

**Minutes of City Council Workshop
Downtown Paid Parking
Monday, February 25, 2013 – 6:30 PM
Community Center**

Mayor Charlie Latham called the workshop to order at 6:30 PM.

The following City Council members were in attendance:

Mayor Charlie Latham	Steve Hartkemeyer
Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Taylor	Phil Vogelsang
Keith Doherty	Jeanell Wilson

Also present were City Manager George Forbes and Interim Police Chief Pat Dooley

Purpose of Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss Downtown parking objectives and proposed solutions.

Discussion

Mayor Latham acknowledged that many in the audience were interested in the low speed vehicle issue. He stated that the workshop would begin by going over the memo provided to the Council by the City Manager regarding Downtown parking (attached). Mayor Latham went through the objectives. Mayor Latham asked if everyone agreed on the objectives.

Keith Doherty stated that paid parking needs to be modified. Phil Vogelsang agreed. Tom Taylor stated that some of the objectives have worked. Mr. Doherty acknowledged that the program has curtailed antisocial activities in the paid lots, but it hasn't solved the issue, only moving the problem. Jeanell Wilson stated it is hard to measure the outcome without guidelines. Mr. Doherty stated that paid parking in the winter is redundant.

Phil Vogelsang went over his parking proposal handout (attached). He proposed a barcode system where people would pay to have free access into lots. Enforcement officers can easily see the barcode. Mr. Vogelsang stated that businesses could use a token or bill for customers to validate their parking. Lots would have gates with payment machines. Mayor Latham asked if a cost analysis had been done. Mr. Vogelsang answered no. Councilmembers discussed Mr. Vogelsang's proposal. Mr. Vogelsang stated that the City of Cincinnati uses a similar type of system. Jeanell Wilson stated that the original purpose of the program was to have a police presence. Tom Taylor stated that 14% of the time fees are collected and 86% of the time they are not collected. Mr. Taylor agreed with Ms. Wilson and liked having a police presence. Mr. Taylor stated that they needed to see a cost analysis. Mayor Latham stated that the proposal is a good start.

Keith Doherty stated that options 1 (current paid parking) and 2 (pay and display machine) were not feasible. He said option 3 (gated parking with a pay booth) and 4 (discontinue paid parking) were feasible and option 3 was the best option. Mr. Doherty reviewed a synopsis of his thoughts and ideas for parking in the downtown area (attached).

Council had a discussion of ideas. Jeanell Wilson stated the need to have a meeting for discussion and to look at the costs.

Mayor Latham stated that the current parking program is not working. He agreed with Ms. Wilson that they need to look at the costs. Mayor Latham asked if the Council wanted to keep paid parking. Steve Hartkemeyer stated that he likes manned booths. He said a manned booth can easily convert to an automated system. Mr. Doherty and Mr. Vogelsang believe that residents in the Beaches Energy service area and downtown businesses should be able to park for free. Council also wanted to utilize the paid parking only during peak periods.

Mr. Forbes stated that if the City Council wishes to let residents and business customers park for free, the Council should consider option 4, discontinue paid parking. There was discussion on option 4 and the consensus of the City Council was for the City Manager to place on the March 18, 2013, City Council meeting:

1. A motion to discontinue paid parking until the options presented by Councilmember Vogelsang and Doherty could be thoroughly reviewed and the future direction of paid parking decided.
2. A plan to provide security in the parking lots downtown without paid parking, the costs, and how security would be funded.
3. A proposed schedule that would discontinue paid parking during the winter and non-peak months.

Mayor Latham opened up the workshop briefly to comments from the audience.

Low Speed Vehicle Parking

Interim Police Chief Pat Dooley presented a PowerPoint showing an idea to add low speed vehicle (LSV) parking and not take away any existing parking. Mayor Latham opened the workshop to comments from the audience regarding LSV parking. Comments ranged from commending the idea for adding LSV parking spaces to dissatisfaction that the plan would block a resident's lake view.

Mayor Latham made brief closing remarks and thank those who attended the workshop.

The workshop was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by: Sheri Gosselin
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:

/s/William C. Latham

William C. Latham, Mayor

Date: March 18, 2013