



CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



Mr. Robert Airasian, Chair
Justin Hanrahan, Police Chief
Ryan Nicholson, Fire Chief
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Tyler Glode, City Engineer
Ms. Kelly Gallagher

October 30, 2024 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Robert Airasian, Ryan Nicholson, Steven Magoon, Tyler Glode, Kelly Gallagher

Traffic Commission members addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Mr. Magoon made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2024 Commission meeting; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 –The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Oleg Mirsakov, Office Manager of A-Game Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, 80 School Street to reserve one parking space in front of 80 School Street for Medical Transportation Pick-up and Drop-off Only between hours 8:00am and 12:00pm from Monday to Friday.

Mr. Mirsakov explained that he has many clients that are from Housing, adult daycare, etc. and many clients require the use walkers, wheelchairs, and other mobility aids. The vast majority of these clients attend therapy between the hours of 8:00am – 12:00pm and arrive by medical transportation services. Due to numerous customers, residents, and commercial deliveries for area businesses, the parking space in front of Mr. Mirsakov's business is often occupied. At times, the medical transportation vehicles double-park on School Street; this causes a safety issue. Walking any significant distance is an issue for his clients, particularly at the beginning of their physical therapy sessions.

Mr. Magoon reported that the Commission is reluctant to reserve a public parking space for one business. This practice could open the Commission to several businesses making requests to suit their own needs.

The Commission then asked Mr. Mirsakov whether a Loading Zone, or HP Only parking space would accommodate his needs. This would allow the space to be available to other local businesses. Mr. Mirsakov explained that the length of time vehicles would use a loading zone or HP Only space would reduce the availability of the parking space in front of the business.

Chief Nicholson inquired whether a 15-minute parking space would be beneficial; Mr. Mirsakov explained that the medical transportation vehicles are only loading or unloading for 3-5 minutes. Sgt. Sampson, Mr. Glode, and Ms. Gallagher noted that enforcement of short-term parking is difficult.

Ms. Gallagher asked whether Mr. Mirsakov would consider amending his request if the pick-up/drop-off zone was not supported. Mr. Mirsakov reported that he would like to stand by his original request.

Not being inclined to grant a reserved space for one business, acknowledging Mr. Mirsakov's opinion that an HP Only parking space would not meet his needs, and a reserved Loading Zone did not seem needed in the area, Mr. Magoon made a motion to deny the request for a Medical Transportation Pick-up and Drop-off space at 80 School Street. Mr. Glode was not opposed to a Loading Zone but felt a dedicated space would open the opportunity for other businesses to make similar requests. Mr. Glode seconded the motion. Ms. Gallagher did not support a dedicated space, and noted that there is no precedence in the City for this type of request. The motion to deny was unanimous.

Item 3 – The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Joshua Walker of Wheeler Court to remove one parking space on the west side of Arlington Street prior to Elm Street.

Sgt. Sampson reported that there is approximately 57' of roadway between the intersection of Elm Street and Arlington Street, and the driveway of International Bakery at 128 Arlington Street. A fire hydrant is located in the middle of this 57' section; there is not enough distance to provide adequate space on both sides of the hydrant and still have enough space for on-street parking space. Sgt. Sampson also agreed that restricting parking along this section of roadway will improve the line of sight for motorists exiting Elm Street onto Arlington Street.

District A Councilor Nicole Gardner agreed with Sgt. Sampson and supported the request.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to restrict parking on the west side of Arlington Street from a point 57 feet north of Elm Street to Elm Street; Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Joshua Walker of Wheeler Court to restrict right turns on red on Arsenal Street eastbound at Bond Street.

Sgt. Sampson reported that Arsenal Street was recently repaved and re-striped. Sgt. Sampson researched Mr. Walker's request and found that during design there was a concern that bicycles taking a right turn from the center bike lane would have to travel in front of the exclusive right turn vehicle lane onto Bond Street. The bike box design was then extended across all eastbound lanes on Arsenal Street. This allows bicycles to also use the exclusive right-hand turning lane to enter Bond Street. According to the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Urban Bikeway Design Guide, in cities that permit right turns on red signal indications, a "No Turn on Red" sign shall be installed overhead to prevent vehicles from entering the Bike Box. This is the accepted practice.

District A Councilor Nicole Gardner supported the request.

Mr. Magoon stated that as a general rule, the Commission likes to allow rights on red to promote efficiency but due to the design change this is not appropriate at this location.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to restrict right turns on red on Arsenal Street eastbound at Bond Street; Mr. Glode seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glode noted that the work on Arsenal Street is going through its closeout, and this item can be added to the final work items. He reported that the signage could be installed quickly.

New Business

No new business was brought to Commission.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to adjourn; Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. David Sampson
Assistant to the Traffic Commission