

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes, 9/6/11, City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Ron Adam, Daryn Hamilton, Michael Halley, Jeff Clawson, Troy Jerman (DOT), Lacey Jacobs

Points of discussion

At the request of downtown apartment building owners seeking long-term parking for their tenants Administrator Clawson proposed setting aside ten public parking spaces for that purpose. They include two spaces in the lot at the corner of B and Briggs, four spaces in the lot at B and Broadway, and four spaces in the lot at Court and Washington. These spaces will be offered as a six month trial with the following limited rules:

- Licensed vehicles only
- No "For Sale" vehicles
- Compliance with city snow removal ordinance

Troy Jerman from the Iowa DOT presented two suggested changes to the speed limit on HWY 1 between Burlington Ave and the northern city limits. These changes are based on the same 2009 traffic study the DOT used to make the suggested changes to HWY 1 south of Burlington Ave. DOT recommends changing the speed limit from 25 to 30 mph for northbound traffic from Burlington to Merrill and west to 4th Street, and from 30 to 35 mph for southbound traffic from the 45 mph zone to Merrill. If council adopts these changes then the DOT will change the signs south of Burlington before year's end. Committee asked Jerman to attend the next council meeting to explain the DOT's request to the full council.

The former Saint Mary's Catholic Church property on north 3rd will soon be sold. An attorney assisting with the sale discovered that a portion of the alley that runs through the property currently does not have vacated status. Clawson will work with city attorney John Morrissey to create an ordinance to officially vacate the alley so that the property can be sold.

Michael Halley gave a brief update of the Quiet Zone project. The city's application was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in January and the standard processing time is 6-9 months. Since January Halley has been providing additional detailed information to the FRA regarding the spur line that runs through the 23rd and 9th Street crossings to resolve a potential issue. FRA Safety office director Ron Ries assured Halley that the application would be processed by the end of September. Pending approval of the application project completion would occur in 2012.

Recommendations/Actions

- Committee will recommend that the full council accept Clawson's proposed long-term downtown parking spaces.
- Committee will recommend that the full council adopt the DOT's recommended changes to the speed limit on HWY 1 north of Burlington Avenue.