

# PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

November 2, 2022

The Committee met at 5:00 p.m. in Room 2044 of the Municipal Building. Members present were Alderpersons Davis, Schmid, Licht and Smith. Also in attendance was Police Chief Kaminski, Assistant Police Chief Olsen, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Holloway, Assistant City Engineer Beyer, Alderperson Lampe, and Mayor McFarland. The following citizens were present: Cecilia and Larry Salas; William Ebert; Dawn and Connie Wiedenfeld; Scott Kaufmann; Dan Barnes; John Smith; Mark Carew; Ken Leu; Jeff Krakow; Fred Uttech; Tim Kassulke; and David Fair.

1. **Roll Call:** All Committee members were present.
2. **Receive comments from the public:** No person wished to speak at this opportunity in the agenda, but preferred to wait until their item of interest (E) was being considered.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting had already been presented to the City Council without correction so those minutes were simply noted at this point in the agenda.

Agenda Item E, without objection, was moved up for the convenience of those attending the meeting.

**4.E Review and discuss: Traffic control at the intersection of West Main Street and Dayton Street.** The mayor requested an opportunity to present additional information regarding future traffic control improvements at the intersection of West Main Street and Dayton Street. As part of the 2022 Annual Street & Utility Project, the block of Dayton Street between Clement Street and West Main Street had been widened to accommodate semi-truck turn patterns. The design engineer had recommended pavement marking installation on West Main Street & on Dayton Street. Installing pavement marking would result in the loss of parking on both Dayton Street and West Main Street.

At the Committee meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, recommendations relating to Dayton Street had been recommended for approval and the City Council approved the recommendations. However, the Committee had voted unanimously to disapprove removing any parking from West Main Street and the street marking which had been mistakenly applied were removed. Director of Public Works/City Engineer Holloway presented an aerial photo of the area and several cross-sections and other diagrams of the intersection. She provided the background of the project and emphasized the importance of safety on our public streets, which she believed would be enhanced with the removal of parking on West Main Street and adding the appropriate lane markings. She had recalculated the number of parking stalls that would need to be removed as totaling 43 (she had estimated approximately 40 at the meeting on September 7). She also mentioned that there were other arterial streets in Watertown where parking had been removed. Mayor McFarland supported this presentation and was committed to providing the Committee with all relevant information regarding safety at this intersection. Police Chief Kaminski presented accident statistics at this intersection between October of 2017 and November of 2022. There had been 6 accidents at this location in the five years cited. They were primarily on Dayton Street (4) and each had caused minor property damage.

Several citizens spoke and were greatly concerned about the potential loss of any parking on West Main Street. Some of these citizens had spoken at the September 7 meeting and they reiterated their concern about the loss of any parking on West Main Street. Several emphasized the importance of the existing parking to their long-standing neighborhood way of life. They were concerned that the loss of 43 parking spaces would be devastating to their neighborhood. **ACTION:** This item was placed on the agenda solely for the purpose of allowing the city staff an opportunity to provide the committee with all relevant information relating to this matter.

**4.A Review and take possible action: an Ordinance to Amend Section 500-6 Parking limitations. A.(5) Municipal parking lot limitations.** Following the 2022 reconstruction of the 109-113 Jones Street Parking Lot, the city is recommending that all parking stalls be set for ten-hour parking to accommodate City staff during work hours. The four southeast stalls would be specifically reserved for city vehicles. Ald. Licht made a motion, seconded by Ald. Davis, to restrict parking as recommended. This motion carried unanimously. **ACTION: An ordinance will be presented.**

**4.B Review and take possible action: Address parking concern at the intersection of Dodge and S. Third Street.**

This item had been carried over from the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. It involved a resident's concern about visibility at the above-referenced intersection. The postponement was to allow the business owner to be notified where a parking space was potentially to be removed. The Police Chief informed the committee that over the past five years there had been only one minor accident at this intersection. The Committee consensus was to allow things to remain as currently exists and no motion was made resulting in the matter failing. **ACTION: Nothing required.**

**4.C Review and take possible action: Parking limitations on 1100 block of Randolph Street.** Carew Heating has its primary access to its business off the 1100 block of Randolph Street. They requested that parking be restricted on the east side of Randolph Street to accommodate deliveries. Parking is currently allowed on both sides of the 1100 block even though the right of way is only 24 feet. Parking on both sides makes it very difficult for delivery trucks to pass. Ald. Schmid made a motion, seconded by Ald. Davis, to remove parking on the east side of Randolph Street from Station Street to the north portion of the Carew parking lot (Engineering will measure the distance). This motion carried unanimously. **ACTION: An Ordinance will be presented.**

**4.D Review and take possible action: Crosswalk and signage improvements on the 700 block of Jones Street.** St. Mark's School has requested a crosswalk and signage improvements on the 700 block of Jones Street near the entrance to their parking lot and the school office. Because of the slope of the area, handicap accessible concrete ramps are not certain to be installable at this location. The Committee consensus was that Engineering should review the options and make a recommendation on how to proceed. Ald. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ald. Licht, to table this matter until Engineering has completed its review. The motion carried unanimously. **ACTION: Nothing required.**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Alderperson Licht, seconded by Alderperson Davis, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously .

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Smith, Chairman