



CITY OF NORWALK
PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
February 24, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Julius Hayward, Chairman
Mike Harden, Vice Chairman
Richard Brescia
Jud Aley

ABSENT: Olga Arteaga

STAFF: Bruce Chimento, DPW Director
Kathryn Hebert, Administrative Services Manager
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

OTHERS: Stathis Manousos, LAZ Parking
Rocky Legasse, LAZ Parking
Tim Sheehan, Redevelopment Agency
Larry Pellegrini, Pellegrini Jewelers
Robert Cook, The Norwalk Hour

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2017 OPERATING BUDGET AND RATE
CHANGES**

**** MR. BRESCIA MOVED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public hearing began at 6:00PM

Mr. Pellegrini spoke and said that he thinks that the rate increase from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for the meters is too high, and that it should stay at \$1.00. He also said that the on street parking hours should stay from 8:00A.M. to 6:00P.M. and not be extended until midnight. He said that there are currently no meters in Wall Street area, and that there have not been for the past ten years, and that he thinks that is unfair and suggested

putting the meters back and make up for the lost revenue. Mr. Aley said that the Board will take his suggestions into consideration, but the Parking Authority had hired a professional consultant and that this type of parking rate structure is considered to be best practice all around the country. He said that the Parking Authority will be monitoring activity once the rates are implemented..

****MR. BRESCIA MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public hearing closed at 6:10PM

**1. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PARKING
AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 27, 2016.**

**** MR. BRESCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVE THE 2017 OPERATING BUDGET AND RATE CHANGES.

Mr. Brescia said that it was important that a public hearing was held to receive input and that everyone on the Board should feel good about the amount of time and energy that took place in trying to come up with the budget and the rates. He said that the process had begun in May 2015, and that it was not a smooth road and that everyone had different opinions on what the rates should be. He said that there was a lot of discussion that had taken place, and that there were attempts made to get more input from the public with the last special meeting that was held last week. He said that over 40 invitations were sent to people that this will directly effect, and that only three people had attended. He said that he recommends revisiting on how to go about reaching out and asking people to come to express themselves on how the Parking Authority to do a better job on trying to aggregate people and learn from the experience. He said that the rates not only deal with today but also the future, and that there has been a lot of time and money spent on implementing new technology that in the long run is going to make the parking experience better for the citizens and the business community. He said that Desman Associates had brought up the fact that things are getting done now that should have been done a long while ago and that there has been a lack of rate increases, and said that the Parking Authority is now trying to bring it to a point to where it should be and in the long run will benefit the business community and the citizens. Mr. Hayward said that he agrees and that he also thinks that more effort will need to be given to the outreach in the future. Mr. Hayward also spoke about the differences between SoNo and Wall Street and that they are different environments and that meters will be installed in the Wall Street District in due time. Mr. Sheehan, representing the Redevelopment Agency, congratulated the Parking Authority on its efforts in taking an important step forward and working on implementing best parking practices.

**** MR. HARDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hebert reported and that the budget is trending seasonally, but trending upward compared to last fiscal year at the end of January. She reported on the highlights and said that there are increased revenues at the Maritime Garage during the Maritime Aquariums Chocolate Festival; a light snow season which is projected to have a positive balance in the snow account; increased permit sales at the Webster Lot due to more commuters opting to buy permits at the Webster Lot since there is a long wait list at the railroad stations; security system upgrade at the Yankee Doodle Garage and the Maritime Garage.

2. OPERATING REPORT

Mr. Manousos reported and said that system wide the activity and parking revenues are up 2.2% over budget for the month and 5.6% year to date. He said that the expenses are favorable to budget for the month, and are over budget year to date. He said that the total revenues are favorable for the month and year to date, and that the total revenues were down compared to last month but are up compared to January of last year. He reported on the pay by plate upgrade and said that it has been completed at all of the paystations, and that staff has done a great job on the ground rolling it out, and that there has only been one complaint and that it has been well received. Ms. Hebert said that she had spoken to the Director of Fair Rent and Housing and the pay by cell option is the best for the disabled population so that they do not have to walk back to their car or to put money into the meter. Mr. Harden asked how the pay by plate works on the constable's side. Mr. Manousos said that the license plate is now the unique identifier for the transactions, and that once the single space meters on the street are replaced it will be consistent with the whole system of enforcement and that staff will be looking at options. Mr. Brescia asked if there can be recommendations brought to the board for what the capital budget burden will be to convert the obsolete meters with the new ones that will fit in with the system. Mr. Manousos said there is something budgeted already in the five year capital budget but that it is primarily for the Wall Street area. Ms. Hebert said that the capital budget 5 year plan will include the South Norwalk area. Ms. Hebert said that the prepayment widget for Maritime Aquarium customers is expected to finally be complete mid to late March. She said that originally the completion was set for October, but there were some software glitches that have been ironed out, and once this is successfully implemented with the Maritime Aquarium the Parking Authority may want to roll this out globally. Mr. Aley asked what the schedule is to implement the new rates. Ms. Hebert said July 1, 2016.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hebert said that the Traffic Authority has approved two hour free parking on Elizabeth Street, and that DPW will install signs, and that parking enforcement officers will be issuing

warnings first and then tickets. Ms. Hebert said that the commuters that are parking there now will most likely move further down into South Norwalk, purchase permits at Webster lot or decide to purchase permits at the Maritime Garage which may result in the same distance. Mr. Sheehan asked why this wasn't metered parking. Ms. Hebert said she did present it that way, but the Mayor was against charging on that street, therefore the full Traffic Authority only approved the two hour parking restriction..

Ms. Hebert presented a copy of the ad to promote pay by cell which will be in the annual chamber report, and said that it will be inserted in The Norwalk Hour and circulated to their customers. She said that it will also be posted as Facebook ad that will reach people exponentially.

Mr. Aley said that a clock tower at the Yankee Doodle Garage needs to be designed and he recommended speaking with the Architect Department at Norwalk Community College and have a student competition to design it. Ms. Hebert said that assuming the Parking Authority has approved funding for the outside mural this could be included as an option and that The Arts Commission will be a major partner in selecting the artist(s).

Mr. Aley asked the status of the extra parking space on Washington Street. Ms. Hebert said she is coordinating that with Mike Yeosock.

Mr. Aley suggested that there be a sign installed at the South Norwalk Railroad Station on the Bates Court entrance that when the gate is down stating the option to park at the Maritime Garage.

Mr. Aley recommended that there be farmer's market on Saturdays perhaps in the Main Lot in the Wall area to bring people down to the area. Mr. Brescia asked who would organize that. Mr. Harden said that there are Farmers Market organizers that coordinate them.

Mr. Sheehan discussed the improvements to the Bow Ties Theater that will begin in the spring and the impact to the parking activity during the construction. Ms. Hebert said that she had met with Mr. Masher and they are still tweaking the schedule and that they prefer to wait until after the academy awards but that she will follow up again and schedule a meeting.

**** MR. HAYWARD MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING THE PARKING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING TIME FROM 6:00PM TO 5:30PM**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. ACTION ON ANY ITEM DISCUSSED HEREIN

No discussion.

**5. NEXT PARKING AUTHORITY MEETING: WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 23, 2016, AT THE MARITIME GARAGE, PARKING
AUTHORITY OFFICES, 11 N. WATER STREET, 5:30 PM.**

**** MR. BRESCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM