



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Transit and Parking Commission

*Deborah Ganaway
Alderman Raymond DeHahn
John Heckenlively
Mark Kowbel
Kristin Niemiec*

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 301

Call To Order

PRESENT: 5 - Deborah Ganaway, Raymond DeHahn, John Heckenlively, Mark Kowbel and Kristin Niemiec

Also Present: Al Stanek, Mark Yehlen, Tom Eeg, John Magee, Richard Kemper

Approval of Minutes for the July 27, 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the July 27, 2011 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Parking System Business

1. [11-6747](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to discuss Uptown parking issues.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: The communication from Kristen Niemiec be received and filed and the request to post "Tow-Away Zone" signs on the posts adjacent to the five monthly rental spaces in the City parking lot behind 1505 Washington Avenue be honored. Although it was assumed that existing parking enforcement ordinances would be sufficient to enforce "Tow-Aways" for those spaces, any required ordinance changes would also be recommended.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Additional business activity in the 1500 block of Washington Avenue has generated a significant increase in parkers ignoring "Reserved at All Times" signs in the lot behind area businesses. Long term renters are not necessarily interested in getting violating cars towed, but hope that additional signage will deter parking abuses.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

2. [11-6569](#)

Subject: Communication from Lee Jaramillo requesting reduced pricing on the 24/7 rental of eight (8) parking spaces in the Park & Water parking lot (418 Water St.)

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 06-29-11: Defer

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Request for a reduced rate has been withdrawn.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

3. [11-6748](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager submitting the final version of the City of Racine Parking Utility Financial Analysis Report.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

Commissioners received the final report and discussed the Executive Summary that calls for a program of increased parking rates and forfeitures beginning in 2013 and a further analysis of the potential to eliminate parking meters that are not generating significant revenue.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Kowbel to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

4. [11-6749](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting the review of the 2012 Racine Parking Utility budget.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Approve the 2012 Racine Parking Utility budget.

Fiscal Note: Parking Utility Capital Improvement funds dedicated to an accelerated parking ramp preventative maintenance program as recommended by the City's engineering consultant will have no impact on the property tax levy.

The proposed 2012 Parking Utility budget was approved as presented.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Kowbel to approve and receive and file.

Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

Transit System Business

5. [11-6838](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting authorization to pursue a CMAQ grant to replace 1997 vintage transit vehicles.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Approve the request to pursue a CMAQ grant to replace 1997 vintage transit vehicles.

Fiscal Note: Actual award of the grant as presented will require action to amend the City's Capital Improvements Program budget for 2014. Amount to be determined by grant award.

The Public Works Committee reviewed a similar direct referral on August 30, 2011, and forwarded it to the Common Council for favorable action. Approval by both a Standing Committee and the Common Council is required before September 13, 2011.

Motion made by Kowbel, seconded by Heckenlively to approve the application and file the correspondence. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

6. [11-6751](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting the review of the 2011 WisDOT Mass Transit Operating Grant Agreement for the Belle Urban System (BUS).

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: The Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Racine.

Fiscal Note: City of Racine to receive \$2,384,486 in Federal funding and \$2,049,453 in State funding in support of Belle Urban System and comparable para-transit 2011 operations.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to approve and forward to the Common Council for authorization. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

7. [11-6752](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting the review of the 2011 WisDOT Mass Transit Operating Grant Agreement for Racine Commuter.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on

07-31-11: The Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Racine.

Fiscal Note: A total of \$714,497 in 2011 State mass transit operating assistance will be "passed through" the Belle Urban System budget to support the operations of commuter bus service operating between Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Kowbel to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

8. [11-6750](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting the review of the 2011 and previous years' Wisconsin Coach Lines Racine Commuter Operating agreements.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Approval of the 2011 and previous years' contracts for 2009 and 2010 with the understanding that beginning in 2012 this contract is to be competitively bid.

Fiscal Note: N/A

This contractual relationship has existed since the early 1990's and has required an annual renewal of this operating agreement between the City and Wisconsin Coach Lines. No record of approved agreements for 2009 or 2010 have been archived or recorded with the State. Recognizing that previous years' funds have already been dispersed and 2011 service is being provided, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has indicated the current operating agreement can only be approved through this year and provision of this service will need to be competitively bid and a potential commitment of a "local share" of an operating deficit may be required.

Motion made by Niemiec, seconded by Heckenlively to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

9. [11-6756](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to review the 2011 Belle Urban System Town of Yorkville operating agreement.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: The Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Racine.

Fiscal Note: The Town of Yorkville will pay up to \$6,637 for 2011 transit service provided in the town.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

10. [11-6753](#) **Subject:** Communication from the BUS Transit Manager submitting the July BUS Monthly Operating Report.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

11. [11-6754](#) **Subject:** Communication from the BUS Transit Manager wishing to discuss a proposed BUS management reorganization plan.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

The proposed 2012 BUS budget calls for a reduction in service of approximately 10% and First Transit has been asked to produce a plan that would eliminate management personnel costs in 2012. The proposal to potentially eliminate a BUS management position was reviewed and discussed. No official action required.

Motion made by DeHahn, seconded by Kowbel to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

12. [11-6755](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting to review the proposed 2012 BUS budget.

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 07-31-11: Tentatively approve the 2012 BUS budget.

Fiscal Note: 2012 City of Racine projected local share to be \$1,120,269.

Commissioners acknowledged the significant impact of State operating assistance cuts on the proposed 2012 BUS budget and reluctantly approved of the proposed service cuts that are designed to reduce expenses by 10% reduction in State transit aid in 2012.

Proposed cuts projected to be implemented January 1, 2012 include:

- Elimination of trolley service.*
- Ending Saturday evening bus service with the last buses leaving the Transit Center at 6:10 P.M. as opposed to the current 10:10 P.M.*
- Ending weekday late evening service with the last buses leaving the Transit Center at 9:10 P.M. as opposed to the current 11:40 P.M.*
- Eliminating all Sunday bus service. Currently 5 of 9 routes provide hourly service between 10:10 A.M. and 6:40 P.M.*

- *Eliminating door-to-door para-transit service on Saturday evenings, weekday late evenings and all day Sunday to correspond with the above changes in the fixed-route schedule.*
- *Reducing management and maintenance positions.*
- *Reducing City staff expenses charged to transit.*

Recommended For Approval

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact Engineering, 636-9166, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.