

Rutland City Charter & Ordinance Committee

November 7, 2023, Meeting

Members Present: Chair Savage, Alderman Cupoli, Alderwoman Hooker, Alderman McCann

Others Present: Mayor Donges, President Talbot, Alderwoman Davis, Alderman Adams, Alderman Barbagallo, Attorney LaChance, Chief Kilcullen, Chief Lovett, Planning & Zoning Administrator Strniste, City Engineer Ted Gillen, Commissioner Protivansky, RRA Executive Director Bove, Jakob Pluta, and Heather Hauke

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM. Chair Savage asked Planning & Zoning Administrator Strniste to lead the discussion on the areas that need improvement such as parking in the green belt, parking on the sidewalk, and bringing consistency to the driveway ordinances. Administrator Strniste said that transferring some of the standards that we have for roads and driveways out of the zoning regulations and into their own stand-alone road and driveway ordinance and strategizing how this might be done would help to address these issues.

The discussion was started around the problems of parking in the green belt and on city sidewalks. Administrator Strniste and City Engineer Gillen with the use of Google Street View identified many areas in the city where these parking issues are occurring. Commissioner Protivansky said that even the new areas of green belt are having wear and tear issues because of people parking there. Chief Kilcullen explained that when a street is marked "No parking this side," then everything on that side up to the boundary line is considered the green belt and they've been able to issue tickets in those cases.

Administrator Strniste stated that as property owners look to make their rentals more profitable and increase their units per building, planning commission has been looking at strategies through the zoning regulations to help with parking, like making public and private parking lots permeant uses in the denser areas. Other solutions like the prohibition of parking in all green belt areas in all cases, no winter parking ban and parking on alternative sides of the streets, the driveway apron and curb cuts were also discussed. Engineer Gillen suggested that many of the policies covering these issues should be reworked into some construction standards to protect the street edges.

It was decided that Administrator Strniste, Engineer Gillen, Attorney LaChance, and Alderman Savage would draft language for a new standardized Driveway and Parking ordinance that would consolidate the ordinances into one place and bring it back to a meeting at a future date for approval and recommendation to the whole board. This issue remains in committee and no action is needed. This report is for informational purposes only.

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.