

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING – DECEMBER 18, 2017

Mayor Brantley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Neptune High School and requested the Clerk to call the roll. The following members were present: Robert Lane, Jr., Kevin B. McMillan, Carol Rizzo, Nicholas Williams and Mayor Michael Brantley.

Also present at the dais were Richard J. Cuttrell, Municipal Clerk; Vito D. Gadaleta, Business Administrator; and Gene Anthony, Township Attorney.

Mayor Brantley announced that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster on November 30, 2017, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk.

The Mayor led the Flag Salute.

The Mayor outlined the process for this meeting. Ms. Rizzo will be providing a presentation on a Pilot Program for Permit Parking in Ocean Grove. The Committee will then offer questions and comments followed by the opportunity for the public to speak.

Ms. Rizzo offered a power point presentation. The highlights of the presentation were as follows:

#### Pilot for Parking Permits

Asbury Park's success has become a nightmare for Ocean Grove residents as visitors' park for free, taking valuable space from residents and tourists who would spend money in OG. The problem is exacerbated beyond the summer for the North end as Asbury Park (AP) events extend well into October. Adding to the problem, AP Park worker's park in the North end on a daily basis. On the south side, Bradley Beach has implemented paid parking and visitors to Bradley are parking in the Grove. Parking for Ocean Grove residents during the summer has become a nightmare for many. The lack of driveways and allocated parking for residents means they become prisoners in their own homes, especially on Thursdays through Sunday weekends.

#### Ocean Grove resident demographics

- 3049 residential units of which 1734 are occupied year round.
- 3015 fulltime residents; 50% of fulltime residents live alone, Median age is 53
- 1/3 (1055) of residents are over 62 and 815 residents are over 65 of which almost 70% are women.
- Density is the second highest on the Jersey Shore

#### Impacts

- Quality of life is significantly diminished for residents who feel trapped.
- More cars are parking in the fire zones.
- More Adverse Behaviors such as:
  - Cars have had their tires punctured on cars in the North End
  - The parking games include taking up extra space, putting garbage cans and chairs to reserve a spot, threatening people with towing.
  - These behaviors and a general decrease in civility affects how welcoming our town feels to tourists.

#### Options for pilot

a) All Ocean Grove - According to the 2012 CME study there are 3551 spaces and we just added 18 in 2017 making the total available parking spaces 3569. We would need approximately 1900 permitted spaces.

b) North side (Wesley Lake through to and including Heck (north to south), OG Gates to Ocean (west to east) – 1025 spaces of 3569 available spaces

#### Proposal

- Permit parking on 1 side of each street, (except streets near Lake/Asbury and the North end condos and apartments).
- Pilot option a) all OG -- 47% of parking spots town wide would be available to anyone. (1670 spaces)
- option b) North side – 72% of parking spots town wide would be available to anyone. (2544 spaces)
- Commercial zone (Main Ave – Central to New York) to have 2 or 3 hour 9am to 5pm parking limit
- Parking enforcement MUST include ticketing of all non permitted vehicles parked in permitted spaces, including residents.
- 1 permit per household unit (includes apt #). Permits are specific to the car's license for ease of enforcement. Eligible residents include homeowners, annual renters, CMA "tenters" and licensed B&B's only.
- Initial costs of parking permits, including, permits, signs, and other start up expenses will be included in the fee for a permit in the first (pilot) year (\$70-\$90). The cost of enforcement will also be included in that fee. If the pilot is successful and permits continue, annual renewal fees will pay for enforcement (\$20 to \$50) Everyone will pay the higher fee in their first year of purchase and lower fees thereafter.

#### Recommended Option for the Pilot

- Option B - Resident Permit Parking for 1025 spaces.
  - Parking problem is more acute; density is higher, easier to implement as a trial and measure impact...

#### Goals and Measures

- Increase the probability of parking for residents. *Validation by a satisfaction survey.*
- Improve turnover in the commercial district to drive increased foot traffic to businesses. *Validation by SLEOs conduct survey of turnover of vehicles in the business district*
- Decrease in tickets given out to non permitted cars parked in resident parking over the summer.
- Assure that permitted spaces are 75% occupied during weekends between 10am and 8pm. *Validation by SLEO counts. Too many empty spaces would indicate an opportunity to reduce permitted spaces or offer 2<sup>nd</sup> car permit.*

#### SO ... Why not Permit Parking?

Tourists will still come and there will be 2400 spots for parking.

CMA has additional option to use its lots (Inskip, South end, etc) for parking for its Auditorium programs.

*Permit estimates based on models using CFO cost estimates and dependent on demand.*

Ms. Rizzo stated that the pilot plan would be for resident permit parking on one side of the street on the north side of Ocean Grove on all streets north of, and including, Heck Avenue. Several streets and portions of streets, including Spray and Seaview Avenues, would have permit parking on both sides. Each resident in the zone would be eligible to purchase a permit at between \$70 and \$90. She indicated that Michael Bascom, C.F.O. has indicated that existing Township employees can handle the issuance of permits. The permit will be issued to a specific vehicle, it will not be a removable tag or hanger.

The Committee asked questions which included revenue and cost projections, affordability on behalf of the residents, impact on businesses and tourism, a difference in the Plan being presented tonight versus previous information, and concerns about the non-availability of permits to Township residents who live outside of the permit zone. The Committee thanked Ms. Rizzo for her time and effort in putting together the study/plan.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Hoffman, 114 Cookman, in favor of proposal, stated that he lived in a town that did this and it worked fine. Philadelphia has zones for permit parking. This is a first step and parking meters are also needed.

Corey Boss, against proposal, is a bed and breakfast owner. He asked if the visitors to his

establishment will receive decals. Ms. Rizzo stated B&Bs will receive hang tags. Mr. Boss feels that it should be hang tags for all.

Maria Kappinger, Atlantic Avenue, stated she was undecided. People who work and have a second car would lose one half of the available parking spots.

Monica Kowalski, 84 Abbott Avenue, against proposal, read portions of the Township Master Plan which requires parking for recreational uses which cannot be permitted away. Driveways are prohibited, this is a bad idea because you would have to revise other ordinances. She read a portion of the Ethics Law and believes Ms. Rizzo cannot vote on the proposal because she lives in the permit parking zone.

Elise Rivera, Main Avenue, stated she was undecided. Guest houses in Asbury Park have their guests park in Ocean Grove and uber to Asbury Park. She asked for more enforcement of existing parking laws.

Jim Hundley, Tilton Place and Ocean Grove business owner, against proposals, this is a bad idea, his tax dollars maintain the streets in Ocean Grove. His employees depend on on-street parking. Not fair to other Neptune residents. He suggested additional angle parking on Broadway, Ocean and Central Avenues.

Charleen Singletary, 134 Lake Avenue, in favor of proposal, neighbors do not move their cars from Thursday to Sunday. It is getting bad, both sides have valid points.

Resident, 69 Asbury Avenue, originally thought he was in favor but cannot support this. Will destroy the value of his home and no guests will be able to come visit. Eliminates the sense of community, "tenters" should not get permits.

Pat Supplee, 11 Heck Avenue, in favor of proposal, proposal is based on years of discussion with the Homeowners Association, Pilot is a good idea, give it a year and consider the availability of permits to all of Neptune if not enough are sold. Her daughter lives in Silver Springs, MD, they did permit parking during the day but provided a hang tag so guests could use it.

Ed Morrows, 142 Webb Avenue, against proposal, he is careful when to use his car on weekends. He has two cars and wants two permits. This is part of living in Ocean Grove, you deal with it.

Annabelle Bissett, 77 Heck Avenue, in favor of proposal, stated we are going to have to learn from other places that have permit parking, the cost should not eliminate this. If we could eliminate the parking by people from Asbury Park, a lot of spaces would be freed up. New homes in Ocean Grove are big and bringing in more cars.

Resident from Franklin Avenue, against proposal, used to live on Ocean Avenue, ridiculous to pay for permits and he may have a parking spot anyway. The proposal keeps changing.

Rich Williams, 1 Abbott Avenue, in favor of proposal, gives residents a slightly better chance at a parking spot, it is not true that one half of the spots would be lost. Asbury Park Parking Authority says that permit parking is the way to go in Ocean Grove. We need to try something and this is a good start.

Joel Popkin, Inskip Avenue, against proposal, permits would help a few and be detrimental to the remainder of the community and visitors. We will not know how many visitors will never come back to Ocean Grove because of the permits. This will make it worse for the south side of Ocean Grove, is discriminatory to the remainder of town and the process will be cumbersome.

Nancy Clarke, 47 Embury Avenue, in favor of proposal, the proposal is a base to build a more complete plan, would like a 50% chance to park when she gets home from work. She would like the zone extended to Broadway, people already do not come to Ocean Grove because of the parking situation.

Jack Bredin, 94 ½ Heck Avenue, against proposal, this is not a Township Committee plan. If it was a Committee plan, a Traffic Engineer or Planner would be hired to prepare that plan and this would have been presented to the Committee in their packets at a workshop meeting. Everyone is hearing this for the first time, something needs to be done in the future.

Jim Mahalla, 94 Mt. Hermon Way, in favor of proposal, there is enough evidence to go through with the Pilot. People park and go to Asbury Park, he does not see a willingness to move

forward. The Committee should try this Pilot.

Dan Beeman, Heck Avenue, against proposal, this benefits only for the short term. He has no problem with parking and now he would have to pay for a permit and only get one. The cost will go up in the long term, eliminating supply does not help. Ocean Grove would become like a gated community.

Denise Busco, Bath Avenue, in favor of proposal, parking is a hardship in the summer. People do not move their cars from Thursday to Sunday. This gives residents a leg up, please consider, this is a good option.

Dave Jenkins, 75 Mt. Zion Way, against proposal, this will make it worse. What was the point of the Parking Committee. If he has to pay \$90, then every resident in Neptune should have to pay \$90, or he should receive a reduction in his taxes. This is a national historic site and the plan will have a negative impact on the summer programs. If you bought a home here, you have to expect traffic and parking issues. He is the Ocean Grove Beach Foundation Chairperson and is concerned about the loss of beach revenue.

James McNamara, 86 Asbury Avenue, in favor of proposal, understands the fear that this will change Ocean Grove. This is a reasonable proposal, the Camp Meeting Association needs to become more active, and not passive, with the parking situation. The Association should use its vacant lots for parking and run a shuttle. He has empathy for the Township Committee members and hopes this proposal if moved forward.

Kim McFadden, Clark Avenue, against proposal, will make things worse for people with more than one car. This is a beach town and parking is the nature of the beast.

Jeffrey Ruddell, 112 Main Avenue, in favor of proposal, there is an existing system with neighbors saving cars for each other, but it is prejudicial. The current system is bad, neighbors are angry and something has to be done.

Tony Cusanelli, 24 Pitman Avenue, against proposal, has a parking problem on weekends, but it is a beach town. The plan is discriminatory to the 89% of Township residents who live outside of Ocean Grove. People with more than one car will take the non-permit spots. He disputed the calculation of the number of residents and stated that selective enforcement in certain timeframes is a bad idea.

Al Dorsey, Lake/Asbury Avenue area, in favor of proposal, has lived here for 35 years and it gets worse every year. People park and then wheel luggage across the bridge to Asbury Park. This plan is voluntary so it is not discriminatory, it will not reduce the number of parking spots. Stickers are needed to identify the permit cars. He urged that the plan be tried and if it hurts tourism, you can kill it. Parking tickets should be considered as part of the revenue calculations of the program.

Susan Galantos, Clark Avenue, against proposal, everyone has three or four cars. Contractors leave dump trucks on her block 24 hours a day. She calls the police every time and nothing is done. It is ridiculous that she would have to pay for a permit.

Ann Horan, 69 Clark Avenue, in favor of proposal, people are possessive of their parking spots, at least someone is proposing a solution. She felt the members of the Township Committee were not polite to Ms. Rizzo during her presentation.

Fred Karl, 101 Embury Avenue, against proposal, love Ocean Grove or leave it, doesn't want to pay more for parking.

Barbara Burns, 4 Ocean Avenue, in favor of proposal, parking is scarce and needs to be allocated properly. Other towns charge for parking. There is no free parking, you pay for parking either with money or time. You need a place to start and the proposal is a credible start.

Dan Tosakater, Williams Road, mother lives in Ocean Grove and is against the proposal. His mother has a handicapped parking space and asked what will happen to that space. Ms. Rizzo stated that the handicapped spaces will remain as is. Mr. Tosakater stated that residents will take the non-resident spots first and reduce available parking. He asked the Committee to consider St. Pauls Church, nursing homes and Mary's Place. Self-driving cars are coming that will park themselves. The proposal is a bad idea.

Theresa Checki, 74 Mt. Tabor Way, in favor of the proposal, parking is deplorable, people park in Ocean Grove and then walk to Asbury Park.

Randy Bishop, 34 Seaview Avenue, against proposal, he took a business and made it very nice. He sarcastically stated it must be awful that property values are going down. The parking is a problem for 42 days out the year. This is not Center City Philadelphia. Restaurants will have a big problem with this plan. If business is destroyed, it's not coming back and property values will decline. Many people are holding on by a thread and cannot afford a parking permit, look at the consequences of this plan.

John Kneute, 54 Clark Avenue, in favor of the proposal, asked the Committee to try something.

Dave Dougherty, Whitefield Avenue, against proposal, resident are taking up the available parking. He drove through Ocean Grove at 2:30 a.m. on a Monday, most parking spots were filled and Main Avenue was filled so the people that live there would not be able to park there.

Ken Buckley, 65 Broadway, in favor of the proposal, knows parking is a problem. With the Asbury Park renaissance, it's problem on the north side of Ocean Grove. The Committee needs to come up with something before the summer.

Michael Badger, 129 Broadway, OG Camp Meeting Association President, against proposal. There is a parking problem and the Association has done things to try to help in the past. They paid \$10,000 for Academy buses that were not used. They hired a Victorian trolley for a couple of years. It is hurtful when we attack one another. There are winners and losers with the plan, it tells people that are not welcome and will shut people out of events. The CMA is replacing the boardwalk between the pavilion and North End and they need become to come to the beach for revenue.

Catherine Myers, 108 Mt. Tabor Way, in favor of proposal, this is a full time issue and the problem is not going away.

Deborah Osepchuk, 88 Webb Avenue, against proposal, there is a parking problem, not convinced this is the solution. There will be 20 permits for 7 spaces on her block, will still have to drive around for a spot. You will push the Asbury Park people into the center of Ocean Grove. She is in favor of solving the problem.

Ellen Saforino, Benson Avenue, in favor of proposal, has five spots on her block, talks to the people who park there and they are parking for free to work in Asbury Park. There are no spots any more, and it is rare when she can get a parking spot. She knows a person who has lived in Asbury Park for two years and parks in Ocean Grove all of the time. These people are not spending any money in Ocean Grove businesses.

Jack Green, 59 Webb Avenue, against proposal, fearful that this will destroy the town. He came in and invested in the town by starting multiple businesses when Ocean Grove was struggling. He is a CAM Trustee and cannot vote for the new boardwalk knowing that this proposal could affect beach revenues.

Joyce Klein, 105 Mt. Hermon Way, in favor of proposal, permits have worked in Cape May for many years. People in their homes in Ocean Grove are not elitists. She challenged each member of the Township Committee and Camp Meeting Association and the people in attendance to come up with a workable solution.

Laura Massaro, 6 Ocean Avenue, against proposal, concerned about business owners whose employees will be unable to park, will be a challenge to businesses and tourism. It will not be fair to neighbors on Bath Avenue if the patrons of her hotel have to park on that street. Last year the parking seemed better, this is not a good idea.

Cindy Stiles, 5 Seaview Avenue, against proposal, thanked Ms. Rizzo for trying. She is against permits because no family members would be able to visit. Address the problem with Asbury Park if their employees are the problem. Her husband has offered to build a parking garage at North End. This is a problem for 42 days a year. She is in favor of 3 hour parking on Main Avenue.

Pete Herr, 13 Ocean Avenue, against proposal, this is a part of life in Ocean Grove, parking has always been a problem for 42 days a year. If nothing is being done about people parking from Asbury Park, you will push the problem into a different part of town. The Parking Task Force recommended 3 hour parking on Main Avenue and recommended against permit parking. He already pays a lot of taxes and will have to pay more money for parking tags for his guests.

Barbara Meyer, Whitefield Avenue, against proposal, thanks for the effort. This is a not a new problem, but may be getting worse. She suggested parking vouchers for Asbury Park employees. Permits will take away what is special about this town. She asked the Committee to work with Asbury Park on a solution. Ms. Rizzo stated that she talked to Asbury Park about they said it is our problem to solve. The Mayor stated that the Committee will try to address it.

Ray DeFaria, 12 New York Avenue, against proposal. Asbury Park parking has had an impact for 50 years. More people means more cars. He asked where will service providers be able to park. This is a very regressive action.

Pam Valentine, 114 Lake Avenue, against proposal, asked if Asbury Park has permit parking. Ms. Rizzo responded yes. Ms. Valentine stated that she cannot afford a parking permit. She would have to choose between a parking permit and a beach badge, the cost of the permit is discriminatory.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Rizzo for her work. He stated that a solution is needed and something must be done. The Committee needs to finds funds to get a professional to look at the situation and advise the Committee what can to done.

Mr. McMillan thanked Ms. Rizzo. He stated that both sides are passionate about the issue. He asked for time to review his notes and discuss the matter at a later date.

The Mayor asked the Committee to look over their notes and review the plan. A decision can be made at the next meeting.

Mr. McMillan offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Rizzo to adjourn. All were in favor.

Richard J. Cuttrell,  
Municipal Clerk