

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 34, 2014 - AN
ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ONLY IN THE 900
BLOCK OF PRESCOTT AVENUE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET
901 TO 949 AND 902 TO 956 WHICH INCLUDES ALL THE
RESIDENCES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF APARTMENTS LOCATED
ABOVE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.

HELD:

Thursday, July 10, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Here. The purpose of
12 said public hearing is to hear the testimony
13 and discuss the following: FILE OF THE
14 COUNCIL NO. 34, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE -
15 ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ONLY IN THE 900
16 BLOCK OF PRESCOTT AVENUE ON BOTH SIDES OF
17 THE STREET 901 TO 949 AND 902 TO 956 WHICH
18 INCLUDES ALL THE RESIDENCES, WITH THE
19 EXCEPTION OF APARTMENTS LOCATED ABOVE
20 COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.

21 Our first speaker on the sign-in
22 sheet Sharon Plank.

23 MS. PLANK: I have some photos, may
24 I bring them up?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

1 MS. PLANK: The top photograph is --

2 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, would you
3 just state your name for the record?

4 MS. PLANK: Oh, sure. Sharon Plank,
5 942 Prescott Avenue, Scranton. The top
6 photo is ten to 7:00 in the morning and it
7 shows you pretty much what -- you can pass
8 them around, you can keep them. Pretty much
9 what you would expect the neighborhood to be
10 -- some people have already gone to work, a
11 lot of them are still there. The following
12 ones are the situations that we run into on
13 a daily basis. I'll step back here.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

15 MS. PLANK: The problems that we
16 have parking on Prescott Avenue have really
17 caused a decrease in our quality of life. I
18 will admit it's sporadic. You can come down
19 there some times of day there is plenty of
20 parking, you can come other times of day and
21 you cannot find a place to park on the
22 block. The worst times for me, and I'm up
23 on the upper block closer to the retail
24 establishment, any time at lunch time. I
25 used to come home for lunch, I don't

1 anymore. I have an hour until I drive home,
2 finding someplace to park, which sometimes
3 is all the way up on the 1,000 block of
4 Prescott, walk back, I don't have time to
5 eat before I need to get back in my car and
6 go back to work.

7 Saturday mornings I like to do my
8 grocery shopping, the only way that I can
9 have a parking place is if I illegally place
10 my orange cones out and hold my parking
11 place.

12 My alternative is to double park and
13 hope that nobody hits me or my cars as I'm
14 unloading my groceries. It really has
15 impacted the quality of the our life. It's
16 a safety issue. Property values. How do
17 you show a house on a weekend when there is
18 no place to park? You are going to drive up
19 the street, you are going to see there is,
20 you know, a perspective purchaser is going
21 to see the lack of parking and say, "I don't
22 want to live here."

23 I personally know three families who
24 have left the 900 block of Prescott because
25 of the parking issues. They were renters,

1 they have that flexibility. Those of us who
2 own our home don't have that flexibility and
3 it is something that we face just about on a
4 daily basis.

5 But between the local restaurants,
6 the bars, the yoga studio, various other --
7 I know the lower portion has trouble with
8 the school parking, I don't think it's too
9 much to ask to be able to park on our block.
10 I understand permit parking isn't going to
11 say you can park right in front of your
12 home, but it does hopefully insure that we
13 can park within a reasonable distance of our
14 home.

15 My husband, who is here, works
16 second shift, he gets home at 11:30 at
17 night. There have been occasions when he
18 has not had a place to park and has to walk
19 at night back to our house, hope nothing
20 happens to his car until the next morning
21 when he can move it back to where we are.

22 So I hope you will really consider
23 this, consider our quality of life, and help
24 us out here. Thanks, guys.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Plank.

1 Karen Clark.

2 MS. PLANK: That was me. Oh, Karen
3 Clark.

4 MS. CLARK: My name is Karen Clark.
5 I'm from the 900 block of Prescott, I'm a
6 the other end, 911 is up by the school. I
7 just recently retired. I worked at Mercy
8 Hospital for years the night shift, and
9 especially when the weather was bad I would
10 walk to work because by the time I would get
11 home from work I wouldn't have a spot, you
12 know, it would be taken. Or if you shoveled
13 a spot out it was gone by the time you'd get
14 home. This past winter was terrible.

15 My daughter, who is here, just went
16 grocery stopping just for a few minutes, we
17 didn't put anything in the spot that we had
18 shoveled out, ran to the store, came back
19 and we had no where to go. Couldn't go
20 through the court because it wasn't plowed.
21 I was actually in tears because I didn't
22 know what to do. Where am I going to go? I
23 can't take somebody else's spot and had
24 groceries and that's how it's been, and then
25 it is worse when school is session because

1 we have the teachers and the parents picking
2 up their children, hey will come maybe half
3 early to get a spot so don't go shopping
4 when it's time for school to come out
5 because you won't get a spot when you get
6 home. It really is terrible sometimes and I
7 just hope this is passed. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Clark.
9 Nadine Sims.

10 MS. SIMS: Good evening. I live at
11 936 Prescott, I'm Sharon's neighbor, and I
12 agree with everything she says. We all have
13 that problem. My granddaughter recently
14 moved out, because she lived with me,
15 because she was frustrated not be able to
16 park and she worked -- and she would get
17 home also late at night. She is 25 years
18 old, she is not going to walk a block in the
19 dark to come home to park her car. It's not
20 safe for a man, you know, anyone to park
21 that distance and it's frustrating. I know
22 my apprehension when I'm going out shopping
23 or anything I'm coming around the corner, I
24 pull around Myrtle Street and if I turn the
25 corner I hope I have a place to park when

1 I'm taking my groceries up and we all have
2 that problem of double parking when you're
3 bringing your groceries and, you know, it's
4 not nice and it's not comfortable, our
5 quality of life has changed. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Sims.
7 Ozzie Quinn.

8 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, 116 Master
9 Street, Hill section. President of the Hill
10 Neighborhood Association. In May we had on
11 our agenda this 900 block of Prescott
12 Avenue, parking permits, and we have more
13 than 50 people in attendance who unanimously
14 approved the permit parking knowing the
15 problems on Prescott Avenue.

16 I would be remiss if I didn't thank
17 Councilman Gaughan for riding herd on this
18 and hope this will clear up the mess that's
19 there right now. Thank you.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
22 Is there anyone else who wishes to
23 address speak to this issue?

24 If you could just state your name
25 since I don't have it.

1 MR. JANSACK: Yes, Joseph Jansack,
2 917 Prescott Avenue. I'd just like to few a
3 little opposition to the parking issue. I'm
4 particularly opposed to it. I could only
5 fit one car in front of my house. In my
6 aspect I can't -- it wouldn't be prudent for
7 me to buy a permit where half the block is
8 going to park in front of my house anyway
9 and it doesn't bother me. I could park in
10 the rear, and that's just me, I understand a
11 lot of these people here can't. But again,
12 if I had people over it also poses another
13 issue for me.

14 Another issue I have with it as well
15 is the enforcement. I read in the city
16 ordinance that it's a \$25 fine. I know
17 nobody could remove the vehicle if it's
18 parked in the spot, I don't think it's going
19 to be a feasible solution to the problem
20 there given the fact that the traffic --
21 even though we do have a couple of
22 apartments there that the businesses are
23 mostly in and out, the grocery store, the
24 yoga studio and also the Mansour's Market on
25 the corner of the street. They move very

1 quickly to enforce that ordinance.

2 And particularly for me, I live on
3 the other side of the block, a lot of that
4 stuff really doesn't effect me. Again, I'm
5 not saying that everyone else doesn't have
6 an issue, I just wanted to voice the
7 opposite side of parking permits.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Is anyone else who
11 wishes to speak? Thank you for your
12 participation. Council will take all of
13 comments under advisement and move forward
14 on the legislation. This public hearing is
15 adjourned.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER