

Study Meeting #26
Monday, September 18, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027

Call to Order

Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers R. Axtell, S. Elkins, A. Grady, K. Nordstrom, and V. Wilcox.

Absent: Councilmember S. Peterson.

**Parking Ordinance -
Study Item #1**

Elizabeth Shevy, Planner provided a brief overview of the proposed ordinance amendments relating to parking standards and requested Council feedback. Her presentation highlighted the following:

- A recap of the process which began in 2004, including the various meetings that have been held on this issue to date. Work began with parking in commercial zoning followed by residential areas.
- Review of the public hearing schedule, which could result in a possible adoption of the ordinance by the end of 2006.
- Review of previous presentations and discussions – Guiding Principles (#’s 11-25).
- Review of Guiding Principles specific to parking standards.
- Topics already covered in the proposed amended ordinance.
- Remaining key proposed ordinance amendments: Single-family and two-family maximum number and type of vehicles allowed to park and/or be stored on premises, location of parking, and permitted parking surface.

Maximum Number & Type of Vehicles Permitted to be Parked or Stored Off-Street:

Winstead stated the number of cars parked at a residence might indicate some other issues on that property for which Council gets phone calls for example, overcrowding. The ordinance would give City staff ways to initiate enforcement if there are problems occurring at a residence. The existence of single or double-car garages in the older parts of town creates a problem related to parking.

Larry Lee, Director of Community Development reported 20% of all complaints Planning receives relate to the number of cars parked at a residence. Weeds is the number one call received. The improper outside storage of equipment other than cars is the second issue most complained about and the number of automobiles parked at a particular residence is third. The current ordinance states the number of vehicles allowed inside a garage or outside is one more than the number of licensed drivers at the residence. He stated it’s hard for inspectors to figure out how many cars are on the property and how many licensed drivers might live there. He added the new ordinance would be more enforceable, as the real impact on the surrounding neighborhood is the number of vehicles parked outside.

Bob Hawbaker, Planning Manager stated it’s how and where cars are parked on a property that creates the most negative impact on the aesthetics of a neighborhood.

Wilcox stated he gets calls from residents living on Portland Avenue regarding the unfairness of the ordinance and the unenforceability of it.

Lee inquired if Council wanted to put limits on outside vehicle storage stating staff could bring back examples of ordinances that would limit the number to two, three, four or five vehicles allowed to be stored outside.

**STUDY ITEM #1
continued**

Mark Bernhardson, City Manager stated the Council could leave it at the one plus the number of licensed drivers but also limit it to no more than three vehicles parked outside plus the number of garage stalls. He inquired if Council wanted to treat collector cars the same as recreational vehicles requiring them to go through a similar process. The City could use the age of the vehicle and/or collector plates to identify which ones are collector cars.

Grady stated her preference for limiting how many vehicles can be parked outside of the garage, which would make it easier to enforce.

Nordstrom stated there is a problem in her neighborhood with homeowners that have too much junk in their garage, which forces them to park their vehicles outside. She stated she would not support allowing four cars parked outside the garage.

Wilcox inquired if there could be weekend enforceability, as the cars get put away on Monday when the inspectors come through.

Bernhardson stated the question is whether Council wants to only control outside storage or have greater control.

Shevi stated Environmental Health weighed in heavily on the discussions regarding this part of the ordinance.

Axtell inquired how residences with clients coming throughout the day would be enforced in addition to the number of vehicles that belong to the occupants of the property.

Lee replied the ordinance would address the vehicles belonging to the occupants of the house.

Grady and Axtell stated a preference for setting the maximum number at three or four vehicles for outside storage or whatever has been done in other cities.

Winstead stated his preference for having three vehicles as the maximum.

There was Council concurrence to set the maximum number of outside vehicles allowed at three.

Lee confirmed staff would limit the vehicles to three for the proposed ordinance and that if it raises concerns by residents at the public hearings, Council could always increase the number to four.

With regard to Winstead's inquiry about two-family residences, Hawbaker stated staff is working on multi-family residential and that they need to be treated equitably with single-family residences but that the number of vehicles could be limited to the number of bedrooms.

Winstead added he would like to see the City implement rules that address the two-family double-bungalows in Bloomington.

Maximum Driveway, Curb Cut and Approach Width

Shevy continued the discussion regarding where vehicles may be parked and/or stored stating the proposed maximum width of a parking pad is 36 feet including tapers and width of driveway at the curb.

There was discussion regarding how to handle driveways at homes with less than 120 feet of frontage on collector streets like Old Shakopee Road.

It was determined staff would explore this particular issue further.

Rear Yard Parking

Shevy explained parking in the rear yard is proposed where there is a garage located in the back yard but that it must be on a permitted surface.

There was discussion regarding exceptions for recreational vehicles under a certain size and use of a variance process.

**STUDY ITEM #1
continued**Permitted Driveway Surface

Discussed the type of allowed materials and location of a driveway and whether or not it is time to abandon the Class V driveway unless it's on a Class V street.

Staff explained existing situations would be grandfathered in until the homeowner decides to change something.

Discussion continued regarding minimum off-street parking requirements relating to land use and staff indicated that with regard to multi-tenant buildings, they could look at the option of a use permit approach for the higher intensity buildings. Regarding parking for general retail sales, it was stated the proposal is to reduce the overall requirement and use a more tiered approach.

**Strategic Planning -
Governance
Study Item #2A**

Bernhardson stated that as Peterson is absent tonight, the Strategic Planning – Governance item would be postponed to a future meeting when all Council members could be present for the discussion. He reminded Council that in the meantime, they could forward him their feedback regarding his succession planning memo.

As the Deputy Director of Public Works is listed as the successor to the Public Works Director, Mayor Winstead requested an update on Jim Gates' situation.

Charlie Honchell, Public Works Director provided an update on Gates' condition stating he loves getting e-mails.

**Strategic Planning –
Phase II Consultant
Study Item #2B**

Larry Lee explained that as a result of the Council and Port Authority's desire to have development plans and strategies developed for the Normandale Lake Area and others around the city, City staff is looking to hire an outside consultant to prepare such a plan for the American Boulevard area and the Airport South Districts. He indicated on a map where the various study areas are located and stated a study in the American Boulevard and Airport South area would: Provide an assessment of development linkages in the Airport South area, provide a key set of policy questions jointly arrived at by the Port Authority, the Council, the consultant, and City staff, provide a public and stakeholder participation element, provide near-term and long-term development outcomes, provide a list of near-term and long-term public improvements, and public space guidelines. He described the timeframe for the study, provided some cost estimates, and possible funding sources. The City Council was requested to provide direction on whether or not City staff should proceed with a Request for Qualifications for the hiring of a Strategic Plan Phase II Consultant to work on the physical design component.

Winstead mentioned EDAW, a high caliber designer, could bring in some solid detailed ideas for Council to review.

Lee stated there would be a consent agenda item for the Request for Qualifications in October and that a consultant could be selected by the Council in January. The funding split will be 50/50 between the Port Authority and the Council.

**Health Contributions -
Study Item #3**

Kent Michaelson, Human Resources Manager presented an overview of the item that will be on the September 25 agenda, which will set the amount the City will contribute for health insurance. He stated open enrollment will take place on November 1 & 2 and it will set a pattern for what will happen with the collective bargaining contracts. His presentation highlighted the following:

- History of Medical Insurance Rate Increases.
- History of Maximum Employer Contribution Levels.
- Comparison of 2006 Monthly Employee Costs (\$820 employer contribution) & 2007 Monthly Employee Cost (\$870 employer contribution).
- 2006 HealthPartners Enrollment by Insurance Plan Classification.
- Recommended Maximum Employer Contribution of \$870/month, a \$50 or 6.1% increase over 2006.

**STUDY ITEM #3
continued**

Council concurred with staff's recommendation of setting the maximum employer contribution level at \$870/month.

Winstead commented that he met with City staff and the Red Cross regarding their desire to host a blood drive at the City of Bloomington for the employees in December. City Council members agreed to participate in the marketing of the City's blood drive.

**STUDY ITEM #4 –
NIMS Presentation**

Bernhardson introduced this item by stating emergency operations have evolved tremendously over the years and that an operation similar to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) began in the fire service approximately 30 years ago. But since 9/11, it has really been used by police departments and other emergency responders. He stated training is now mandated and Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal is a certified trainer and who will be presenting an overview of the NIMS management system.

Chief Seal's presentation provided an overview on regional, state and federal resources, which included a 12-minute video overview, a presentation on NIMS, and a presentation on the National Response Plan. He explained that Council members could be observers in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) but couldn't manage an actual emergency without receiving the proper training and certification. He stated while Mark Bernhardson is currently trained and qualified and Mayor Winstead is not, the Mayor could receive training and get qualified if he so desired. He added the EOC, which now seen as a multi-agency coordination center, was activated in 2001.

Seal explained the Fire Department will be participating in an inter-communication exercise along with a training effort at the Mall of America involving a scenario whereby they will be responding to an active shooter, an improvised explosive device, and a chemical attack simulation. He stated NIMS, a nationwide approach to managing emergencies, was initiated by the President following the events of 9/11. The National Response Plan was later developed to provide logistical and emergency support functions. He stated the National Incident Management System standardized those functions for use by all responding agencies and that the City Council adopted the NIMS System by resolution in 2005 and has been working diligently ever since to meet all of the NIMS baseline requirements. He stated the City Manager is in charge when an emergency occurs in Bloomington but multiple agencies would be involved under a unified command.

**ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS**

It was announced Jim Truax, Director of Community Services will be retiring on January 19, 2007, after 36 years of service with the City of Bloomington.

Councilmember Nordstrom announced that she is leaving for Washington, D.C. tomorrow for an American Cancer event on Capitol Hill with an expected attendance of 10,000 people.

Wilcox announced he will be attending the National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.) Conference in San Francisco, CA.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Winstead adjourned the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary