

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 9, 2009
7:00 P.M.
Police Training Room, 4th Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Michael Taylor, Council Member Maria Jones, Council Member Stephen Szwejbka

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rex Rater, Deputy Fire Chief Hedlund, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Nieves, Director of Public Works Jeff Lehman, Dave Painter, Peter Morgante, Tony Prinzi, Sam Prinzi, Council President Greg Rabb, Councilman George Spitale, Councilman Tony Dolce, Councilman Paul Whitford, Councilman Vince DeJoy, Councilwoman Kim Ecklund

Councilman Szwejbka called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Chestnut Street Parking

Tony Prinzi, 93 Martin Road and Sam Prinzi, 232 East Virginia Blvd, appeared to discuss the parking concerns in front of their mother's home.

Tony Prinzi stated that their mother has lived in this home since the 1960's. His father passed away 10 years ago. His mother is in her mid 80's and she is feeble in many respects. She still drives and has had a Handicap Permit since 1998. She lives in the lower end of Chestnut Street. The Troutmans' have raised a concern as to why she would need a handicap parking sign in front of her house. Things have escalated since the Troutman's have lived there; they have been there 6 years. Mrs. Troutman lived next door to my parents growing up. We have all had discussions with them. Things have always gotten worked out before. Over the past 3 years we have had at least 3-4 calls from Mrs. Troutman's mother. Nothing was said to my parents. We did not feel that it was our place to discuss issues because that is where she lived. My mother has discussed this with various city council people and the Mayor in the past. Things need to come to some conclusion. This past winter she has kept the driveway spotless. She also has the entrance to the street

shoveled as well. Several times there has been the two trucks, one with a plow on the street, one car in the garage and one in the driveway. There are 4 vehicles there. One of the trucks was a work truck. There have been several cases when the truck is facing east with the plow down and there is very little room left for the path of the driveway. There are times the vehicles are parked so it would be very difficult to get out of the driveway. Over the past two weeks there has not been problems. Mrs. Prinzi is handicapped and she needs accessibility to her house. There were times when he could have gone over to talk to them but did not do so. A couple of years ago there was a sign placed at the Troutman's. It stated "Here's to the neighbor with all of the holiday cheer, if you don't like it go "some place warm". You can take that many ways. She did not request a sign for both sides of the street. She is only concerned about her side to get in and out. The back of the house is difficult to access in the winter because of the snow. She would then have to go through the basement. She is only looking for accessibility into her home.

Councilman Szwejbka stated she called me on Friday so he went down and looked. He went back Saturday and looked at it. What you are saying is true. He hoped the Troutman's would be here. What is their concern? There are other parking places. Their sidewalk was not shoveled at all in front of their house. The sidewalk was blocked with the truck. They do not realize that is a violation of the law. He sees no reason why the committee should change their vote. She is handicapped and needs that entrance. Maybe she can build a new access but that is not feasible. The signs are not inhibiting anyone. There is a small entrance in the back.

Sam Prinzi stated that she hurt her leg a number of years ago and that has caused problems as she has gotten older. She also has asthma. It is a 2 story house but she cannot get upstairs sometimes. We have tried to get her to sell but she does not want to move. The entrance to the basement has 5 steps. She sometimes will put groceries on the top step, goes to the basement and has to get them. When she is ready to leave she will tell us. She contacted Councilman Spitale for help. She also talked to Councilman Dolce. Someone told her to also have a sign on the other side of the street but she did not want that. It is only one spot in front of her house. There is a history there but that is not for this committee. She is just asking for help to get into her house.

Councilman Spitale stated that he agrees that we should leave the sign there. He would not want that to be done to his mother and father. They do things just to aggravate this lady. He has gone down the street and has seen where it is parked. He parks his plow so she cannot get in. Mrs. Prinzi should not be treated like this. The sign should remedy the problem. Mrs. Troutman has emailed people from work. Mrs. Prinzi has a limited use of her legs and has had a permit since 1998. The sign should stay there. She should enjoy the rest of her life. I would have like d for the Troutman's to have been here.

Councilman Dolce stated he has been dealing with this for longer than anyone. When it was first brought up he was surprised that it was granted. He is not opposed to that, he only remembers two others being approved

that were loading zones. He is concerned with the precedent being made. It is too bad it had to come to this point. Issues have been taking place on that street for 10-12 years. He understands why the committee made its decision.

Councilman Szwejbka asked if other neighbors had issues with the signs.

Councilman Dolce stated no, other than the Troutman's.

Councilman Spitale understands that if someone parks in the Handicap Zone she cannot park there.

Councilman Dolce asked what does she do on the opposite days.

Sam Prinzi stated that she gets dropped off on the alternate days and parks on the street in front of the Troutman's. We pick her up and take her to her appointments. On an odd day he parks in front of another driveway and takes her to the car.

Mr. Rater stated that the direction is fairly solid with everyone. A report was filed by Captain Swanson that stated that the Independent Living Center may be able to provide assistance to put stairs on the driveway end of the porch so she can have better access.

Mr. Lehman stated that he would like to see this be an annual request so if things change it could be amended.

Chairman Taylor stated that we were glad to grant the request. We tried to separate ourselves from the emotional portion of the issue. We did not want to establish a precedent. The Troutman's did bring up some good points. If there were not a need we would reverse the decision. We see the need to keep this as it is. We would like to thank the departments for their assistance.

The sign will be allowed to remain.

Alternate Parking

Peter Morgante 134 Euclid Ave stated that 25 minutes has been spent on this issue. He has talked about it for 3 years. Alternate parking is an issue. We have this problem on Euclid Ave. 10:00 A.M. is the wrong time to switch the cars over. People do not follow the law. Some think they have extra time to move their cars. Some on Euclid move them at 8:00 A.M. The council does not understand that the change over time is bad. Plows can't plow, buses cannot get through, Fire trucks cannot get through. That is the problem. The vehicles have gotten so big that people cannot see to get out. The streets are very narrow in the winter that will not allow people to get through.

The Police Department does not do a good job in ticketing cars. Calls need to be made to ticket cars.

Chairman Taylor stated that this was addressed last week.

Mr. Morgante stated he did not get a ticket. Patrol cars just drive by cars without giving tickets. The Police Officers do not know the law.

RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance amending Section 252-14 relative to removal of snow and ice.

The members recommended that an ordinance amendment be prepared for the February 23, 2009 meeting.

Ordinance amending Section 300-214 of the City Code relative keeping dogs in residential districts.

The members recommended that an ordinance amendment be prepared for the February 23, 2009 meeting.

Parking on Cherry Street

The members recommended that an ordinance amendment be prepared for the February 23, 2009 meeting.

Handicap Parking on Chestnut Street.

The members decided to leave the sign in its present location.

NEW BUSINESS

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The members approved the request contingently that a fee be presented and vendor information be provided to the Clerk's Office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk