

SPECIAL MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL February 2, 2009

President Rodriguez called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Members Bachelor, Buxton, Jeffries, King, Larmore, Scott and Sell answered roll call. Also present were Mayor LaRue, Safety Service Director Hazel, and Planning & Community Development Director Bryan.

CM Sell made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM King. Roll call vote 7-0, Aye.

NEW BUSINESS: (First Reading)

2-09-R: A Resolution approving the permanent pavement width for the Main Street Reconstruction Project, and declaring an emergency. Director Bryan presented information regarding the sidewalk width availability per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §4511.69 related to pavement width. He reported the amount of sidewalk width that would be given up to accommodate parallel parking and 30°, 35°, 40° and 45° angled parking. He also gave an analysis of parking style options with the comparison of existing parking spaces and reduced spaces to meet ORC. The meeting this evening is to determine the width of Main Street, not decide on the style of parking. It is, although, important to not make the street too narrow and thus limit the parking style options. Council members discussed the various widths and parking styles before opening the discussion up to the audience members. CM Bachelor stated that any decisions made regarding the Main Street design will affect the downtown for the next 50 to 100 years. We need to look at the long-term vision of the downtown.

Audience questions and comments included:

- Julie Rose of Wilson Shoes asked what the width of the parking spaces would be. A majority of their clientele is elderly, and it is crucial that the parking accommodates them. Current angled spaces are at an 11' width. ORC minimum width is 8.5', but the proposed angled parking drawings have a 10' space width.
- How much sidewalk width will be given up? 6" of sidewalk would be given up with parallel parking. Angled parking will give up between 1'6" and 3'9" depending on the degree. An 18"-24" overhang from vehicles on angled parking also needs to be remembered.
- Deb Borns commented that she agrees with CM Bachelor's comments on the long-term effects this decision will make. Once the sidewalk width is given up, we will not be able to get it back. During a visit to a neighboring community, she found that their 10' sidewalk width did not allow for two pedestrians to easily walk side by side.
- Bob Heitkamp stated he conducted a poll, and the majority of business owners voted to keep the downtown parking the way it is. He stated that in his opinion, he would rather have the smaller width of the sidewalk to get more storefront parking spaces. Store owners and customers need to be given the opportunity to vote on what they want. This decision will have a direct effect on their businesses.
- Theresa Howick voiced her fear that council will hold an emergency meeting and vote on the parking without the audience being able to voice their feelings. President Rodriguez stated that by law, notifications of all meetings are sent to the news media to be publicized.
- Vance Nation commented that he feels parallel parking will make the downtown look aesthetically pleasing. The buffer zone will help with the safety of backing into the space.

Additional municipal downtown parking lots would help with the parking situation. Director Bryan stated that administration is looking at sites for parking lots. Two options being explored would allow for an additional 60 spaces. Other options are also being looked at. Extra lighting and security cameras would be utilized to help prevent vandalism.

- Nancy Otis commented that the proper design of the downtown is crucial for its future and she is appreciative of Council giving the public the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions of the downtown parking decisions.

Director Bryan reported that the signage at the Market and Ash Street intersection is being looked at to improve on diverting semi truck traffic off Main Street.

CM Sell made a motion to amend Section One of the Resolution to designate the width “from back of curb to back of curb”. CM Bachelor seconded the motion. Roll vote 7-0 Aye. CM Sell made a motion to pass the Resolution to second reading with the street width designation of 70.5 feet. CM Larmore seconded the motion. Roll call vote 6-1 Aye, CM Jeffries voted nay.

President Rodriguez encouraged residents and business/property owners to continue talking with Council members on this issue.

President Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Joan S. Wurster, Interim Council Clerk