

Minutes
February 8th 2005a
Council Work Session

**Councilmember Miles from ward one chairs this work session.
Mayor Knedler and Councilmember Briones are absent.**

**Attendee's Councilmember Malinda Miles, Carol Gandee, Intisar
Haamid, Assistant City Manger James Booth and City Manager Jennelle
Wallace**

**Amendments to the agenda from Councilmember Gandee with 3
additional items.**

Discussion Items

- 1. N.Z.I. Construction Issue/34th Street Repavement**
- 2. Towing of Vehicles from Private Property**
- 3. Support letter from Mayor & Council requesting funding for
Emergency Preparedness Commission from Giant and CVS.**
- 4. Amend resolution S.E.P.C. to add 3 members t Commission and
change the names from Senior Emergency Preparedness
Commission.**
- 5. Discuss one personnel issue**

**Motion to amend agenda to add item #5
Councilmember Gandee
Seconded Councilmember Haamid**

**Councilmember Haamid: agrees with Mayor Knedler on no parking in
the 4200 block of 34th Street.**

**Councilmember Gandee: Also agrees with Mayor Knedler's idea, it
affects fewer people. She would like to schedule a public hearing.**

Suggested options:

- 1. Do not move forward on NZI's suggestion**
- 2. Leave as is, ask residents to park in other areas for 2 blocks.**
- 3. Need to have a public hearing in March and send out written notification to the residents affected.**
- 4. Public Hearing scheduled for March 22, 2005 and the Work Session will follow immediately after public hearing.**

Public Hearing:

Tony Cochas is concerned about removing parking. It affects 3 neighbors who have no other parking means. Redirecting the traffic flow will not address traffic flow in other parts of the city.

Councilmember Miles:

Some portions of 34th Street are jointly owned.

Lyn Lawrence:

Before the public hearing you need to decide what to do with those blocks on 34th street that have problems with striping. We could look at near by communities that have one-way streets throughout their city and try to drive through and see how difficult it is. Some of the other communities have eliminated pass through traffic by cutting out two-way traffic on a number of those blocks. To eliminate 34th street as a thoroughfare between Rhode Island Ave. and Queens Chapel Rd. a very effective way would be to make that 2.5 block strip from Taylor Street past Tilden and past Upshur coming west to the Upshur going west from 34th street. If you make 34th street only north between Taylor and Upshur to the west it would eliminate much of the traffic coming from Queens Chapel apartments and Chillum who want to go directly south to Rhode Island Ave. They will think twice about zipping through. Eliminating parking is a good temporary solution. Council should look at a long-term solution.

Councilmember Gandee:

We need to also look at the effect of buses, fire trucks, and other emergency vehicles. A decision won't be made at the public hearing.

Councilmember Miles:

Where is the traffic going that is being redirected? We need a bigger discussion on this other than safety.

Towing of Vehicles

Councilmember Gandee:

We have had problems with coordination between Code Enforcement and the Police Department. I wanted to take a look at this and see how can we do it better. How often are vehicles towed?

Code Enforcement Officer Alex Brown:

Every 2 months residents are given 10 days to comply. Sometimes an extension is given for up to a week. A municipal infraction is also given.

Code Enforcement Officer Tulip Nicol

Towing also depends on the number of vehicles not in compliance and whether the owners are complying. There is a problem with Henry's Towing.

There is only (1) dispatcher at Bladensburg who is handling requests for Mount Rainier and Bladensburg. Code Enforcement provides a list to Bladensburg with VIN #'s.

Councilmember Gandee:

What does Henry's have to do with VIN#'s

Code Enforcement Officer Tulip Nicol

Vin numbers provide Code Enforcement with addresses of the owners. Only 3 vehicles can be impounded at one time. A report must be prepared at the time of impoundment.

Chief Keeney:

Code Enforcement must identify vehicles to be towed.

Councilmember Miles:

Would like to see policy and procedures written and submitted to the council.

Code Enforcement was asked if their radios are in good working condition.

A meeting with Code Enforcement and the Police should be scheduled and followed through.

The Council is asking for policy and procedures to be written and submitted to the Council to ensure that all residents are treated fairly.

A letter is needed from the Mayor & Council to support the SEC letter asking Businesses to make donations.

Amend resolution on Senior Emergency Preparedness Commission to say Emergency Preparedness Commission and appoint new members. Current members are Pastor Gerald Grandson, John Hines, Ruth Sandy and Leonard Joyner.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace: Will redraft for next public meeting.

Motion to adjourn: 7:55

All in favor

Vote 3-0 to go closed session