

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: Kenneth C. Pennoyer, Director of Business Management  
Brenda Jones, Parking Superintendent  
Brian Curran, Chief of Police  
Kumar Neppali, Engineering Services Manager

SUBJECT: Response to Petition to Extend Sunday Parking Hours

DATE: October 28, 2009

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to respond to a petition requesting an extension of Sunday parking on Franklin Street from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On June 8, 2009, Alan Rimer submitted a petition requesting extension of the Sunday parking hours from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on behalf of four churches in the downtown area. Mr. Rimer is a member of the Chapel of the Cross parish. In the petition, he notes that a number of Chapel of the Cross parishioners' cars have been rightfully ticketed and even towed on Sunday after they exceeded the 2:00 p.m. deadline for moving their cars off Franklin Street.

Chapel of the Cross surveyed the other churches, University Presbyterian, University United Methodist and University Baptist, and found that they had similar issues. Based on the survey, they determined that quite a few parishioners eat at Franklin Street restaurants after church and often their meal time extends beyond the current 2:00 p.m. parking "curfew." As represented in their petition, all of the churches are committed to remaining downtown and being a vibrant member of our urban and university community. They believe that adding 1.5 hours to the parking limits would encourage more people to eat downtown without the fear of being ticketed and would show the Town's appreciation for these four historic churches.

Town staff discussed the consequences of extending the time for allowed parking and the following issue was identified:

With the end of daylight savings time and darkness falling earlier, there could be safety concerns with extending the time beyond 3:00 p.m. This is due to the length of time needed to clear the travel lanes and the potential for conflicting priorities for Police personnel who are providing enforcement on Sundays. For this reason, we believe that the extension of time should be limited to no more than one hour. Also, with respect to availability of parking in the downtown on Sundays, the Town provides free parking in the Wallace Deck all day Sunday. There is usually capacity available in the Wallace Deck throughout the day on Sunday's. Hours for Sunday on-

street parking in the East Franklin Street area are established by ordinance and changes to these hours would require an amended ordinance be approved by the Council.

Town records indicate that about 230 Travel Lane violations are issued annually after 2:00 p.m. on Franklin Street. Extension of the hours for allowed parking on Franklin Street may result in a reduction in the number of violations issued and subsequently a slight reduction in enforcement revenue. Labor and other costs to upgrade existing signs would be minimal.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend that the Council enact the attached ordinance amendment that would change on-street parking regulations to authorize the extension of Sunday parking hours from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Petition (p. 5).
2. Map (p. 6).