time to prepare a citation, since it is actually now printed out by computer.

Ald. Becker spoke in favor of night parking regulations but was uncertain if changing the time to 2:30-5:30 would be helpful.

Asked by Ald. McCarthy about the cost of changing signs throughout the city, Mr. Kappel estimated a cost of \$1,000-\$1,500. Ald. McCarthy noted that this would be in addition to the negative fiscal impact of approximately \$20,000 per year estimated by Capt. Reit in his memo of June 4, 2003. He said that trying to change the parking regulations would seem to create more problems and would not be worth the effort.

Ald. Sullivan advocated a change to 2:30-5:30 rather than 3:00-5:00 a.m.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend  
to Council placing the matter on file –

Ald. Matthews spoke of her own experience with a one-car garage and narrow driveway, noting that, while rare, the problem occurs on the west side also. For the number of people who would benefit versus the disruption it would cause in the city, she felt a change would not be worthwhile.

Upon roll call vote, Ayes: 4; Noes: 1 (Becker)

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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Wauwatosa, Wisconsin