

CITY OF CORONADO

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2010

A meeting of the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) was held on Thursday, August 26, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Scott Huth, Rachel Hurst, Lou Scanlon and Ed Walton were present. Ed Hadfield represented the absent John Traylor.

1. Minutes of the July 22, 2010 Meeting – Approval – Mr. Scanlon moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Hurst seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously with Mr. Hadfield abstaining.

2. Oral Communications – None.

3. Recommendation Regarding the Request to Install 12-Minute Time-Restricted Parking Spaces Adjacent to the Building at 878 Orange Avenue – Mr. Johnson said that the Engineering Department received correspondence from Nathan Hiedo requesting that short-term parking spaces be designated adjacent to his business at 878 Orange Avenue. Mr. Hiedo cited a need, with customers complaining that there is no short-term parking available for quick trips in and out of the store. He has asked the City to provide at least two parking spaces along Orange or Ninth. Currently, in the vicinity of this business, there are two-hour metered parking zones. There are four directly in front of the business on Ninth Street and two on Orange Avenue. There is also a 30' yellow loading zone just to the west of the four metered parking spaces on Ninth Street. In addition, there are two more metered parking spaces across the street adjacent to the gas station. The reason the City has installed two-hour metered zones is that it allows enough time for people to walk the downtown and to do business. It helps with vehicle turnover. The City has found that two hours is a good amount of time for visitors. There are some shorter-term parking zones around a cleaner's, another liquor store and a pharmacy. Staff did a parking utilization study in front of Mr. Hiedo's business and noted that while parking is very utilized, it does appear that proper turnover is occurring. They didn't find any cars parked there for longer than the two-hour time limit. (The study was done on one day.) Drive-by surveys have also indicated that parking is available. Staff is aware that there may be spaces where a person might be feeding the meter, but they haven't found that that is what happens on a regular basis. The two-hour time limit is consistent along Orange Avenue throughout the downtown business area. Staff also feels that if we introduce too many short-term parking zones and intermingle them with the two-hour zones it may be confusing to people. In this case, staff recommends that no additional short-term parking be installed adjacent to this business.

Mr. Scanlon asked if specific locations for short-term parking had been identified and Mr. Johnson said that since the recommendation was to not install any short-term parking, staff did not identify specific locations for a short-term zone, but if the Committee feels that a short-term zone is appropriate for this location we could work with Mr. Hiedo to identify what would be the best suited.

Nathan Hiedo, owner of the Avenue Liquor and Wine Shop of Coronado, at Ninth and Orange, said he's been in business at this location for 13 years and he always has complaints from local customers that there is not enough space in front of the store to park and to do express shopping at his business and those close by. He thinks it would be a good idea to have short-term parking.

Mr. Hadfield asked Mr. Hiedo if he had a preference to which street he'd prefer to have short-term parking on and Mr. Hiedo replied he prefers Ninth Street.

Mr. Huth asked Mr. Hiedo if his shop has access to the parking lot behind Vons and Mr. Hiedo said some of his customers use that lot, but Vons always complains about it. He's aware that people also use the Vons lot to park while they go to the beach. He also sees people park in front of his store and put more money in the meter after two hours. He has asked Vons several times if he could have an agreement for his customers to use their lot and they said no.

Mr. Walton noted that Mr. Hiedo's written request was for four parking spaces, two on Orange and two on Ninth Street. The petition that Mr. Hiedo submitted today says that two spaces are requested. Mr. Hiedo said he owns another business in Coronado, the Bottle Shop; this is near what used to be Petco. It has two parking spaces in the back but not many people know there's parking there. The parking on Orange Avenue is always full. Mr. Huth explained that today the Committee can only discuss the Avenue Liquor request.

Ms. Hurst asked if the loading zone on Ninth Street serves Vons or is it just to serve Avenue Liquor? Mr. Hiedo said it's supposed to be for his store, but he's seen it used by trucks serving the ice cream shop and Burger Lounge.

Mr. Huth has observed that vehicle turnover in that area is not that great and he thinks there's a need for shorter-term parking on Ninth Street. Mr. Scanlon agreed that Ninth is a more viable option than Orange.

Mr. Walton said he's driven the area several times and he's always been able to find a parking spot, so he's not sure of the need. He thinks that if the Committee wants to grant a space, it should be one space to be consistent with what has been done for other businesses with short-term parking such as Park Avenue Liquor and a drycleaner's. Mr. Hadfield said there have been few times that he hasn't been able to find parking in the area; in fact, fire engines park there quite often because it's accessible when fire personnel are doing inspections or their daily shopping. However, he knows that he's seen an increase in foot traffic on that corner because of the improvements that have been made, in particular the sandwich shop. He can see a single short-term parking space on Ninth benefitting consumers because it would allow somebody to breeze in, grab whatever they need, and get going again.

Ms. Hurst says she has been in that area frequently but she has not observed a parking problem. The survey that was done seems to indicate that at the times it was checked there was always an empty parking space in the area. She said if the short-term spaces aren't enforced and people are there longer than they're signed and metered for it doesn't create any more turnover, so she's not sure that just putting a meter and a sign there actually makes the turnover any different than what it would be otherwise, unless the people parked there feel compelled to leave sooner than they would at a two-hour space. Chief Scanlon said there will always be violators; however, when someone comes up to a meter that will only go to 15 minutes, for example, it's kind of a red flag to move the car. He noted that people using that space would not be limited to people patronizing the Avenue Liquor; anyone could park there as long as they're not there more than 15 minutes.

Mr. Hadfield moved to approve one 15-minute metered parking space on Ninth Street. Mr. Hiedo was asked which space on the map provided in the staff report he would prefer and he said he'd like space number 2, which is closest to Orange Avenue and the entrance to the store. Mr. Scanlon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.