

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 20, 2015

A Meeting of the Police Committee of Milford City Council was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware on Monday, April 20, 2015.

PRESIDING: Chairman Douglas Morrow Sr.

IN ATTENDANCE: Police Committee Members S. Allen Pikus and Katrina Wilson  
Police Chief Keith Hudson and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

Chairman Morrow called the Police Committee Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

*Parking Issue-Downtown Milford*

Chairman Morrow turned the meeting over to Chief Hudson.

Chief Hudson informed the committee that he met with Chuck Stanko, Co-Owner of Dolce and Councilman Pikus earlier this month regarding a parking issue. There have been a number of parking-related problems because of the varied parking time limit signs throughout the downtown area. Currently some areas allow only one-hour parking, some allow two-hour parking and some are unrestricted. He believes that applying the same time limit would eliminate the confusion.

Mr. Stanko volunteered to survey twenty-three businesses in the downtown area. Each business was asked to select one of the following four options:

- Two-Hour Parking
- Two-Hour Parking Monday thru Friday
- Two-Hour Parking Monday thru Saturday
- Two-Hour Parking Monday thru Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The majority of the businesses (nine) preferred the two-hour parking option from Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. As a result, Chief Hudson recommends that Walnut Street beginning at Jesus Love Temple to Northwest Front be designated accordingly and that all current signs be removed and new signs installed stating the new restriction. He emphasized this would make much more sense and create less confusion not only for his officers, but the public in general.

The police committee agreed that consistency should solve the issue.

Mr. Pikus then explained that several businesses dropped the survey off to him; both Davis, Bowen and Friedel and the Marvel Agency had no preference because neither was open on Saturday. However, he agrees with Chief Hudson that some continuity is needed and hopes this takes care of the problem. He said it is very confusing adding that there are different signs at each end of the street and no one knows which one applies.

Mr. Morrow agrees it should be consistent. He asked what area is being considered. Chief Hudson suggests Walnut Street from Causey Avenue to Northwest Front Street on both sides of Walnut. The exception would be any handicapped area.

Chief Hudson also noted that he will contact DelDOT to get their approval due to this being a state-maintained roadway.

Mr. Morrow asked if this should include Southeast Front and Southwest Front Streets; it was confirmed the only problem appears to be in the downtown area on Walnut Street.

Chief Hudson stated that should council agree with this recommendation, he will contact Street Superintendent Tim Webb and ask him to walk this area with him. The chief agrees with Mr. Stanko there are several parking spaces and curbs that are painted and adds to the confusion. However, most of those areas contain old, faded paint which was probably the result of some problem years ago and there is no reason for it today. He feels the best way to address that is for the chief and the street superintendent to walk that area to determine how this can be done.

Mr. Pikus agreed noting that the one spot south of the antique shop is very confusing and he believes it should be a handicapped space though that requires an official sign. Chief Hudson explained that any designated handicapped space must contain an official upright sign identifying the space is reserved for handicapped use only. The chief said there is a handicapped parking sign though drivers are unsure which space it is meant for. He said what makes it worse is the curbing north of the sign is painted blue and there appears to be two to three unmarked spaces though they are not legally lined. As a result, it is difficult to determine which space is handicapped though he believes it was meant for the space before or north of the sign.

Regardless, the spaces are not properly lined according to Chief Hudson.

Mr. Pikus said at one time it was a driveway and because it was too narrow it was closed off from the street. It has been used as an enclosed walkway since.

Ms. Wilson has no objection adding it is always smarter to be consistent so that everyone is on the same page. She emphasized the importance of educating people so that they are aware of the new restriction.

Chief Hudson agreed stating that it will take some time before people are fully aware of the new time limit and that will be taken into consideration after the signs are installed.

Ms. Wilson moved to recommend to council that the parking on Walnut Street from Causey Avenue to Northwest Front Street be restricted to two-hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and that Chief Hudson review the area with the City Street Superintendent to ensure all signs will be consistent, seconded by Mr. Pikus. Motion carried.

Chief Hudson said he will also contact DelDOT to ensure they are in agreement.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Morrow adjourned the Police Committee Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, MMC  
City Clerk/Recorder