

08/24/2021 Minutes from South End Parking Permit Meeting

Attendees: Chief Booth, PEO Berry, Interim City Manager Mark Meyers, and Council Chair Aaron Park.

Audience: Approximately 15 residents, member of BIW (Communications Director), and Kathleen O'Brien from Times Record newspaper.

Chief Booth: Welcome comments and ground rules for meeting. Began presentation.

Presentation begins:

Intro-Background of design of Bath City Streets

2019 South End Transportation Study review

- Focus on BIW traffic/parking, their parking lots and parking capacity

- Described lots and streets zoning look at areas

- What BIW can do and what City can do

- BIW could stagger times of shifts

- Take responsibility for parking (satellite lots, carpool/vanpool, etc.)

Review of draft plan:

Draft Plan for residential permits, begun by Chief Field who did large study based upon other municipalities

Basic concept each resident will receive stickers for vehicles.

Violations are \$30.00 but could increase

Winter parking ban from November 15 to March 15 still in effect

South End parking zone could change to include Western Richardson Area

Need to add or change zones from bus zones to loading zones

Draft Application January thru December, new stickers every year

- Definition of draft and timeline of next steps

- Implement in January

Presentation ends, open for public comments/questions:

(note: names are approximate spellings)

Quinn Malter of Granite St, asked about having renovations done do contractors need pass? Chief Booth answered that the City could look at temporary passes or temporary authorization by PEO for such cases on an individual basis.

Nate Dwelley—Middle St, Can the City look at putting winter ban into parking issues and treat like Portland where residents get a robo call during parking bans, not an every-night thing.

Chief Booth answered that we did not have the capabilities (time and resources) to call people to move cars. The winter parking ban is well established and routine, saving on officer time and tow truck response. Chief Booth answered that there was no plan to eliminate the winter parking ban or amend it from what it is now. Would need further discussion.

Also questioned if we could link sticker numbers to resident's address? Chief Booth answered that that would need more discussion as the original plan was just simple stickers, not number coded. Police can run license plates to verify if stickers on cars belong to residents or not.

Joshua Langlais –450 Washington St, approves of all we are trying to do regarding this plan.

Noel Tague—75 Russell St, asked if residents can have a guest sticker per household for guest or contractors. Chief Booth answered similar to above (Quinn Malter question) and more discussion, so these guest passes aren't abused.

Sue Swanson —31 Pleasant St said that in the winter they cannot do snow removal because BIW boys park on the wrong side of street waiting for second shift to start. Chief Booth asked her to contact the PD when/if this happens and we'll respond to the scene.

Rea Candland—77 Russell St. Expressed concerns about the speed coming down Russell St in the A.M.

Chief Booth replied that officers regularly patrol the area and for citizens to contact us when they observe specific issues.

Second question was Can BIW workers lose their parking permit if they are caught speeding or for other bad behavior (regarding traffic)?

Chief Booth said the City does not issue BIW workers parking permits and wasn't able to comment on how BIW would address BIW related employee matters. There would be traffic violations or parking violations still available with this plan.

Alice Rebblië—722 Middle St. stated that BIW are not staggering their times in and out of work, that she is very much in favor of Parking Permits for residents. She said she brings her children in at 3:30 every day for safety purposes due to the BIW traffic, also feels unsafe walking at night due to the parking and traffic. Also complained about BIW employees leaving cigarette butts, beer cans and trash left everywhere every day.

Larry Bartlett—5 Palmer St., was in favor of the draft plan. Stated that BIW is responsible but will not take responsibility for their own parking issues, that they should not be able to park on the side of roads waiting for first shift to leave so second shift can park. Perhaps streets changed to one way and look at the width of some streets. Chief Booth said that would need further study.

John Swanson—Pleasant St. Stated that as it stands now, south end residents have more of a burden than BIW employees regarding dealing with the parking and traffic issues. BIW should take more responsibility on their employees. They should be better stewards to the residents and town people

Other comments (unknown citizen)

Children in the neighborhood can no longer walk to school because parents are scared for their safety.

Comments

Sticker for all BIW workers so we know who they are. Chief Booth replied that was not feasible and not needed if this plan took effect as residents would have the stickers.

If BIW workers get caught parking on streets 3 times they fined or go to Union about their actions. Chief Booth said there would be plan specific violations along with implementing this plan. Ordinances would be updated to address these issues.

Overall, all citizens in support of the plan.

Meeting adjourned approximately 7pm.

Public Meeting Notes 9/9/21 6pm at City Hall

Attendees: Chief Booth, PEO Berry, City Manager Marc Meyers, BIW rep John Fitzgerald, councilor-elect Maryellen Bell (south end resident), and residents Kim Gates, Jess Mello, Darlene Molboski.

Chief Booth presented powerpoint presentation and explained draft plan.

BIW rep Fitzgerald explained what his company was doing to address South End Transportation Study findings, current implementation, and future goals. Discussed need for bus queuing areas, more vanpool use, continuing to develop strategic goals with DOT regarding transportation to and from all BIW facilities. BIW is leasing another 800 spots for the West Bath satellite lot. Need more ways to encourage workers to utilize these spots instead of parking in town. BIW spending a lot of money to provide adequate parking to their employees, but these employees need to take advantage of it. Workers seem to want the flexibility of having their own cars with them rather than relying on a bus or shuttle service to satellite lots.

Kim Gates of Hinckley St. discussed issue with newly hired BIW workers from away sleeping in cars because they can't find adequate local housing.

Darlene Molboski, also a BIW employee, of South St, said parking and traffic has been the worst she's ever seen in her 35 years of living in Bath. 2nd shift workers stage in no parking areas blocking driveways waiting for 1st shift to exit so they can find spots to park. Creates a lot of issues. Chief Booth said officers were conducting daily traffic details to monitor these areas but there are not a lot of officers to cover such a large area and large amount of traffic during those time.

Jess Mello of Shepard St asked if her street could become one way to discourage the traffic jam at shift change times, also said she witnesses BIW workers drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, being disorderly, in and around her house. Chief Booth encouraged her to make a police report when this happens. BIW rep Fitzgerald said BIW Security monitors BIW owned lots and some issues are handled by company discipline policy, but outside BIW acts should fall to police enforcement.

Kim Gates asked if parking signs would be changed. Chief Booth answered yes.

Gates also asked about BIW parking garage. BIW not in support of this for several reasons, City also not in support. More parking in BIW zone would actually increase traffic problems for residents as streets are not designed to handle the traffic loads. BIW is doing some renovations to have more truck deliveries routed to north end of yard, rather than south gate area.

Overall, BIW and attending residents in favor of South End Residential parking permit plan.

Meeting adjourned at around 7pm.