

ZONING, PLANNING & ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Hay called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Committee members present: Aldermen Hay, Logan, Szczap and Leyden. Also present were Mayor Nolan, Administrator Nelson, City Clerk Wells and Aldermen Perkins, Adams, Ulmer and Marzahl.

City-Wide Overnight Parking Ban

Chairman Hay opened the floor to council discussion with regard to implementing a city-wide overnight parking ban on public roadways from 2-5 a.m. and reviewed a draft ordinance to amend the Harvard Municipal Code regarding parking requirements. No further discussion.

Audience Participation

Marie Day, 702 N. Hart St., addressed the Committee requesting consideration to allow her to park on one side of the street. She has two children, both of whom drive. Her home is on a 60' x 40' parcel, with no garage and a driveway large enough for two cars alongside the house with the edge of the driveway at the property line. Ms. Day indicated that to extend the driveway would take up all of the garden space left in the lawn because there is no back yard. Chairman Hay suggested an alternative similar to the variation procedure used when the City banned tree bank parking. At Ms. Day's inquiry, Administrator Nelson responded that the proposed ordinance allows the police department to issue special circumstance permits for overnight guests.

The Committee discussed provisions for a variation procedure if the proposed ordinance is approved. The general consensus was to establish a variation procedure for a parking permit for one spot strictly for the resident which could be done on a case by case basis; residents would apply for consideration for a special parking permit and appear before the Ordinance Committee to present their case for evaluation and determination as to whether or not the case is warranted. Upon its passage, a grace period would be allowed during which residents with hardships would have opportunity to submit their name to appear before the Committee for consideration.

Lori Hermonson, 605 Bourn St., addressed the Committee in objection to the proposed parking ban. She has a one car garage and a driveway large enough for one vehicle and is financially unable to widen her driveway. Ms. Hermonson was advised that if the proposed ordinance was approved, to submit her name to appear before the Ordinance Committee to request permit parking due to hardship.

Moved by Hay, seconded by Logan to recommend to the City Council approval of the proposed ordinance to implement a city-wide overnight parking ban on public roadways from 2-5 a.m. with the addition of language for a variation procedure for special permit parking, as long as the resident shows hardship that is acceptable to the City Council. Further discussion ensued with the general consensus to include sunset provisions similar to the variation provisions outlined for tree bank parking with an open time frame for a variation in front of the committee at no charge, after which residents would still be allowed to file a petition for a variation hearing in front of the City Council at normal fees which is currently set at \$100. City staff could track the variations with an annual inspection to determine if the hardship still existed and any variations granted would cease when the hardship no longer existed. Administrator Nelson stated that if the proposed ordinance is approved, City Staff will issue informational bulletins to every vehicle parked on the street outlining the city-wide parking ban and providing details for the variation procedure. All ayes. Motion approved four to zero.

At 7:25 p.m., moved by Hay, seconded by Logan to adjourn the hearing. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Chairman Tom Hay