

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 19, 2011

A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: Six (6).

Mayor Swiderski declared the Board in session for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing in accordance with the legal notice that appeared in the July 1, 2011 issue of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Laws No. 8 and 9 of 2011 Amending Chapter 282, Vehicles and Traffic, as follows:

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 8 TO CREATE A TAXI ONLY PARKING ZONE ON MAIN STREET:

Section 1: Chapter 282 of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is hereby amended by adding the following new section, to read as follows:

282-27. 1. Taxi parking.

The following location is designated as a place for parking for taxicabs only, and parking in said area by other vehicles is prohibited:

- A. On the north side of Main Street starting at a point 70 feet east of the exit/entrance to 87 Main Street and extending eastward for a length 66 feet.

Section 2: All ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.

Section 3: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State.

Mayor Swiderski: Is there anyone here from the public who wishes to comment on this proposed change to our parking law?

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I just wanted to ask the Chief if he could answer a question. Five Corners is rough when it snows, and we have had quite a few snowstorms this past year. Is there any concern with the ice and snow, when you get a first storm coming from Farragut or Broadway going down Main Street, that you have some icy spots and rack up some accidents?

Police Chief Bloomer: We do not want to rack up any accidents. But the Safety Council looked at that. The Commissioner of Public Works is on the Safety Council, as is one of the fire chiefs. We made it a distance enough west of Five Corners that we think it should be safe. It is only three spots. So we did take that into account.

Mayor Swiderski: Chief, in times of a snow emergency what is the parking restrictions on Main Street?

Police Chief Bloomer: I do not think Main Street has any. Off the top of my head, it is not a street that we have ever had to ticket or remove cars from. I do not believe there are any restrictions on Main. I think we are fine.

David Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue: Can you explain the background as to why this change is being made and whether there is any period for evaluation, whereby if it is deemed not to work from a traffic point of view whether it could be revisited.

Police Chief Bloomer: The genesis of this is that we created those metered spaces in front of the nail place and the other businesses there, and near the Community Center, in order to increase parking for the businesses and for the Community Center. As the taxi office is there, they frequently dominate those spaces. Even if they put money in the meter, they run in, they run out, and they block up spaces when they are needed. As the taxi is a public service to the Village, even though it is a business, I met with the owner of the cab company. We came up with a solution, where we are taking spaces that are not utilized, zero utilization, putting them for the taxi company, which should therefore open up these spaces for the business, the Purple Crayon, the nail place, and the Community Center. Frequently, people at the Community Center can walk less distances. They are usually elderly, for the Monday and Thursday Busy Bees and the other group that gets together. So that is the history of it.

Can it be reevaluated? I would think that we could reevaluate it after a month. If it did not work, we would clearly come back and say this is not working for reason A, B, or C. Or conversely, if it is working we may look to use that space even more than the three spaces. We would be evaluating it as we do every road condition or traffic condition in the Village.

Mayor Swiderski: Any other comments from the public?

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 9 TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON WILLIAM STREET BETWEEN AQUEDUCT LANE AND WARBURTON AVENUE ON THURSDAYS BETWEEN 9:00 AM AND 10:00 AM:

Section 1: Section 282-24 (Parking time limited in designated locations) of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph, to read as follows:

R. William Street. No parking 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays on the south side of William Street, between Aqueduct Lane and Warburton Avenue.

Section 2: All ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.

Section 3: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State

Mayor Swiderski: Is there somebody who wants to speak to that?

Cyndy Travis, 427 Warburton Avenue: Can you clarify if, on this Thursday morning which is also alternate side on the Warburton street, where are they going to park? North side of the street on William, the parkers? Because where will those people park from 9 to 10 on Thursday morning?

Police Chief Bloomer: There will not be parking on the other side of the street. It would be as Whitman Street is. When there is alternate parking on Whitman Street there is no parking on either side. Whitman is longer than William. Those people find places to park. William Street has Aqueduct Lane at the top, has Warburton Avenue at the bottom. Thursday, and the time, was chosen so it corresponds with the time that the sweeper is going through that area to do that spot. That was picked by the commissioner of the DPW. During the day, from the two weeks that we looked, there were five cars, six cars, five cars, seven cars. It is not a huge number of cars. I do not think that is going to be a problem.

Ms. Travis: OK. Is the parking lot at the top up by the Aqueduct open for those people to park on?

Police Chief Bloomer: Yes.

Ms. Travis: It is. Is that a legal place to park? Because I heard it was state, and you cannot park there. It is open?

Police Chief Bloomer: We write tickets there. The Aqueduct cuts through it, but we clean it. I believe that is ours so yes, it is legal to park there for that hour of that day. And again, two things. Number one, this came from a William Street resident. This is not a police request or a DPW request. This came from a resident of that street. And number two, I have flyer'd the street twice and asked the residents to come here. I do not know if there is anybody else here. But it does not appear to be a concern from those residents. I think they are in favor of this, but this was a request.

Mayor Swiderski: The effect is that essentially any long-term parking car there sticks out at that point like a sore thumb.

Police Chief Bloomer: Correct.

Mayor Swiderski: It could be identified and tagged.

Police Chief Bloomer: It would be ticketed that day, and it would be gone the next week.

Ms. Travis: I just thought it was useful to say that they can go up to the top of William and park on Aqueduct and not try to come down to Warburton, which only has one side of the street to park on on Thursday mornings. OK, just wanted to get that clarified. Thank you.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Swiderski asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On MOTION of Trustee Quinlan, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski closed the Public Hearing at 8:10 p.m.