

City of Salem
Traffic and Parking Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 24, 2022

A meeting of the Salem Traffic and Parking Commission was held remotely on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 6:00pm, in accordance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, and as amended by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, and a Special Act extending remote participation meetings until March 31, 2023.

Present: Commission Vice Chair Eric Papetti, Commissioner Jaime Garmendia, Commissioner Jeff Swartz, Commission Lt. David Tucker, Director of Traffic and Parking David Kucharsky, Transportation Planner Brendan Linard **Absent:** Commission Chair Tanya Shallop

CALL OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Vice Chair Papetti. Mr. Kucharsky explains how members of the public may participate during the remote meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Commission Chair Papetti opens the floor to public comment, but notes that no members of the public are in attendance.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

October Parking Overlay Regulations

Mr. Kucharsky details the process that the October Parking Overlay Regulations have undergone. Discussions with the Commission and City Council have resulted in additional edits which will be reviewed this evening for a recommendation to be submitted to Council who will discuss adoption of the proposed amendment to the City's Ordinance on Wednesday, October 31st.

Vice Chair Papetti calls for a brief recess to allow for attendees to read the new version of the Regulations.

Vice Chair Papetti notes that comments were received by Councilor Riccardi, asking if the Regulations can be extended to the entire city. Vice Chair Papetti asks if the regulations mean that no one can sell parking outside the zone, or if selling parking outside the zone is essentially unregulated. Mr. Kucharsky says he believes that the parking outside the zone would be unregulated, unless there is another violation. Regardless, it would not fall under the purview of the Traffic & Parking Department, but under Zoning. Mr. Kucharsky notes that to expand the Regulations to the entire City, the process would have to be started over from the beginning.

Vice Chair Papetti says he thinks that starting with the smaller area works. Commissioner Garmendia says he thinks that it is wise to start with the downtown area, as Traffic & Parking staff would not have the capacity to enforce beyond this. He says that if it works out well this year, it can be expanded next year. He says it may even be worth looking into expanding it into other times of year.

Commissioner Swartz says that his impression is that anything outside of the overlay is just under regular zoning and is just under the status quo.

Mr. Kucharsky says that that is the case, but if any issues are raised, they would be related to zoning enforcement, not Traffic & Parking.

Commissioner Swartz notes that a small change should be made in the text to say that hours of operation are “between” Monday – Sunday, 8am – 6pm. Mr. Kucharsky makes the update.

Commissioner Swartz also asks about the difference between small and large lots needing to have cars removed by 11pm. Mr. Kucharsky clarifies that the businesses must notify parkers that they must leave but they are not actually bound to remove them. Mr. Kucharsky states that the idea is that you must communicate effectively to those using the lot.

Vice Chair Papetti asks whether the title of the regulation is the only place where the date is included.

Commissioner Garmendia notes one other place in the text.

Vice Chair Papetti asks whether the title should be changed, and the dates included in the text, so that it might be more easily expanded.

Commissioner Garmendia notes that it is clear in this title, for this go around, and it should be left to Mr. Kucharsky’s discretion. Vice Chair Papetti agrees.

Mr. Kucharsky notes that the dates are mentioned in the ordinance rather than in the regulations.

Commissioner Tucker notes a couple of suggested changes, including a revised phone number to contact for enforcement. Commissioner Tucker also asks whether there should be a note regarding parking safety, even though that is included in referenced Zoning ordinances. Commissioner Tucker also asks whether there will be a physical permit.

Commissioner Garmendia notes that safe parking expectations could be handed out to businesses when they apply to have parking. Mr. Kucharsky agrees, and notes that he would seek Commissioner Tucker’s assistance on that front.

Commissioner Swartz asks if there are distinctions made between stacked parking and proper valet parking, as some businesses may wish to employ valet service. As these are typically licensed it would be safer than stacked cars.

Mr. Kucharsky clarifies that the valet program used a few years ago was a temporary effort, and it was not in effect in October. It was discontinued due to low usage.

Commissioner Garmendia asks whether, if someone wanted to use valet, they would have to go through their own licensing process. Mr. Kucharsky says he believes that is correct.

Commissioner Swartz notes that the hotels in town have a valet, so there may be some existing already. He is just concerned about the liability of businesses using valet.

Mr. Kucharsky says he will speak with the City solicitor and that it may just be something that businesses note on their application, so that they can be regulated according to that parking type.

Commissioner Tucker notes that the applicable zoning regulations reflect self-parking rather than valet.

Motion and Vote: Commissioner Garmendia motions to recommend the regulations, with changes as discussed, including clarifications on valet parking, to the City Council. Commissioner Swartz seconds the motion. The vote is four (4) in favor and none (0) opposed. **The motion passes.**

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Vice Chair Papetti notes that on the new sidewalk on Church Street, trucks continue to park on the sidewalk. Mr. Kucharsky says that they are aware, and they have been issuing tickets, and may stripe it to make it clear that you may park in the road as a service zone.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Traffic & Parking Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 6:00 PM.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

August 10, 2022

Motion and Vote: Commissioner Swartz motions to approve the minutes for the August 10, 2022 meeting of the Traffic and Parking Commission as drafted. Commissioner Garmendia seconds the motion. The vote is four (4) in favor and none (0) opposed. **The motion passes.**

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Swartz and seconded by Commissioner Garmendia, the Traffic and Parking Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.