

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1315 VALLEY DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Beste, DiVirgilio, Lombardo, Marinelli

Also Present: Richard Morgan, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Michael Flaherty, Public Works Superintendent
Rhea Punneo Administrative Assistant, Public Works Department

Absent: Winnek

2. Flag Salute

Commissioner Beste led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Minutes: March 23, 2005

4. Public Comment

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Items for Commission Consideration

Please note that while items were presented out of order, they are presented in order for clarity.

a. Disabled Parking Spaces

Mr. Morgan presented the item, first updating all on the history of disabled parking spaces for residents in Hermosa and ending with the direction from Council at the March 22, 2005 meeting "to review all current handicapped parking spaces on residential public streets and establish a formal policy for granting these parking spaces taking into consideration such factors as whether the applicant has a garage and/or driveway; the possible requirement for Social Security Administration documentation of permanent disability, and a specific period of time for review of the continued need for a handicapped space at each location, along with consideration for dealing with temporary disabilities." He noted that staff's recommendation is a subcommittee of Commissioners be established to look at this more closely and develop new policies for these spaces.

Mr. Flaherty noted that at this time there are 21 such spaces in Hermosa, including the newest on Monterey. He also noted that he believes many of the existing spaces would not qualify during a new review.

General discussion among the Commissioners ensued, highlights included:

- There is much divisiveness over parking among neighbors; this is a very emotional subject.
- If necessary, ramps could be built on private property to allow for vehicle access on one's own property.
- There is a definite need for clear, consistent, fair guidelines.
- Commissioners Lombardo and DiVirgilio volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
- Could be embarrassing for some to be put in front of a public hearing to discuss their disabilities; would be good to make the policy so clear that only extreme cases could need to go to the public hearing level.
- Look at other communities – some similar to Hermosa where parking is so dear, where density of housing is as intense.
- The policy, once determined and approved by the Commission, would then go to Council for public hearing and final approval/direction to implement.

The subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Lombardo and DiVirgilio will bring a report to the meeting of June 15, 2005.

MOTION by Commissioner DiVirgilio to support the residents' request for the sidewalk exemption and direct staff to forward the request to City Council for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Lombardo.

AYES: Beste, DiVirgilio, Lombardo, Marinelli
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: None
 ABSTAIN: None

At this time Commissioner Winnek re-joined the commissioners on the dais.

b. Red-Light Cameras

Mr. Morgan presented Mr. Abassi, indicating that red-light cameras are an interesting option for reducing the number of times motorists run red lights.

Mr. Abassi's presentation highlighted the various uses of the cameras.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- All alternatives would be examined before installing
- Some vendors may be willing to cover the cost of equipment, installation and maintenance in exchange for a percentage of the revenue
- The cameras generally operate at a break-even point
- Ability to enhance enforcement by allowing police to focus on other enforcement issues
- Knowing some cameras are in place encourages drivers to stop at red lights even those without one
- Would have to discuss with Sgt. Thompson/Police Department, Caltrans, etc. with regard to need and locations.
- Need to identify hidden costs

The Commission determined that they need more information to decide whether or not to send on to the City Council. They asked that the subject be brought back with a more detailed report

c. Redline on 15th Place

Mr. Morgan presented the report, indicating staff received complaints over a period of time. He noted that 15th Place is a narrow street without curb and no parking allowed on the south side. He noted that a private parking spot had been created in the encroachment area of 930 15th Place, out of the way of travel. Mr. Morgan advised that ticketing a parked car that extends into the roadway is difficult when there's no clear-cut indication of the edge of pavement.

In response to the complaints and in an effort to assist Parking Enforcement, staff began painting redline on 15th Place, as has been done in similar instances. Residents called, complaining that two of the driveways were not part of the problem and should not have been redlined; work was halted until the situation could be reviewed.

Residents submitted a letter and petition saying they believed a public hearing should have taken place prior to painting – staff receives many similar requests for red paint application, reviews each situation and performs the work without public hearings. Painting redlines of this nature are usually complaint-driven.

Mr. Morgan then presented Ennis Jackson, Administrative Review Officer, who advised that when there is no clear avenue to determine a violation, the redline aids officers. There is a violation when the rear wheels extend beyond the red line. If only a black topped area, it is a judgment for the officers – without clear demarcation, can't enforce. Red line makes a clear statement.

Public comments included the following highlights:

- Resident felt that if no one had called, there'd be 400' of red paint down the street.
- Property owners developed that spot, giving up lawn in the process.
- The redline would create a negative impact on the area.
- Neighbor regularly uses this spot with the owner's permission.
- If taken away, leaves one more car in the street.
- Twelve of the 19 properties in the immediate area are represented on the petition.
- Did just one resident and his inconvenience cause this?
- If not permitted to park there, there will be one more car parking on the street.
- Some feel should be a neighborhood issue, not a Commission issue.
- One resident couldn't leave his garage since had no notice of intended painting.
- Red paint is an eyesore.
- Please respect the residents' wishes.
- A much smaller vehicle has replaced the originally offending vehicle.

Discussion among the commissioners highlighted the following:

- In favor of redline removal but exception taken to negative comments about Public Works Staff.
- While redline is preferred, if black only, black top can be used to technically determine a violation.
- Without redline, violation determination is up to the discretion of the officer –redline is an enforcement tool.

MOTION by Commissioner Winnek to remove the red striping and ignore the written petition. Seconded by Commissioner Beste.

AYES: Beste, DiVirgilio, Lombardo, Marinelli, Winnek
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

7. Commissioners' Reports

No reports were presented.

8. Public Works Department Reports

No questions or comments.

9. Items Requested by Commissioners

No reports were presented.

10. Other Matters

Commissioner Marinelli thanked the commissioners for postponing the meeting one week to accommodate his work schedule.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Beste adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m. to the meeting of June 15, 2005.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and complete record of the action taken by the Public Works Commission of Hermosa Beach at the regularly scheduled meeting of May 18, 2005.

Robert Beste, Chairman

Richard D. Morgan, P.E., Secretary

Date

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