LACONIA CITY COUNCIL
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Ava Doyle.

Attendance: Councilor Doyle (Chair), Councilor Bownes, Councilor Bolduc

Recording Secretary: City Clerk Mary Reynolds

Staff: City Manager Scott Myers, Assistant Director of Public Works Luke Powell

I. SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR "NO PARKING" AREAS ON CENTENARY, MOULTON STREET AND HAVEN AVENUE

Chair Doyle advised that they would take up one street at a time and would begin with Moulton Street. The public was invited to comment.

Raymond Marceau (22 Moulton Street) spoke in support of "no parking" in the sidewalk area of the street up to the conference center and stated that it is a problem on the entire street. Councilor Bownes clarified that the vacant land indicated on the mapping provided was being used by R. Marceau for parking for his property.

Asst. Director Powell advised the department has no concerns with this request.

Motion to recommend to the Council to have "no parking" on Moulton Street in the requested area and extend to the conference center made by Councilor Bownes and seconded by Councilor Bolduc; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Haven Avenue was discussed next. The street is 16 feet wide and there are safety concerns. The public was invited to speak.

Laurie Sanborn (17 Haven Avenue) spoke in opposition to the proposed "no parking" area stating she purchased the property knowing that there was no parking on the property because of space restrictions and that it would devalue the property if there was no on-street parking. It was added that there has never been a concern brought forward about the safety vehicle access.

Written testimony was also given to the Committee from Debbie Evans of 18 Haven Avenue in opposition to the request.

There was discussion regarding any concerns with parking or the vacant areas on the street that could be utilized for parking and it was explained that the trees cannot be cut because of shore land protection requirements.

Cynthia Vera (16 Haven Avenue) spoke in support of the "no parking" area because she feels the parked vehicles being left at the end of the street overnight are creating no access to the street by emergency personnel. Parking has been offered to those opposed to the proposal to try and address this concern.

There was discussion about the width of the roadway and the property lines, as well as the photographs submitted of the area.

City Manager Myers advised that staff understands that it is a narrow street but the concerns of emergency vehicles having access past the area shown in the photographs has not been brought forward by the Fire Department. It was also discussed that other property owned items, such as a grill and picnic/outdoor table are also in the street in the area that is being requested for "no parking".

Councilor Bownes discussed the possibility of marking the street as being for property owner/residents parking only like there is on Centenary. Asst. Director Powell advised that he is unaware of any signs authorized on Centenary and there is no permit parking on any City streets. It was also discussed that the overhead maps may be off as much as a few feet.

Anthony Dicalogero (14-16 Haven Avenue) addressed the Committee regarding the lack of a turn around that was originally in the area that has been encroached on over years and the renters that are causing parking problems for the street. Many times they have had to request the vehicles be moved and it takes hours to get them moved. Regarding emergency needs, he has seen emergency personnel walking in from the main street because they can't get access. The first request from A. Dicalogero would be to have the turnaround reconfigured and to have the "no parking" put in place so the people that live year round are not the ones having to deal with the problems.

Diane Vercammen (36 Centenary Avenue) spoke on behalf of her sister whom owns property on Haven Avenue and advised the Committee that they do offer overflow parking to family and that by making this a "no parking" area would open up a can of worms to the entire area because they are all the same and this would be picking and choosing which streets to apply this to would not be beneficial to anyone.

A.Dicalogero addressed the Committee again regarding the grill and table noted in the photographs and the parking on the grass. It was added that the renters at other properties are not polite when it comes to parking and they have no concern for others.

A brief discussion on having partial "no parking" on the street resulted in the City Manager recommending that this is not a wise decision because it would shift the problem down to another street. The "paper street" of Coolidge Avenue was also discussed and it was walked by the City Manager and Chair Doyle with the result being it would be very challenging to have this be an actual road for travel because of the space constrictions.

Pam Cott (35 Centenary Avenue) advised that Coolidge Avenue was a road that was used in the past and the property was purchased by the homeowners from the railroad company. Now there are gates, stone walls and other structures that have been built on the property.

Councilor Bownes suggested that the Committee look at the entire area rather than a few streets because the other streets are having the same problems.

Motion to table the "no parking" request for Haven Avenue until a full assessment is done of all of the like streets in the immediate area made by Councilor Bownes and seconded by Councilor Bolduc; the ***motion passed with all in favor****.*

The final street discussed was Centenary Avenue which has been brought to the Committee because of concerns with on-street parking and pinch points where parking on both sides on the street cause the street to be inaccessible.

P. Cott address the Committee and advised that back in the 1980's this was also brought forward and it was decided that there could be parking if there were no wheels on the pavement. Over time this has gone by the way but should be either "no parking" or have the same rule.

Andrew Giovanni (74 Centenary Avenue) addressed the Council and advised that this street was "no parking" on this street before the Akwa Marina was built and parking was permitted on only one side once the Marina was built. A. Giovanni would like to have "no parking" on both sides of the street.

Wendy Spencer-Cotter (48 Centenary Avenue) advised that she allows parking on her extra space and she personally has experienced the lack of access for the emergency personnel when she needed the services for her husband. There have been concerns that if there was a fire at one of the cottages on the street it would result in the entire street being compromised and the fire trucks wouldn't be able to get there to save the property.

Curt Mailleux (Akwa Marina Yacht Club) advised that they were with the understanding that the street was already "no parking" therefore they don't have an issue with it being posted and enforced and that it should be done the entire length of the street. Additionally a speed limit sign may be useful because of the excessive speed of 40 mph being used on the narrow street. It was also noted that they do have

Cindy Dicalegero (Haven Avenue) commented that a loading zone would cause a hazard to the community and would make the road impassible.

Asst. Director Powell noted that the state speed limit is 30 mph if not posted otherwise and that no parking on both sides of the street makes sense. It was noted that the speed limit is 25 mph on Centenary Avenue.

C. Mailleux reiterated that they are in agreement with the "no parking" with the understanding that they will be utilizing a small window of up to 15 minutes loading for the business.

Motion to table the "no parking" request for Centenary Avenue until a full assessment is done of all of the like streets in the immediate area made by Councilor Bownes and seconded by Councilor Bolduc; the ***motion passed with all in favor****.*

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ava Doyle, Chair

Aug 8, 2016

Government operations and Ordinances Committee

City Council

Laconia NH, 03246

Dear esteemed members of the committee:

As I cannot attend the meeting today, where is it my understanding that the conversation will include a request of no parking zone to be established on Haven Ave., I am hoping you will accept this letter as my testimony against such consideration as it will create personal and economic harm to the property owners.

As the members of the committee may know, there are only 3 property owners on Haven Ave and at least two owners at the end of the street are opposed to the city imposing a no parking zone on this street.

Both of these properties, being 17 and 18 Haven Ave have no access to any off street parking to due restrictions with lot sizes and working to comply with the Shore land Protection Act.

As such, if the Council were to determine that a no parking zone be instituted, that access to our properties will be dramatically impeded as there is no public parking lot nearby.

Additionally the parents of both property owners at 17 and 18 Haven Ave, are experiencing significant health and mobility issues and instituting this proposed change will deny access to our families' ability to enjoy the property.

I would also like to point out that eliminating on street parking will create real and significant economic challenges for both the property owners and the city as to deny the ability to park at the property will severely diminish the property's value and in turn, affect tax revenue to the city.

In conclusion, it is my understanding that this request is being put forth by and on behalf of a nearby tenant who wishes to continue occupying the street as a personal patio which is resulting in conflicts when trying to gain access to our properties.

In conclusion, while we appreciate the committee and council considering this proposal, the majority of the property owner feel it is an overreach and will create significant access challenges to our property and economic harm to all.

Respectfully submitted

Debbie Evans , 18 Haven Ln

Laurie Sanborn
71 Eagle Drive
Bedford, NH 03110
(603)682-1557

August 8, 2016

Government Operations & Ordinances Committee Members
City of Laconia
45 Beacon Street East
Laconia, NH 03246

Dear Committee Members,

I am a property owner on Haven Avenue and I am opposed to designating "no parking" zones on this street.

My husband and I bought a home at 17 Haven Avenue one year ago and absolutely love it and love Laconia. We bought the property knowing that the garage and driveway were not big enough to park a car, but that was acceptable to us specifically because on-street parking is allowed.

If you take away the ability to park on Haven Avenue, we will have a very hard time using our own property. If you remove this ability, I believe my property value diminishes substantially. This of course means the city's tax revenue will also decline.

To the best of my knowledge, there are only 3 property owners on this street. Why would you want to prevent us from using our own property? I have seen zero evidence of any safety issues or other legitimate concerns that would justify making this change on Haven Avenue.

I appreciate your taking the time to listen to our input and I sincerely hope you will not take away our right to park at our property.

Respectfully,

Laurie Sanborn

Laurie Sanborn