

**CITY OF ANNA MARIA
CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 8, 2003
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER (6:02)

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL: Deputy Commission Chair Chuck Webb, Commissioner Linda Cramer
Commissioner Duke Miller, Commissioner Tom Aposporos

Absent with excuse: Mayor SueLynn

Also present: City Traffic Engineer Mark Mueller (BDI), Acting Mayor John Quam,
City Attorney Jim Dye, Deputy Sheriff Sgt. John Kenney, Administrative Assistant
AnnMarie Thorpe, Minutes Clerk Sylvie Reichmann

Press: Sun, Islander, Herald

**1. REVIEW AND VOTE ON A PARKING PLAN FOR THE BEACH
ACCESS ZONE**

Deputy Commission Chair Chuck Webb asked for comments from the Commission. Commissioners Linda Cramer and Duke Miller inquired about the ordinance being drafted. City Attorney Jim Dye said the ordinance being drafted contained the two alternatives discussed at the previous meeting, but was unavailable for discussion at this meeting. The City Traffic Engineer Mark Mueller gave an update and said the sign inventory was almost completed, and reported that Baskerville-Donovan (BDI) was in the process of reviewing plats and documents on the rights-of-way, with a view to identify areas of concentration for the work assignment. Commissioner Duke Miller requested a copy of Work Assignment #7.

Commissioner Linda Cramer asked when the data would be ready for the Commissioners to review at a work session. The Traffic Engineer said this was as yet uncertain, and this was a dynamic process, and depended on how many additional areas are brought to BDI for examination. Commissioner Cramer asked if the City Engineer had had the opportunity to review current City ordinances relative to parking. Mr. Mueller replied that this was ongoing. Deputy Commission Chair Webb said one of the activities he understood to be ongoing was the determination of how many parking spaces were available on each street. Commissioner Cramer confirmed that the Engineer could prepare target dates for various portions of the work assignment for the Commission's review.

Commissioner Aposporos observed that there appeared to be two or three weeks to wait until data relevant to this evening's considerations would be received from the Engineer, and also that the ordinance would not be ready for consideration for a week or two. He suggested adjourning the meeting and rescheduling the

discussion for May 28th, 2003, when more information would be available to the Commission. City Attorney Jim Dye indicated that the framework of the ordinance was complete, but the substance and the list of parking areas was not yet included in the ordinance.

Acting Mayor John Quam said the first two alternatives had been thoroughly examined and discussed by the Commission, and that he would like 'c.' to be included as an alternative in the draft ordinance. Commissioner Duke Miller said 'c.' should be considered and a vote should be taken as to whether to include it in the draft ordinance.

There was consensus to discuss item 'c.'

a. Resident Only Parking With Permits

b. Resident and Non-Resident Parking With Permits

c. Alternate Street Parking Every Other Month

Acting Mayor John Quam confirmed that those present had received the material submitted by Mayor SueLynn. He said that on Palm Avenue recently there were 23 cars parked illegally. He said that in a month, many cars park on Palm. With option 'c.', parking would be cut by 50% in this area. He said he was in favor of this plan because the other two have legal ramifications. Acting Mayor Quam said it was most fair, easy for the Sheriffs to enforce, and that he believed this was the compromise the Commission had been looking for. He said it adhered to the vision statement indicating that Anna Maria is a quiet, friendly community.

Commissioner Linda Cramer said she did not support the plan, and recommended looking for compromise elsewhere, including the public parking concept. She noted the information for that alternate plan was not yet available. The Commissioner said she would support focusing on problem areas identified by the City Traffic Engineer's data, and passing an ordinance accordingly. Commissioner Cramer said she was also supportive of a resident-only permit process. She said the consultant from St. Petersburg could be helpful in giving an overview of the city and offering additional strategies for compromise.

Commissioner Duke Miller noted that in the Mayor's write-up, the seven criteria listed were refutable. 1) even handed and fair: Commissioner Miller said this did not stop the abuse of properties involved, although it would be reduced by 50%. He said 100% of the burden remained solely with the people in the zone; 2) protects property rights of homeowners: He said it did not do this at all; 3) enforceable: Commissioner Miller said the

process of changing around signs would only confuse parkers; 4) considerate of impact on commerce and the Community Center: agreed; 5) communication: all but for the confusion of changing signs, and 6) future stresses: Commissioner Miller said the stress from the East County could not be assessed during a three month trial.

Deputy Commission Chair Chuck Webb said open street residents in this scenario would sustain a high impact during their months. He said it would make more sense to spread the parking out.

Commissioner Tom Aposporos said his experience had been for alternate side parking, not alternate street parking. He said alternate side parking did remove the burden from property owners having parking outside their homes all of the time. The Commissioner said that when parking on the beach access streets is restricted, the question will become where the overflow visitors will begin to park. He said the next question would be which areas would be affected by an ordinance such as this, and therefore the Traffic Engineer's data was essential. He agreed that the Commission should choose to add the alternative to the draft ordinance, especially with alternate side parking as a possibility.

Deputy Mayor Quam said that the Sandbar parking lot is the favorite area for parking overflow. Commissioner Cramer said the City Hall parking lot is also available, although limited.

Commissioner Linda Cramer said the Code and Statute provides for limitations of parking spaces. She said if proper standard parking spaces were inventoried, it would be apparent that the City does not have adequate rights-of-way within the residential community to accommodate the public. The Commissioner said she thought the resident permit would work well, and recommended that if turnarounds were put into beach access streets, it would improve parking accommodation. Commissioner Cramer added that the permit plan allowed interior residents to enjoy parking near the beach.

Acting Mayor John Quam said 'b.' provides ability for a non-resident who can afford it to park in the right-of-way, and said he thought this was discriminatory. Commissioner Cramer said that she had researched and confirmed that the Sanibel plan was not discriminatory, and added that designating public parking areas could add relief.

MOTION: Commissioner Linda Cramer moved to eliminate the alternative street parking option.

Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: Commissioner Tom Aposporos moved that the alternate street parking concept and the alternate side of the street concept be included in the Commission's considerations. Commissioner Duke Miller seconded for the purpose of discussion.

Vote: One Aye. Three Nays. Motion failed.

Commissioner Aposporos said he thought that the Commission should consider alternative 'c.', pending the data to be provided by the Traffic Engineer. He said time limits for designated parking could be included. He recommended that in the future, the Commission should continue to practice seconding motions for the purpose of discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A 28-year resident asked what it would take for the Commission to make a decision. He said the City should have resident parking only, with special arrangements for businesses. He said he was tired of the trash on the beach.

Another resident said Commissioner Cramer's point that law enforcement could enforce existing City Codes and state Statutes was valid. He agreed that the inventory of standard parking spots was important. He said he wanted to see the Sheriff's Deputies writing tickets. Sgt. Kenney said 140 tickets were written last month, and the department was enforcing the ordinance as it is currently written, and has pursued several tickets in court.

A resident said with options 'a.' and 'b.', problem areas would continue to be problem areas regardless of which was picked. Another resident said a previous parking committee had developed an alternative similar to 'c.' She said she would be offended at having to pay for a resident parking permit. She added that handicapped parking needed to be included. The resident recommended considering option 'c.' She added that the visioning statement reference to an open community should be adhered to. She said the permit process would be an unnecessary additional expense for the taxpayers.

A local business owner said he was concerned that the Commission might not want to consider alternative 'c.' He said resident-only parking would create a bureaucracy and was discriminatory against out of state visitors. He noted that Sanibel already had large parking lots, unlike Anna Maria. The business owner said he resented the characterization of visitors as trash producing slobs. He recommended the Commission consider 'c.', noting that plans 'a.' and 'b.' would shift the problem to other areas of the city. Another business owner asked that alternatives be kept open until the data is back from the Traffic Engineer.

A resident said the beaches are the heritage of all citizens in the country, and said she had a problem with an elitist system. She recommended that any solution be enforced equally. Another resident said that if item 'c.' is removed from the agenda, it would preclude the Traffic Engineer from providing useful data.

A resident said she felt that parking should be equitable. She said that when the parking

lots for any government agency are full, overflow must go elsewhere. She said she believed alternate street parking was not equitable

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Duke Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Tom Aposporos.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Baird
City Clerk

Date Approved: 6/26/03