

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LAFAYETTE PARKING COMMISSION
January 28, 2019
11:00 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE - COMMISSIONERS: Ken McCammon, Andrew Muffett, Cindy Murray, T.J. Thieme

NOT IN ATTENDANCE – John Christodoulakis

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: John Collier, Assistant Director for Economic Development Department;

STAFF: Jacque Chosnek, Deputy City Attorney; Billy Emerson and John Withers, Parking Operations

Andrew Muffett, President, noted that a quorum was present and opened the meeting of the Lafayette Parking Commission at 11:00 a.m.

Approve October 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Ken McCammon moved to approve the October 15, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. Cindy Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Election of Officers – All the existing officers agreed to continue on in their existing roles; Andrew Muffett, President; Ken McCammon, Vice President; Cindy Murray, Secretary. Ken McCammon moved to approve the slate of officers as listed. T.J. Thieme seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Request to relocate a Handicapped Parking Space from the east side of 5th Street adjacent to 501 Columbia Street to the south side of Columbia Street adjacent to 415 Columbia Street - Petitioner— City of Lafayette
Mr. Collier presented the request and asked for the Commission's approval. The space is being relocated due to construction of the adjacent Star City Apartments project and the planned closure of northbound traffic on N. 5th Street. Consequently, access to the parking space would require a U-turn. The space is being relocated off of N. 5th Street to avoid issues with the construction project. Once the streetscape portion of the Star City Apartments project is completed, a determination will be made whether or not to maintain the Handicapped space in its new location, or to move it back to 5th Street. No one spoke against the request.

Cindy Murray moved to approve the relocation of the handicapped parking space. Ken McCammon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Request to remove one parking space on the south side of Columbia Street and immediately west of 3rd Street adjacent to the Tippecanoe County Office Building – Petitioner – Anthony Dildine -Tippecanoe County Maintenance Director

See discussion in Parking Operations Report below.

Parking Operations Report

John Withers distributed a handout with parking operations data and he shared the information with the Commission. Revenues are down for 2018 compared to 2017, but they functioned without the enforcement vehicle for the first part of the year. Exceeding time violations have increased, but violations for parking in handicapped parking spaces or in front of fire hydrants are down, this is due in part to clearer street markings for both. Garage use is still at 96% occupancy. Staff did a walking inventory of the garage parking and realized that a few spaces were removed at corners when the garage was repainted a few years ago, so the number of spaces is 2 or 3 fewer than previously published. There are still about 10-15 people on a waiting list for parking permits for the garage. The City is currently working on a public-private partnership agreement with 5th/3rd Bank regarding use of parking spaces in their existing lot at the corner of 2nd and South Streets. The City will sign, enforce and manage the parking permits there and then split the revenue 50/50 with 5th/3rd Bank. This will help alleviate parking concerns on the west side of downtown until a future use of the property is determined.

Mr. Withers mentioned a request by Tippecanoe County to remove one parking space on the south side of Columbia Street immediately west of 3rd Street because of manhole that is in that space that allows water to get into the basement of the County Building due to some raceways for fiber optic lines. When cars are parked over the manhole, it makes it difficult to access the manhole when there is a flooding issue. Mr. Collier stated that the request was received too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting, but wondered if the Commission could still consider it given the flooding risks. Mr. Collier pointed out that the only adjacent property owner is the County, so no one else would be impacted by the request. Ms. Chosnek felt there was justification for the Commission to make a decision today, if it chooses to do so.

Ken McCammon moved to approve the removal of the parking space on the south side of Columbia and immediately west of 3rd Street adjacent to the Tippecanoe County Office Building. T.J. Thieme seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken McCammon asked about the 185 parking stall violations listed in the Parking Operations Report. Mr. Withers clarified that many of those violations were outside of the downtown area in neighborhoods. Jacquie Chosnek asked if those with habitual violations are paying their tickets. Mr. Withers stated that most pay, but there are a few who don't pay. Vehicles with 3 citations beyond the 30 day pay period will be booted. There was discussion about impounding of vehicles.

Mr. Withers mentioned that signs for handicapped spaces blew over, so they were reinstalled with sturdier posts. He also asked for guidance on the issue of on-street handicapped parking downtown for employees who have disabilities. Currently, handicapped spaces in the downtown have a 2-hour time limit. It was mentioned that it could be problematic to remove the time limit on the handicapped spaces since the primary purpose of downtown on-street parking is for public parking for patrons and that employee parking is up to the employer to provide elsewhere. The Commission opted to table the discussion for now and suggested that Parking Operations bring more data to a future meeting. The ADA Committee intends to come to a future Parking Commission meeting to address the spacing of handicapped parking spaces downtown.

Mr. McCammon mentioned that for the past few years, Friends of Downtown has managed the parking lot immediately west of City Hall where the Star City Apartments project is currently under construction. Since that lot has been closed, they've found some parking spaces for some of their permit holders in other lots near downtown. They asked Central Presbyterian Church about possible use of spaces in their lot and they understand that the City has been speaking with Central Presbyterian about parking as well. Mr. McCammon asked if we could provide any information on that issue. Mr. Collier stated that Dennis Carson has had discussions with Central Presbyterian about parking, but he is not aware of any details about those discussions. Mr. Withers stated that he had spoken with Central Presbyterian in the past about a shared revenue arrangement, but they indicated their preference was for the City to lease the spaces. Mr. Collier shared that an inventory was done a year or so ago to identify opportunities leased parking in private lots near the downtown area, there are a handful of businesses willing to do so but few are really close to downtown.

Cindy Murray moved to approve the Parking Operations Report. Ken McCammon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report


No report.

Public Comment & Adjournment

President Muffett asked for comments from the public; there were none. The meeting of the Lafayette Parking Commission was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Conwell for the Secretary*

Signed,


Cindy Murray, Secretary, Lafayette Parking Commissioner