



Haverhill

Department of Public Works
500 Primrose Street
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www.ci.haverhill.ma.us

Central Business District Parking Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Parking Commission Meeting:

Members

- Karl Brunelle, Chairman
- City Councilor William Macek
- Josiah Morrow
- Nomsa Ncube
- John Tynan (Absent)
- Joseph Romatelli (Absent)

Others

- Michael Stankovich, DPW Director (Ex-officio)
- HPD Sgt. Lynch, (Ex-officio)
- HPD Capt. Robert Pistone (Ex-officio)
- John Burke, Parking Consultant

Welcome from Chairman Karl Brunelle: Chairman Brunelle asked for a motion to accept July 16, 2020 meeting minutes. He noted one correction with motion for acceptance of parking services contract; vote should be 5 years instead of 6 years.

Motion by: Josiah Morrow

Seconded by: Bill Macek

Vote: Yeas - 4, Nays-0

Central Business District parking counts analysis:

Chairman Brunelle explained that the City has conducted several parking counts in the central business district area over the past month. The purpose was to understand parking capacity for on street and off-street areas. He asked parking consultant John Burke who analyzed the counts to explain his findings.



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John presented information showing individual 5 weekday counts/rates spreadsheets and 2 Saturday counts/rates spreadsheets conducted by LAZ. Any occupancy rate above 85% is shown in red as an over-utilized asset and below 50% as a significantly underutilized asset. He also calculated the average weekday rates by hour and showed the number of times the street, lot or garage was over 85%/under 50%.

The peak day of the entire week for parking demand in the Washington/Essex St. Corridor is Saturday. On weekdays, the peak parking period occurs at 8 p.m., which is typical in restaurant districts where there are also a significant number of residents (coming home for work).

He said that a goal of paid parking programs is to have an approximate 15% vacancy rate on streets/blocks which means that there are always 1-2 available parking spaces. This reduces complaints from motorists trying to find a parking space and minimizes parkers from circling city streets for parking.

Chairman Brunelle asked if there was a possibility of the City underwriting the costs of permits in the MVRTA garage. Currently the monthly city issued permit is \$ 20/month while the MBTA charges over \$ 65/month. This might help move downtown business employees from the high demand surface lots to either the MVRTA garage or nearby free parking. This would free up spaces for customers. How to deal with DT residents who have no other off street parking options was discussed. Currently as part of new developments in the DT area, the developer must provide parking for their tenants in the MVRTA garage or elsewhere.

Commission members asked when it might be appropriate to resume paid parking. They noted high occupancy rates and have heard from businesses complaining about lack of parking. Councilor Macek suggested that prior to resuming the existing paid parking program, it would be beneficial to review the recommendations from the three previous parking studies. These included uniform paid parking hours, increased parking fees, new parking meter technology including smart meters and electronic gates for off street parking lots.

He also spoke about the possibility of reducing the number of residents utilizing the high demand surface lots.



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Parking Technology:

Consultant Burke reviewed the various types of parking meter technology including smart meters, kiosks, camera-based systems and electronic gates. He noted the pros and cons of each type.

Next meeting date to be determined.

Public Input – None

Other Business - None

Adjourn – 7:20 pm