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**PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL VIDEOCONFERENCE AND
TELECONFERENCE
June 24, 2020**

ATTENDANCE:

Richard Brescia, Chairman
Michael Harden, Vice Chairman
Tom Vetter
Eric Rains
Jud Aley

STAFF: Kathryn Hebert, Director of Transportation, Mobility and Parking

OTHERS: Stathis Manousos, LAZ Parking
Rocky Legesse, LAZ Parking
George Tsirinides, Common Council

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:01PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment this evening.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020.

**** MR. RAINS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE SUSPENDING THE NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY ABSORBING THE STATE OF CT TAX ON PARKING REVENUE AS OF JULY 1, 2020.

Mr. Brescia said that he and Ms. Hebert had met with Board of Education and Taxation and they thought it was terrific that the Parking Authority would reach out to the public to absorb the sales tax but it is not sustainable in the current economic environment and the Parking Authority has agreed. He said the Parking Authority will stop absorbing that cost as of July 1, 2020, which will result in a savings of \$182,000 in expenses for the Parking Authority in the fiscal year 2020/21 budget.

**** MR. VETTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** MR. HARDEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS- CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

**** MR. VETTER MOVED TO NOMINATE MICHAEL HARDEN AS CHAIRMAN, ERIC RAINS AS VICE CHAIRMAN AND DILENE BYRD AS SECRETARY.**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. Brescia said it has been a pleasure working with the Parking Authority and the Parking Authority should feel good about what we have accomplished over the past few years.

Mr. Rains thanked Mr. Brescia for his guidance and leadership over the years and said as this transition occurs it is extremely good that Mr. Brescia will remain as a member of the Parking Authority. Mr. Harden agreed and said Mr. Brescia's work over the last few years has been a lot and the Parking Authority really appreciates it. Mr. Vetter said that Mr. Brescia has been a wonderful leader and he is also glad he will be remaining on the Parking Authority. Ms. Hebert said from a staff point of view Mr. Brescia has been an amazing leader and mentor to all and has accomplished so much over his six year tenor and the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Parking Authority is so much better for it. Mr. Aley said that Mr. Brescia has done a phenomenal job and that he has been a great leader and he is glad that he will be staying on the Parking Authority. Mr. Manousos said it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Brescia and it is nice to work with a board that is so engaged and active to be able to accomplish all the things that have been done under his leadership. Mr. Tsirinides thanked Mr. Brescia for everything he has done over the past years and congratulated Mr. Harden on his election of Chairman.

B. DISCUSSION ON NPA RECOVERY/REOPEN PLAN

Mr. Aley said transient activity is only at 34% compared to last year but is up 6% from two weeks ago so there seems to be an upward trend which is encouraging. Ms. Hebert said when the team first began putting the projections together for the transient activity they had assumed an activity assumption of 25% beginning in June. She said it is now at 34% and are not even through the month of June so we have exceeded the targets. Mr. Aley said that permit activity has also remained steady at 92% over the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Rains said the text to park in the newest initiative that the Parking Authority has and there have been 305 transactions from June 8 through June 23, 2020. He said the Parking Authority has offered paid by phone for some time and the numbers coincide with the upswing in the overall numbers.

C. FINANCIAL AND OPERATING REPORT

Mr. Manousos said because there has not been much activity over the last month and will report next month which will be the last month of the fiscal year and will have a more complete operations report.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hebert said the Parking Authority has spoken about issuing the courtesy cards on Elizabeth Street in response to losing the 28 parking spaces on Washington Street and that program has begun.

Mr. Harden asked how many permit parkers have been using the South Norwalk Railroad Station. Mr. Manousos said 97% of last year's activity. Mr. Legasse said as of June 23, 2020, there are 116 daily parkers using the garage and only 60-70 key cards are being used on a daily basis for the permit parkers, but he expects to see those numbers increase as New York City begins to open as part of phase II. Ms. Hebert said that Metro North was also on a reduced schedule which has also impacted the activity but they are slowly increasing the schedule.

Ms. Hebert said the micro transit will be rolled out again on o July 2, 2020, and will have the same schedule but there is an expanded geography around the Day Street area.

Mr. Harden asked the members of the Parking Authority if they had any objections to return to the regular monthly schedule rather than every two weeks, and if the meetings should be held in person using social distancing. Mr. Tsirinides said due to the fact that things are changing so rapidly he suggested holding one more additional meeting before going back to the regularly scheduled meetings. It was decided to have the next meeting in two weeks via Zoom and then return to in person meetings on July 28, 2020 as long as things continue to compress.

Mr. Aley said as part of the recovery plan he and Mr. Rains have discussed temporary on street parking on West Washington Street and asked if the rest of the Parking Authority feels that is something that should pursued. He said there a potential to add 20 additional parking spaces and there is a long term infrastructure plan to redo the street but is not scheduled to be done anytime soon, and would provide more convenient parking and would also provide the Parking Authority with some much needed income. Ms. Valadares said the final design is being finalized for the infrastructure plan and are hoping to have it put out to bid in the fall. Mr. Rains asked if the spaces can just be painted with Traffic Authority approval until the project begins to bridge the gap. Ms. Valadares said "yes". Mr. Rains suggested that if the Parking Authority is in favor to put the request forward to the Traffic Authority and manage the spaces thorough Pay by Cell and Text to Pay. Mr. Brescia also suggested getting the financial impact. Ms. Hebert said that staff will put something together for the next meeting for the Parking Authority review Mr. Aley suggested that it include the parking revenue it will generate. Mr. Harden said he thinks by adding the spaces will be a positive for the area and he will have it added to the agenda.

Ms. Valadares said it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Brescia and under his guidance and she is also looking forward to working with Mr. Harden.

E. NEXT PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING

- 1. SPECIAL PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 AT 4:00PM. BY ZOOM VIRTUAL VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELE CONFERENCE**
- 2. REGULAR PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 AT 6:00PM.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VETTER MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. RAINS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd