



Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives

Steven Kolenberg, Chair

Bradley Michelson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Transportation Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Vice Chair Michelson and Committee Member Reps. Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini. Absent or excused were Chair Kolenberg and Committee Member Reps. Pendell and Wallace. Also present were Jim Travers, Transportation Bureau Chief; Frank Petise, Traffic Engineer; and Mike Toma, Corporation Counsel.

Vice Chair Michelson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. T30.016	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amend § 231-15 Violation of Pedestrian Right of Way to Increase the Fine Amount. 07/10/18 – Submitted by Rep. Kolenberg 07/26/18 – No Action Taken 08/23/18 – Approved by Committee, as Amended, 7-1-0 09/04/18 – Held by Full Board 09/20/18 – Held by Committee 7-0-0 10/29/18 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 7-0-0	Approved 6-0-0

Chair Michelson opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

In response to questions from the committee members, Mr. Travers clarified that all intersections, even if unmarked, would constitute crosswalks.

A motion to approve the proposed ordinance for final adoption was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

2. T30.019	RESOLUTION <u>and approval of public hearing</u> ; Confirming and Establishing Hours of Enforcement and Fees for City-Owned Garages, Lots and Meters. 10/04/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 10/29/18 – Held by Committee	Approved, as amended, 6-0-0
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Mr. Travers reviewed the first part of the [attached handout](#) with the Committee. He discussed the proposed changes with the Committee as follows:

- These changes are based on the parking assessment performed recently and put the City in line with neighboring towns and cities
- The goal of the meter bag fee is to make the fee large enough that there is an incentive to put the meter back into commission
- The goal of the change in meter hours is to encourage people to park in garages and leave meter parking for shorter term parking
- The meter bag is left on the meter. If it is a 7 to 7 bag, a person can use the meter after the hours without paying
- The current process often enables bags to remain without being charged for; the process will be changed to a monthly credit card charge
- Parking in the City has been undervalued for a long time; the City has had the same charge for on-street and garage and lot parking. Typically, on-street parking should be more expensive for the convenience
- Based on the operational assessment of the garages, the Bell Street and Bedford Street garages should be less expensive than the Summer Place garage, which has higher demand
- The City needs to put \$15 million of investment into the garages; they should rely on the Parking Fund to bond these improvements; these increases will help support the Parking Fund
- The train lots have empty monthly spaces because the price is too low; people don't give up their spaces when they aren't using them; monthly spaces should become available for transient users if not used after 9 am.
- There is no reason to retain the 3 day limit for 24 hour parking in the garages; there is no longer the ability to park on the street for more than 5 days; people need someplace to put their cars when they are away (e.g. can't leave car on street and if it snows, the car will be towed); it will not be used in lieu of a monthly pass, because the monthly pass is cheaper
- Some commuters leave after 9, so it might make sense to change the time in the train lots to 10 am
- The cost of changing the signs is not great and the signs are old and need to be updated – e.g. they should state the hours for which a meter is required
- Non-residents can't obtain monthly train parking passes in New Canaan

A motion to amend the proposed resolution to change the proposed Commuter Permit Enforcement Hours from "After 9am" to "After 10am" was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

A motion to increase the proposed non-resident monthly permit at Summer Place from \$110 to \$150 was made, seconded and, after discussion, withdrawn.

A motion to increase the proposed non-resident monthly permit rate at the Springdale and Glenbrook Station Commuter Parking Lot from \$110 to \$150 was made, seconded and withdrawn.

A motion to increase the proposed non-resident monthly permit rate at the Springdale and Glenbrook Station Commuter Parking Lot from \$110 to \$125 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

A motion to amend the proposed Meter Rental rate for Monday – Saturday, 7am – 7pm from \$20 to \$25 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

A motion to amend the proposed Meter Rental rate for 24 hours/7 days a week from \$30 to \$40 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

A motion to approve the proposed resolution, as amended, for public hearing was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

3. [T30.020](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 231, **Approved 5-0-0**
Article 1, to Provide for New Fines For Parking Violations. **0**
10/04/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
10/29/18 – Held by Committee

Mr. Travers reviewed the second part of the [attached handout](#) with the Committee. He discussed the proposed changes with the Committee as follows:

- The City's late fee escalation is completely out of line with neighboring communities
- The State sets the maximum fine at \$250
- Defining scofflaw by plate rather than vehicle owner is antiquated and does not make sense since people don't routinely transfer plates to new vehicles
- The change to §231-8 (and 231-6 A.h) permits a penalty for parking as a scofflaw; this permits a violation officer who does not have a boot to give a ticket, this gives the owner a warning

Mr. Toma confirmed that there was no legal obstacle to these changes.

A motion to approve the proposed ordinance for publication was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

4. [T30.027](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Section 231, **Approved 5-0-0**
Article VII, Towing Fees, of The Code Of Ordinances To **0**
Provide for Towing and Booting Fees.
11/07/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Mr. Travers explained that when the booting ordinance was submitted, the City failed to submit the charge; this was an oversight.

Mr. Toma confirmed that there was no legal obstacle to these changes.

A motion to approve the proposed ordinance for publication was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

5. T30.026 ORDINANCE for publication; Deleting Code Section **Held 5-0-0**
231-53.
10/31/18 – Submitted by Rep. McMullen

Mr. Toma explained that Rep. McMullen had requested this deletion out of concern that by including this specific provision for towing in a snow emergency, someone could claim that there is no authority for towing in §231-6. Deleting this provision would actually remove the authorization to tow in a snow emergency. Under §231-6 as currently drafted, the City may only tow after 24 hours after a ticket is issued. There is no general authority to tow.

In order to delete §231-53, §231-6 would need to be amended to permit immediate towing upon the receipt of a ticket.

A motion to hold this item, pending an item being submitted to amend §231-6 to permit immediate towing, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Patterson and Spadaccini in favor).

Vice Chair Michelson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley Michelson, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).