

PARKING COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

The Parking Committee met on Nov. 15, 2023 at 5:30 PM. In attendance Committee Members Alderman Barbagallo and Alderman McClure. Also in attendance were Mayor Doenges, President Talbot, Alderman Davis, Treasurer Markowski, Bob Walker, Ray LaMoria, Tiffney Saltis, Gordon Dritschilo and John Cioffi. Two topics were warned for Discussion. The possibility of Free Parking downtown for the Christmas season and an exploratory meeting of the possibility of the city buying the parking deck from the State.

A good discussion was had about offering free parking during the 2023 Christmas Season. Suggestions were for free parking from the Friday after Thanksgiving until Christmas day, starting on December 1 and many other possibilities. A discussion was had with Ray Lamoria, Operating Officer of the parking deck, to see if there was any way to offer free parking at this location. Mr. Lamoria said the ticking system could be set up to allow someone to park in the deck and when leaving the deck they would scan their ticket no charge would be added to their credit or debit card. After much discussion it was felt to offer free parking for the entire season could not be done. The parking meter fund is running at a deficit and it was felt free parking for December would only add to that problem. A motion was made to offer free parking in the parking deck on the 3 Saturdays before Christmas, December 9, 16, and 23, from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM. It was felt to do this would allow people who have never parked in the deck to use it without charge to see what benefit it may be.

Discussion then switch to the possibility of the City taking ownership of the parking deck from the State. This meeting was an exploratory meeting only to see what information would be needed to study if this was a good idea. It was brought up that we would need to see the yearly operating budget, average inventory of cars parking on a daily basis, hours of operation, expenses, yearly income, number of cars the deck will hold and rents paid by both "The Bus" and VT Transit. Also sought was information on repairs that would be needed before the city would even consider taking ownership of the deck. It was stated the deck is 5 stories tall. The top deck is presently closed off to parking as it is not needed. The deck, including handicap spaces will hold about 600 cars and clearance is 7 feet 6 inches. Other possible uses of the deck were brought up. Some of those

were to place solar panels on the top level to reduce expenses and possible covered storage on the fourth level for city equipment. It was stated a solar study may have already been completed by Green Mt. Power. The committee will check on this item. As this was an informational meeting only, no motions were made and the continued discussion of this will be considered at a later date as data becomes available.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.