

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, 7 P.M.  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman, William Schuyler, Vice Chair, James Lewis, Jason Osborne, Annie Ebbers, Ann Tucker, Lavonda Bonnard and Casey Kane

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** T&ES - Alex Block, Principal Planner, Ryan Knight, Civil Engineer IV, Cuong Nguyen, Civil Engineer III, Hillary Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation, Katie North, Division Chief of Mobility Services, Chris Ziemann, Division Chief of Transportation Planning, Alex Carroll, Complete Streets Coordinator, and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II. Alexandria Police Department: Lt. Jason North, Sgt. Dan Schultz

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.

2. Virtual Meeting Resolution:

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane to approve the virtual meeting resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the November 15, 2021, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on Cedar Street Turn Restrictions and the Capital Bikeshare program. Mr. Kane asked staff for an update on when the maps in Capital Bikeshare stations will be replaced.

5. **WRITTEN PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW-UP:** The Board received a written update on turn restrictions at the intersection of Seminary Road and St. Stephens Road. Mr. Kane, Ms. Ebbers, and Mr. Osborne did not support the addition of a “when pedestrians are present” sign at the intersection and asked instead for a specific time restriction. Ms. Orr noted the City’s current policy is driven by resident requests, but Staff could revisit this in the future.

6. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** Ms. Babette Smith spoke about parking issues on N. Early Street and expressed concerns about future parking impacts from the Minnie Howard school expansion plan. Ms. Clare Skarda asked questions of the Board regarding the City’s process of evaluating traffic volumes on Duke Street. Mr. Zach DesJardins spoke against “where pedestrians are present” language for right turn on red restrictions,

and noted that removing right turn on red would be safer. Mr. Alex Bryant spoke about safety concerns at the intersection of Pegram and Taney Streets.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne to remove item 7 and item 8 from the Consent items list. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

7. **ISSUE:** Consideration of an amendment to the City Code to increase fines for heavy vehicles parked in commercial business areas with multiple open citations

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Block presented the item to the Board, noting that the Staff recommendation had changed from the recommendation in the docket. Staff now recommend escalating fines of \$40 for the first violation, \$100 for the second, \$250 for the third and any subsequent violation, and immobilization or removal of the vehicle for the fourth and any subsequent violation. Mr. Kane asked if these violations are only occurring on S. Pickett Street; Mr. Schultz of APD affirmed, but also identified Wheeler Avenue as a hot spot.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Mr. Art Impastato, President of the Cameron Station Civic Association spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, but asked for higher fines. Mr. Greg Hillson, resident of Cameron Station, also spoke in support of the ordinance and appreciated the revised staff recommendation.

**BOARD ACTION:** Vice Chair Lewis moved to recommend approval, but with a lowest fine of \$100 and fines escalating from that point. Mr. Kane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to implement the residential pay by phone program on the 300 block of S. Pitt Street.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Schuyler noted that many of the applicants are his immediate neighbors and asked about the criteria to remove these restrictions; Mr. Block noted the Code requires the same 50% petition threshold. Mr. Schuyler asked if the Board has any discretion to reject an application that meets all the criteria; Ms. North noted the program is modeled after the existing Code. Mr. Kane asked if the program has improved enforcement; Ms. North noted that it has.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Ms. Yvonne Callahan does not support the application, and questioned the current procedure of making a single site visit to verify the application. Ms. Shannon Watson, the applicant, spoke in support, assuring the Board that there is a parking problem on the block. Mr. Stephen Milone wanted to clarify the Docket report's comment about support from the Old Town Civic Association, and feels that the program is divisive.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane moved and Ms. Ebbers seconded the staff recommendation to approve; the motion carried unanimously.

9. **ISSUE:** Consideration of an amendment to the City Code to allow the City Manager to reduce speed limits below 25 miles per hour in business and residence districts

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Carroll presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked how speed limits and traffic calming projects might interact. Ms. Carroll said they would, with implementation depending on resources. Ms. Carroll also noted the City is planning a pilot neighborhood slow zone project in the Lynhaven neighborhood.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Mr. Patrick Wise expressed strong support for the ordinance and for traffic calming projects. Mr. Stephen Milone spoke in favor, and expressed an interest in a 15 mph limit for most Old Town streets. Mr. Oscar Gonzalez spoke in support. Mr. Brian Shankman spoke in support.

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lewis to recommend the Council adopt the ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

10. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to temporarily close the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand, temporarily remove up to four parking spaces, and temporarily remove motorcoach parking on the unit block of King Street.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Ziemann presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane suggested crosswalk improvements at the King/Union intersection and asked if the existing bike parking would remain; Mr. Ziemann said it would, but may be relocated. Mr. Osborne asked about the end of the pilot if successful; Mr. Ziemann noted any longer-term closure would come back to the Board for review. Ms. Ebbers asked if a Capital Bikeshare station is planned; Mr. Ziemann said not at this time.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Mr. Patrick Wise provided strong support for the project, and emphasized the need for plentiful bike parking. Mr. Oscar Gonzalez spoke in support, noting the need for crosswalk improvements at the King and Union intersection.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the temporary closure and parking removal. The motion carried unanimously.

11. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to revise the No Parking restrictions in Fayette Alley and add curbside loading zones at North and South Union Streets and North and South Lee Streets.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Block presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked about use of the existing zones and if the City would evaluate their effectiveness. Mr. Kane also noted the existing illegal in-street loading from large trucks along Union Street.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** No members of the public spoke on this item.

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Tucker moved to accept the staff recommendation, seconded by Ms. Ebbers. The motion carried unanimously.

12. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to add five on-street parking spaces along the east side of the 500 block of Mount Vernon Avenue.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Devilliers presented this item to the Board. Mr. Kane expressed disappointment there wasn't more thought about the Curbspace Prioritization Framework, noting that parking was lower on the priority than other items. Mr. Kane suggested perhaps in-street bike parking or some additional safety improvements might be warranted.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Dina-Marie Deringer, the applicant, spoke in favor of the request, and also expressed support for the idea of a bike corral as a part of the project.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane moved to defer the item to a later meeting and ask staff to investigate other options. Ms. Ebbers seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2, with Mr. Schuyler and Mr. Osborne opposed.

#### **END OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Ebbers moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

13. **STAFF UPDATES:** Mr. Block provided the Board with a status update on the curbside pickup zones implemented during the pandemic, and collected feedback from the Board about a future process for assessing those zones.

**COMMISSIONER UPDATES:** Mr. Kane updated the Board on the Transportation Commission meetings in January and February. Mr. Schuyler announced to the Board that he is approaching ten years of service on the Traffic and Parking Board, and that the March meeting will be his last.