



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213
Telephone: (414) 479-8900
Fax: (414) 479-8989
<http://www.wauwatosa.net>

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND SAFETY
Tuesday, November 13, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Alds. Wilke, McBride, Moldenhauer, Pantuso, Roznowski -5

ALSO Mr. Porter, Public Works Director; Mr. Kesner, City Attorney; Bob Gutierrez,
PRESENT: Wisconsin DOT; Joshua LeVeque, Wisconsin DOT

Ald. Wilke in the chair

Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 11.32.490 to Provide On-Street Disabled Parking. The Committee reviewed a proposed ordinance creating an ADA-compliant parking space at 6502 W. North Avenue.

It was moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer to recommend the ordinance to Council for adoption. -5

Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 11.32.089 to Create a ‘No Parking’ Zone on a Portion of W. Center Street. The Committee reviewed a proposed ordinance creating a ‘no parking’ zone on the south side of W. Center Street between N. 67th and N. 68th Streets.

It was moved by Ald. Roznowski, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer to recommend the ordinance to Council for adoption. -5

Coming off a 90-day Trial, Parking Prohibitions on W. Wisconsin Avenue between N. 108th Place and N. 109th Street. Mr. Porter stated that the 90-day trial has concluded. There is some concern by area businesses about the loss of parking for customers wishing to patronize their establishments.

Jeff Marohl, Henry R. Marohl, Inc., 10848 W. Wisconsin Avenue, stated that this on-street parking has been used for years by customers of area businesses. He does not support continuing the prohibition. He submitted letters from Bud Vanstone, KVG Building Corporation, 10850 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Victor Haight, Leonard Auto Body, 756 N. 109th Street, Stephanie Hunt, Bella Blvd, LLC, 740 N. 109th Street, Ron Wimmer, Wimmer Photography, 736 N. 109th Street, Jonathan Wagner, Wagner Associates, 10848 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Robert Johnston, 10848 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Tom Rudig, Rudig Trophies, 580 N. 108th Place, and Juentino Reyes, 10848 W. Wisconsin Avenue, all supporting the restoration of the parking places. There are many tenants who depend on the on-street parking.

Mike Trinkl, 10857 W. Wisconsin Avenue, stated that the small area where parking is being prohibited can only hold 2-3 small cars. Parking cars right up to the intersection creates a dangerous situation and a visual obstruction. The police concur that parking in this area creates safety concerns. Please prohibit the parking.

Jennifer Biefeld, 721N. 109th Street, stated that there shouldn't be any parking on the south side of the street due to the presence of a fire hydrant. The area has been much safer since the prohibition was instituted.

Ald. Hanson concurred with the residents and opined that the safety of the neighborhood is more important than the needs of the area businesses with respect to parking.

Ald. McBride agreed that it is a difficult situation when residences and businesses are next to each other; he must err on the side of pedestrian safety, however.

It was moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer that an ordinance be drafted for introduction that will enact the parking prohibition on a permanent basis. -5

Turn Lanes onto W. Wisconsin Avenue from N. Mayfair Road. The Chair explained that following passage of a Council resolution on this issue on October 16th, there was confusion over whether the resolution accurately reflected the recommendation of the committee. The matter is, therefore, being revisited for purposes of clarification.

Mr. Porter stated that staff has had meetings with DOT representatives to clarify the issue. The modifications to the intersection of W. Wisconsin Avenue/N. Mayfair Road are part of the Mayfair Road improvement project between I-94 and Watertown Plank road. The DOT exhibit in the Committee's packet shows how Wisconsin Avenue will be configured with one left turn onto Mayfair Road, no sidewalks along the residents' frontage, and a parking lane on the south side of Wisconsin Avenue. The plan further proposes two left turn lanes from southbound Mayfair Road onto eastbound Wisconsin Avenue.

Also included in the Committee's packet is a DOT letter from Joshua LeVeque committing to reviewing the dual turn lanes on Mayfair Road after construction of Watertown Plank Road is completed in 2014 and the Zoo Interchange project is completed in 2018.

Ald. McBride apologized for the confusion his original motion had caused. What the Committee had heard from the neighbors was that they didn't want sidewalks on south side of Wisconsin Avenue, and did want parking in front of their homes. Ald. McBride confirmed that the intent of his original motion was to preserve parking, not install sidewalks and have Wisconsin Avenue not wider than needed.

Further, Ald. McBride explained, he intended his original motion to shrink the two proposed left turn lanes from Wisconsin Avenue onto Mayfair Road down to a right turn lane and a left turn lane. Acknowledging that his motion was ambiguous, Ald. McBride also noted that he did not intend that it reduce the two left turn lanes from Mayfair Road onto Wisconsin Avenue to one. Mayfair Road is

under State jurisdiction, and the City has no authority over that. However, if the DOT is willing to revisit the need for maintaining the two left turn lanes from Mayfair Road onto Wisconsin Avenue after the aforementioned projects are complete, that is a good outcome.

Ald. Hanson stated that he thought the Council's October 16th action was for just one turn lane for each street. Two lanes turning onto Wisconsin Avenue are not good for the area, and he continues to support only one turn lane from Mayfair Road onto Wisconsin Avenue.

Ald. Walz-Chojnacki agreed that confusion resulted since the passage of the Council resolution. He concurred that the City has little say about Mayfair Road. He understands the need to move people into and out of city, especially while Watertown Plank Road is closed. He commended the DOT for making the effort to eliminate the sidewalks and accommodate the parking concern. This is still a bad deal but the City is stuck with it.

Bob Gutierrez, Wisconsin DOT, noted that the agency represents the City and the State, the people traveling through the city, and the residents. The DOT is here to provide state drivers, pedestrians, and bikers with an efficient transportation system. The two left turn lanes from Mayfair Road provide safety for folks turning onto Wisconsin Avenue. Without it, rear-end collisions on Mayfair could occur as turning vehicles back up into travel lanes.

Mr. Gutierrez stressed that he has worked with Mr. Porter on the Wisconsin Avenue concerns; they are providing parking on Wisconsin Avenue. The DOT is providing signalization for the intersection. Pedestrian crossings on Wisconsin Avenue and on Mayfair Road will be included in the project. He promised to reassess the intersections in the corridor (Wisconsin, Blue Mound, Watertown Plank, etc.) and committed to analyzing traffic in the intersections.

Ald. Roznowski suggested modifying the resolution by adding a clause about the future DOT reevaluations of 2014 and 2018 to memorialize the promise. Ald. Wilke concurred, noting that a new resolution must emphasize the need to evaluate the continued need for the double left turn lanes onto Wisconsin Avenue once the related projects are finished.

Ald. Pantuso agreed, stating that a new resolution will make clear to future Councils that the intent of this Council was to support the double turn lanes onto Wisconsin Avenue only until the construction project was completed.

Ald. McBride suggested wording to the effect that while the city realizes it may not get everything it wants, it still expresses a strong preference for a single turn lane from Mayfair Road onto Wisconsin Avenue; he recommended incorporating by reference the letter from the DOT and concurring in the understanding that one of two lanes will be removed provided empirical counts warrant that in 2014 and 2018. Ald. McBride acknowledged that while the City wants to keep the traffic counts low on Wisconsin Avenue, it knows it must accommodate the pressures wrought by the Watertown Plank Road and Zoo Interchange construction. But the City wants to see one of the lanes removed after that.

Mr. Gutierrez offered that wording could include reference to 'an operational assessment using empirical guidelines.'

It was moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Roznowski
to recommend that Resolution R-12-175 be modified to reflect

the City's preference for only one left turn lane from Mayfair Road onto Wisconsin Avenue at an appropriate time based upon the information expressed in the DOT letter incorporated by reference, based upon operational assessments in 2014 and 2018, and to urge the DOT to accommodate this preference. -5

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

cal