

CITY OF GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

**A meeting was held on Thursday September 11th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
in the third floor Conference Room
at Gloucester City Hall**

The meeting was opened by Chairman Robert B. Ryan at 6:00 p.m. Attending were members Anthony Bertolino, Larry Ingersoll, Michael Mulcahey and Robert Francis. Also present were City Councilors Paul McGeary, Steven LeBlanc and Melissa Cox and residents Jennifer Dalhmer, Janet Gray, Elizabeth and William Hinckley, James Ciaramitaro, Dave Beeman and Paul Cote.

AGENDA

A moment of silence was held in honor of City Councilor Jackie Hardy and the victims of 9-11-01

Approval of minutes from meeting of 8-21-14

*A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the minutes as written.*

Handicap Parking Requests

1. 122 Centennial Avenue (Councilor LeBlanc)

*After a discussion and speaking to the requestor, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the handicap space.*

2. 30 Cleveland Street

*After a discussion and speaking to the requestor, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the handicap space.*

3. Vicinity of 85 Prospect Street

*At the request of the requestor, this space was **withdrawn** at this time.*

As with all handicap approvals, the requestors are told that the handicap space is not theirs alone and anyone with a valid permit can park there.

The following was continued from our last meeting:

ORDER #CC2014-032 (Councilor LeBlanc) ORDERED that the City Council amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, "Traffic", Sec. 22-270.1 "Resident Sticker Parking Only" by adding a definition of "resident parking sticker" as follows: "Resident parking sticker shall mean a parking sticker for persons who demonstrate proof of Gloucester residency at one of the streets or areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 and ownership of the vehicle to be stickered. The sticker shall differ in size, color and shape from a resident beach sticker and shall say "NOT FOR BEACH."

FURTHER ORDERED that this matter of distinguishing Resident Beach Stickers from Resident Parking Stickers and changing and improving signage at areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 and adding the areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 to Sec. 22-176(b) "Penalties for parking violations-in beach district"

(August Meeting) After a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to CONTINUE the matter until the next meeting in which Councilor LeBlanc can attend as the TC has numerous questions that need to be addressed.

(September meeting) After a discussion and speaking to Councilors LeBlanc and McGeary, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order, subject to City Council amendments. The order is to only affect the Witham Street parking area near Good Harbor Beach. The areas near Plum Cove and Niles Beaches are to remain as they are now with just a regular 'Resident Sticker' required.

A 'Beach Sticker' is used for entry into the paid parking lots at Wingersheek, Good Harbor and Stage Fort. The TC recommended that the shape of the resident sticker should be a triangle, so as to differentiate it from the beach sticker which varies from square, circle and rectangle shapes. The resident sticker should state 'NOT FOR BEACH PARKING'.

This issue was brought up as some have been parking on Witham Street with a \$5 resident sticker instead of the yearly \$20 beach sticker. The use of resident stickers are now turning towards some neighborhood parking areas and the need to differ has become necessary.

ORDER #CC2014-036 (Councilor McGeary) ORDERED that the City Council amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic”, Sec.22-287 entitled “Disabled Veteran, handicapped parking” by:

ADDING: a second paragraph as follows “all disabled veteran and handicapped person parking spaces listed and designated by address or location in this section shall be deleted from this section and from this Code of Ordinances effective with the 2014 code Supplement and shall be added to the City of Gloucester Traffic Commission Regulations known as the “List of Parking Areas Reserved for Handicapped Persons and Disabled Veterans in the City of Gloucester.”

Further ORDERED that the matter of deletion of the listing of handicapped spaces from Sec.22-287 be referred to the Traffic Commission for review and recommendation to the Ordinances and Administration Standing Committee.

After a discussion and speaking to Councilor McGeary, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order. This order 'cleans up' some of the language in the handicap parking space ordinance changes that have been made giving the TC the authority to grant such spaces.

ORDER #CC2014-037 (Councilor Cox) ORDERED that the City Council Amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic”, Sec.22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” by:

A: ADDING: “Prospect Street, parking prohibited on the northerly side of Prospect Street from its intersection with Friend Street in a westerly direction to Taylor Street, from utility pole #976 to #978” and by:

B: DELETING: “Warner Street easterly side from its intersection with Prospect Street to a point 78 feet northerly thereof” and by:

ADDING: “Warner Street easterly side for a distance of 245 feet from its intersection with Prospect Street”.

*After a discussion and speaking with Councilor Cox, this order was separated into two sections, A & B. A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to CONTINUE the decision of section A until a group site visit can be conducted and the area neighbors can be contacted. The order wording also needs to be adjusted stating for **a distance of 230 feet** instead of the utility pole numbers.*

Since the new sidewalks have been installed in this area, it has made the street narrower with cars parked. This is a heavily traveled area and some members of the TC have heard numerous complaints about the narrowness of this area. There is also some concern about the location of the yellow dividing line which may need to be adjusted if the order is later approved. There is also a concern with neighborhood parking as few of the residences in the area have off street parking available.

*A MOTION was then made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** section B of the order concerning Warner Street. This is also a narrow, heavily traveled street that is narrow, but the homes have off street parking available. Councilor Cox has not spoken to the residents of this area as of this decision.*

The following is a draft order to be submitted to Council at their 9/23 meeting. Councilor Cox has asked the Council President if this order could be brought before the TC before it is referred and permission was given. The TC will discuss and vote on this order but was uncomfortable that the usual council channels were not followed and understand that the Pleasant Street area has had many new changes and these changes should be expedited for the benefit of the area businesses and residents.

ORDER #CC2014-038 (Councilor Cox) ORDERED that the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic”, Sec.22- 277 “One-hour parking – Generally” be amended by

DELETING Pleasant Street, easterly side, from Prospect Street to Liberty Street, except Saturdays and Sundays; and by **DELETING** Pleasant Street, easterly side, 40 feet from the northerly corner of Liberty Street for 114 feet, except Saturdays and Sunday; and further

ORDERED to amend Sec. 22-280 “Fifteen-minute parking” by **DELETING** Pleasant Street, easterly side, 40 feet from the northerly corner of Liberty Street; and by **DELETING** Pleasant Street, easterly side at a point 155 feet from its intersection with Liberty Street in a northerly direction for a distance of 23 feet; and further

ORDERED to amend Sec. 22-279 “Thirty-minute parking” by **ADDING** Pleasant Street, easterly side, 40 feet from the northerly corner of Liberty Street; and by **ADDING** Pleasant Street, easterly side at a point 155 feet from its intersection with Liberty Street in a northerly direction for a distance of 23 feet; and further

After a discussion and speaking with Councilor Cox, A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order with the following changes to the last paragraph:

ORDERED to amend Sec. 22-280“Fifteen-minute parking” by **ADDING** Pleasant Street, easterly side, 20 feet from the northerly corner of Liberty Street; and by **ADDING** Pleasant Street, easterly side at a point 155 feet from its intersection with Liberty Street in a northerly direction for a distance of 23 feet.

This order affects the easterly (non school) side of Pleasant Street and following its passage will allow for unrestricted time parking from Prospect to Liberty Street, fifteen minute parking from Liberty Street to the northerly side of the Yellow Sub Shop and one hour parking for the remainder of Pleasant Street until its intersection with Shepherd Street.

Although not on the Agenda, the TC spoke with residents David Beeman and Paul Cote who are concerned about the crossing in front of McPherson Park at 31 Prospect Street. They watched the area at length and saw that few cars stop for the red light that allows pedestrians to cross and the ones that do stop, do not wait for the light to turn green before proceeding. They thanked the police department for recent stepped up attention to this area but said as soon as the police are gone, the same thing occurs again. Suggestions were made that a flashing pedestrian sign be installed to help remind vehicles that someone is crossing and also that the crosswalk be painted a bright yellow to remind vehicles it is there. The State DOT will be sent a letter asking them to look into this unsafe crossing area.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

ROBERT B. RYAN, Chairman

LARRY INGERSOLL, Secretary