

City of Birmingham
ADVISORY PARKING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access
Wednesday, August 19, 2020

MINUTES

These are the minutes of the Advisory Parking Committee ("APC") regular meeting held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairwoman Gayle Champagne.

1. Rollcall

Present: Vice-Chairwoman Gayle Champagne
Richard Astrein (left 9:08 a.m.)
Michael Horowitz
Steven Kalczynski
Judith Paskiewicz (arrived 8:22 a.m.)
Lisa Silverman
Jennifer Yert

Absent: Chairman Al Vaitas
Anne Honhart
Lisa Krueger

SP+ Parking: Sara Dixon
Jay O'Dell
Chris Tretter

Administration: Tiffany Gunter, Asst. City Manager
Mike Albrecht, Police Commander
Mark Clemence, Police Chief
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist

2. Recognition Of Guests

None.

3. Approval Of Minutes: Meetings Of May 6, May 13, and June 3, 2020

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Ms. Yert to approve the minutes of the regular APC meetings of May 6, May 13, and June 3, 2020 as submitted.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Silverman, Champagne, Horowitz, Kalczynski, Yert

Nays: None

4. Continued Free Parking Alternatives – Recommendation – Action

ACM Gunter presented the item.

After Committee discussion, there was consensus that parking should remain free to support City retailers through the end of December 2020, with a one-time fee charged at the end of 2020 to any permit holders wishing to maintain their permits for 2021. The Committee decided on the one-time fee in order to allow the City to know the demand for parking permits going into the new year.

Motion by Mr. Horowitz

Seconded by Mr. Astrein to recommend that the City Commission suspend parking fees through the end of December 2020, notify parking permit holders that there will be no monthly permit fees charged through the end of December 2020 and notify parking permit holders that they will be charged a one-time fee of \$100 due November 30, 2020 should they want to reserve their parking permit for 2021.

Mr. Kalczynski expressed concern that the \$100 could be prohibitive both for individuals and for companies in addition to the normal monthly parking fees.

Mr. Horowitz observed that any individuals looking to retain parking permits for 2021 likely also retained their jobs, meaning the cost would not be too onerous for them. He said that if the Committee agreed that the \$100 per parking permit would be too costly en masse to charge corporations the Committee could decline the \$100 stated in the motion and recommend another amount.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Horowitz, Astrein, Champagne, Paskiewicz, Silverman, Kalczynski, Yert

Nays: None

5. Civicsmart Meters – Technological Upgrade - Action

Police Commander Albrecht and the SP+ team presented the item.

Mr. Kalczynski said that given the economic impact of Covid-19 on the City he thought it would be inappropriate to both spend \$150,000 on the meter upgrades at this time and to waive the competitive bidding process.

Police Chief Clemence explained that the City's current meters run on a 2G network. He stated that the 2G network will become obsolete, and that it could be as early as December 2020 or as

late as December 2021. Once the 2G network is no longer supported, the City's meters will not work until they are replaced with newer, 4G technology. In addition, even if the 2G network functions to some extent until December 2021 an increasing degradation of the signal could result in the meters only working intermittently. He explained that in replacing the meters now the City would be able to provide uninterrupted service.

Dr. Silverman noted residents had recently experienced a significant crisis of confidence in the City administration in August 2019 in terms of competitive bids. She said that even if no other corporations submit a bid it would still be more appropriate to run the competitive bid process in order to restore citizens' confidence in the transparency of the City's workings.

Police Chief Clemence noted that CivicSmart, the City's current vendor, was offering to replace the City's meters for an approximate cost of \$115,000 since they would be able to use much of their same systems. He explained that other offers to carry out the work would likely be upwards of \$700,000 because all new systems would need to be implemented.

Dr. Silverman said it would be fine to use the City's competitive bid process to determine that the other offer made would not be competitive. She reiterated that given the recent crisis of confidence skipping the competitive bid process altogether would not be appropriate.

Mr. Kalczynski noted that having intermittently-functioning parking meters could also erode residents' confidence in the City as well. He said he understood from that vantage point why it would make sense to complete the work expediently for the lowest price offered.

In reply to ACM Gunter, Police Chief Clemence confirmed that if the project goes to bid it could be difficult to install the new meters before December 2020, which is the earliest date the current meters could cease being supported.

Mr. Horowitz asked whether the meters should not be 5G compatible since that technology is becoming more common throughout the country.

Police Chief Clemence said his understanding was that 4G meter technology should remain operable for another four to ten years from date of installation.

In reply to Dr. Paskiewicz, Police Chief Clemence said it was unlikely that CivicSmart knew the City's present meters would become obsolete as quickly as they have.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Mr. Horowitz to waive the competitive bidding process and approve the purchase of (1,150) LNG single space meters from CivicSmart, Inc., a sole source vendor; further charging this expenditure in the amount of \$115,000.00 to the Automobile Parking System Fund capital outlay parking meters account # 101-301.002-971.0200.

Vice-Chairwoman Champagne noted that replacing the meters in order to ensure functionality seemed more like maintenance of the City's current on-street parking system as opposed to a new project requiring a new bidding process.

Mr. Horowitz asked if there was a way to acknowledge Dr. Silverman's concerns in the motion and to include a reply that explained why the APC was proceeding with waiving the bidding process.

Mr. Kalczynski noted that CivicSmart being the 'sole source vendor' at least partially explained the APC's motivations for recommending a waiver of the competitive bidding process.

Mr. Horowitz said he trusted the City Commission would factor in Dr. Silverman's concerns as appropriate during their review of the APC's recommendation.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Horowitz, Yert, Champagne, Silverman, Paskiewicz, Kalczynski

Nays: None

6. Parking System Technology Draft RFP - Garage Equipment – Action

ACM Gunter presented the item.

There was no discussion by the Committee.

Motion by Mr. Astrein

Seconded by Mr. Kalczynski to recommend approval of the Parking System Technology Draft RFP for Garage Equipment.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Astrein, Kalczynski, Champagne, Silverman, Horowitz, Yert, Paskiewicz

Nays: None

7. Master Plan Discussion – Continued

Seeing that Committee members needed to depart the present meeting, the APC agreed to resume discussion of the master plan at a future date.

Vice-Chairwoman Champagne recommended moving the item to the top of the October 2020 APC agenda.

8. Meeting Open For Matters Not On The Agenda

Dr. Paskiewicz recommended that the APC meet virtually for its October 2020 meeting.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2020

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10. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Assistant City Manager Tiffany Gunter