

6/6/2016

Public hearing Yates Street Parking

Members Present:

Lou Annance, Council Chairman

Wayne Hackett, Vice Chair

Cathy Fifield

Steve Bolduc

Nick Konstantoulakis

Staff Present:

Koriene Low, Town Manager

Lisa Prevost, Finance Director

Fred Sturtevant, Fire Chief

Jeff Goss, Police Chief

Scott Penney, Public Works Director

Others Present:

Brian Jarvis

Winslow Durgin, Sun Journal

At 6:30 pm, Council Chairman Lou Annance called the Public Hearing to order with all Council members present. We stood and saluted the flag.

Lou Annance asked for public comments on changing Yates Street from No Parking both sides to a one way street from Highland Ave to Pine Street allowing parking behind white lines on the left side of the street between 5/16 and 11/15. There would be no parking during the winter months.

Fred Sturtevant commented that the street is narrow. It is tight to get a fire truck through but it can be done with no parking. That being said, the fire department has had only two calls on that street, both for chimney fires during winter months. If there is an emergency on the street and they can't get through, they will push vehicle out of the way anyway. As long as they leave one lane open, it should be okay.

Wayne Hackett asked if anyone had measured how far out the white line would be. Scott Penney stated that parking stalls are 10 feet wide.

Nick Konstantoulakis commented that he didn't like the one way idea. He didn't think that would solve anything.

Brian Jarvis commented that if traffic is just one way than cars don't have to pass each other and avoid a parked car.

Cathy Fifield asked if it was just the people on the left hand side of the street who want parking on the street. Brian Jarvis replied that the people who live on the right hand side all have long driveways to park in.

Fred Sturtevant suggested perhaps making the street one way with parking on the left hand side for a trial period to see if it works and then re-visiting the issue at a future date. Wayne Hackett liked this idea but would suggest no parking on the corner.

Nick Konstantoulakis said so if we go with a six month trial period we would come back and discuss this again 12/5. People from Yates Street would come in and express their opinion at that time.

Scott asked how far out the white lane would be. Lou suggested 12 feet of travel lane and then paint the line for parking. This might mean parked cars may be partially on private property. Jeff Goss suggested that some property owners might have a problem having cars parked on their property.

Wayne asked if a motion would be needed to make Yates Street one way with parking on the left hand side temporarily and Koriene Low told him a motion would be needed but this is just a public hearing on the issue. A motion and vote will take place during the Council meeting that begins at 7 pm. Scott was going to measure the road tomorrow to determine how far out the white line for parking would be. The Council wants to wait for that information to make a motion for the change. Jeff Goss did say the Council should be aware there would be a cost involved as we would need to order signs indicating the one way.

The public hearing on Yates Street was concluded at 7 pm.