

Memo

To: City Commissioners
From: Shawn Kessel, City Administrator
CC: City Attorney, Chief of Police, City Engineer
Date: 3/26/2018
Re: Recommendation regarding Downtown Parking

The City Commission recently concluded three public hearings to gather input in regards to the perceived problem of downtown parking. Downtown parking is complicated by the competing needs of various stakeholder groups which include business owners, staff for business operators, residents in downtown dwelling units, customers, users of the downtown green space, and others. In the absence of a cohesive and comprehensive plan being submitted by the downtown stakeholder groups that addresses each of these stakeholder groups' issues city staff would make the following recommendations:

Phase 1

- a. Hard surface and properly sign the city owned gravel parking lot west of the Depot and provide adequate lighting for users of this lot. This creates more useable parking in the various weather conditions present within the City. Enforcement of traffic rules, especially those related to pedestrian crossings shall receive special attention.
- b. Mark parking spots along Villard from Sims Street west one block and from the intersection of Villard and Sims one block north. Delineating these spots will serve as a test to determine if it assists with downtown parking issues. An extra spot/s may be gained by properly marking around fire hydrants. If successful, this painting could be expanded to the remainder of the downtown area or portions of it.
- c. Sign the downtown area as 90 minute parking from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday and hire a non-licensed police staff member to enforce the 90 minute parking and other parking related issues in the remainder of the City. It is anticipated parking ticket revenue will offset all or most of the salary.
- d. Use the downtown parking assessment balance to cover all costs associated with these recommendations and consider increasing the annual assessment to \$25,000 from the current assessment of \$20,000. The assessment was \$30,000 several years ago.

Phase 2

- a. Update the green space at Villard and Sims to create a Park for residents, customers, and other user groups. This should include the removal of the planting areas to facilitate additional space for benches and other seating arrangements.

-If the Phase 1 implementation does not adequately resolve parking issues a renovation of the green space could include additional parking spots.

- b. Request the Park Board to include the revised space in their park system to ensure adequate maintenance of the park.
- c. Consider expanding the parking spot painting if found to be successful in Phase 1.
- d. Hard surface, sign and light the city property where the former City Hall building stood as a parking lot.

In developing these recommendations we (City Administrator, City Engineer & Chief of Police) considered many other options including, one-way streets, diagonal parking, seasonal calendar parking, leased parking, private staff to enforce parking, green space revisions to include additional parking, etc. Although each of these options merited review and had some potential positive effects each were not included because of the potential negative effects, cost-benefit ratio or other reason.