

Montpelier Parking Committee
Special Meeting March 10, 2014, 4:30 p.m.
Capital Plaza Conference Room 100 State Street

Committee Members

In attendance:

Brian Cain, Chair (BC)

Michael Clasen, State of Vermont (MC)

Nolan Langweil (NL)

Andrew Brewer (AB)

Richard Sheir (RS)

Kevin Casey, Staff (KC)

Also In attendance:

Jessie Baker, Assistant City Manager (JB)

Cindra Connison Quirky Pet (CC)

Meeting Called to order at 4:30 p.m.

BC: Special Meeting was called at the request of Committee Member Richard Sheir to address the City's policy regarding the reservation of parking meters by contractors for construction activities in the retail core of downtown Montpelier. Cindra Connison of Quirky Pet to make some comments relating to how this policy or lack thereof has had an impact. Just to make clear this Committee is an advisory committee as we will hear these issues, review and make a recommendation moving forward.

CC: Recent renovation in Downtown have created parking problems. Renovations at 17 State Street, 27 State Street, and 89 Main Street have seen in increase in the use of "contractor parking bags" which are used to reserve space at meters. In the month of February on the parking spaces at the corner of State and Main there was a dumpster on State Street for 4 weeks, 6 bagged meters for the better part of a month, orange tape used to keep spaces reserved, the bags were not removed at night thereby giving the impression of restricted parking after business hours. Other Merchants have also complained. When I addressed the City Clerk John Odum regarding this issues he said that in the absence of an ordinance that his hands were tied. Attempts to talk to the contractor at 17 State Street were unsuccessful.

JB: Jon Odum addressed the council on these issues at the last meeting and has asked that some policy recommendation area made moving forward by this committee and subsequently city council.

NL: In the interest of making sure that we properly evaluate this going forward we should address each of the questions asked:

1. Should there be an ordinance regulating the bagging of parking meters?
2. How Much Should it cost?
3. How long should they be allowed?
4. How many adjacent meters can be purchased?

Question 1:

Committee believes that yes there should an ordinance regulating meters

Question 2:

To be determined, it should not be prohibitive to discourage contractors from doing business but enough that it is not abused

Question 3:

The Committee will discuss further at the next meeting . Having discussions with contractors and business owners will be helpful in order to get a sense of that reasonable middle ground

Question 4:

No action

Andrew Brewer volunteered to write something up for next meeting to discuss.

Next regular Parking Committee Meeting to be held on March 24th at 3:00 p.m. with an agenda to follow from Brian Cain

Meeting Adjourned 5:15 p.m.