

Item 24-0575: Approve the revisions to the Downtown Appleton Parking and Meter Bag Policy

Item 24-0577: Approve proposed loading zone stalls by the YMCA (200E Lawrence St). Follow-Up to Six-Month Evaluation Period

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, May 06, 2024 4:30PM

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 02:02

Next Action item is number 24-0575 approve the revisions to the Downtown Appleton parking and meter bag policy.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 02:11

Move for approval.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:12

Second.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 02:12

All right. We have a motion and a second. Director Block, did you speak to that?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 02:16

I did. Thank you, chair. On your desk tonight there is a colored version of the meter bag policy. It's easier to see the revisions in red. And I will point out there is a slight difference from what was included in the packet. So, the one distributed tonight will be attached to the meeting minutes as well.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 02:41

It's—under the row of "on duty attendant", it's making all ramps consistent. So red, green, and yellow. Yes, there is the possibility to have an on-duty attendant, and so special event parking arrangements could be made in any ramp. Typically, we do we do it in the green ramp. That's why the original one had it just listed in green, but all three ramps could have that setup as well.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 03:11

And then on the very last page, there should have been an item B under "prepaid ramp validation stickers" to clarify that they are non-refundable.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 03:27

Any questions? All right. Oh, Alder Doran.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 03:34

Thank you. Director Black, could you just clarify, I guess, for the rate that you were just mentioning on the on-duty attendant. It says \$10 per vehicle with event; I assume meaning more than—with the event having more than 1000 attendees?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 03:50

Yes.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 03:50

Is there some sort of, I guess, requirement that we're asking for then to ensure that we're generating enough revenue to pay for the attendant?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 03:59

You're correct. Yep. And to really make use of recognizing that there would likely otherwise be a backup as they exit. So that's what we're trying to alleviate is assisting the traffic exiting the ramp.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 04:16

So, we're, I guess, basing this off an assumption or our a plan that there will be so many attendees for an event to staff it if—will staffing still be added if there aren't that many that show up? Or was—I guess how will we handle that?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 04:34

Correct. Typically, right now we have this in place for Broadway events at the PAC. That is our most typical request. I'm not aware of where we have done special event setup yet, but the discussion has come up as it relates to Mile of Music, Octoberfest, larger events of that nature. And this would open the door for that possibility during those special event discussions.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 05:03

Okay, thank you. And then page two, just a question about fees. And I don't know—we've had discussion, I guess, in the past about the meter bag fee of \$9 per day not being an amount that really covers what the city could generate if those spots were filled by the hour. Was there any discussion about increasing that, that fee at all?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 05:31

At this time, there has not been a discussion about increasing the meter bag fees specifically. It's somewhat dependent on which stall they select. And so, in which days and what we would have otherwise generated. But no, we did not look at changing any fees at this time. This was just to memorialize what's been passed in previous budgets into one document.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 05:55

Okay. And can you sort of expand on that a little bit? I guess, what do you mean, when you say "depends on which stall" or "time of day", or what day? I guess how would that be different?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 06:09

Well, I think—so I don't have all the rates right in front of me. So, I can't dive into the specifics about how the meter bag fees were originally set. Let me see if I can grab it off of here.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 06:39

So, rates vary. If you look on parking meters page one. Depending on what type of meter it is gray, red, or the Washington Street meters—I mean, you do have different rates per hour. So, depending on what meter they selected to bag, that \$9 may or may not cover it.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 07:02

Okay. Thank you. That's kind of what I was wondering, I guess. Appreciate the clarification there.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:13

Any other questions or comments? All right, hearing none, let's go ahead and vote. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. That passes five - zero.

[Cut]

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:49

All right, number 24-0577 approve proposed loading zone stalls by the YMCA at 200 East Lawrence Street, follow up to the six-month evaluation period.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:02

Move for approval.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:03

Second.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 08:04

All right, do we have—Mr. Lom you'd like to...? All right.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 08:12

Thank you, chair. The memo goes into some level of detail as to exactly which stalls we're talking about and a little of the history as to how this came to be. But really what I would boil this down to is these—the YMCA had 8 loading stalls—loading zones stalls prior to the project when the street was reconstructed, and this would essentially make them whole with eight loadings on stalls on the new newly reconstructed street. And I would just want to acknowledge that Tom Wendt from the YMCA is here in case you have any questions for him.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 08:51

Thank you. Are there any questions? Alder Firkus.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 08:56

Thank you, Chair. As far as the stalls that are going to be converted to a loading zone, are these going to stay as angle spots? Or are they are we going to—are we going to reconfigure this to be more of a pull up and...?

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 09:10

No, it would be as shown on the diagram on the second page. It is—and in fact because this was a six-month evaluation period, they are already marked that way. This would just be making that permanent as we say.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:22

Okay, I just wanted to clarify. Thank you.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:25

Any other? Alder Doran.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 09:26

Well, they do have—there is a loading zone that's more intended for trucks on the Morrison street side of the YMCA. And there is another loading zone, slightly less optimal but on Durkee Street south of College Avenue. These stalls are more geared towards auto traffic just in terms of their physical size to be able to squeeze into them.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 09:26

Just sort of a follow up, I guess, kind of along that line, I guess. I was just curious if those are under the trial being used for large truck traffic in that way where they would just sort of pull in versus the angle parking or if it's just strictly for you know, smaller vehicles, I guess.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 10:08

And I guess, between sort of staff and the YMCA if they would like to speak, I guess, just sort of curious with the trial and maybe what you've seen in the past is eight stalls—say is it necessary? I don't know how often they have, you know, loading and unloading coming, coming and going. Just trying to ensure we're maximizing sort of the city's use of those stalls if they're not really being utilized for all that.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 10:38

Yes. So, I think initially, there was some thought that eight stalls would be insufficient for the type of passenger loading and unloading that happens there particularly in most—that's concentrated the most into the early hours of the morning. So, we did work with the Y to—you know, we gave this some time to try and understand exactly like where that sweet spot was. And we reviewed a lot of video to try and see how those were getting utilized, whether it was too few or too many. And, in my conversations with Tom from the YMCA, we—I believe that collectively, we all feel like this is the middle ground that sort of works for everybody here.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 11:31

Okay. Thank you.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 11:34

Can—I'm going to ask a question, if I may. Can I assume that those loading zone stalls are being used primarily for parents with children at the childcare center at the or is it other uses?

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 11:50

I think I would defer to Tom, on that question. I can tell you that, just from my observations, it seems to be a mixture of things, but probably that would be the majority of it.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 12:02

Do you want to...?

Tom Wendt (District Executive Director - Appleton YMCA) 12:07

I think you said it well. Our conversations perfect. Yes, exactly. Those eight stalls are transition traffic; it's childcare; it's our partnership with the school district and the drop off for the 4k. So, from pretty much 6:30 in the morning, 'til 4:30 in the afternoon, there is this constant in-and-out, in-and-out, in-and-out. So, from pickup to drop off to—there's some an older adult drop off in that area as well as such, so. And there's four handicap spots as well in that area that get used primarily.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 12:39

Thank you. Appreciate it.

Tom Wendt (District Executive Director - Appleton YMCA) 12:42

Since I'm up here, anything else for me?

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 12:44

Any other questions? Thank you for being here today. We appreciate it.

Tom Wendt (District Executive Director - Appleton YMCA) 12:48

And supportive of Eric and everybody. Good partnership.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 12:52

All right. Any other questions? Comments? All right, hearing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Aye. That passes five zero.