

DERBY MUNICIPAL PARKING AUTHORITY

Minutes

(meeting taped)

Special meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2015 in the Municipal Parking garage.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

By roll call, members present: Anthony Dulla, Susan Baum, William Boland and Cheryl Pereiras. Richard Bartholomew was excused.

Parking Authority Director Leo Moscato was present and Bookkeeper Angela Borrelli did not attend.

PUBLIC PORTION: Mr. Moscato took the opportunity to speak. He noted that around thirteen years ago the City was overseeing the garage and an engineering study at that time showed serious concerns. As the garage serves a limited amount of the residents, there was little interest in the garage. Things were overlooked or forgotten. Now we have a Parking Authority that has brought stability to the financial oversight of the day to day activities. The issue is that we have a building in disrepair, not that we have an Authority in disrepair. Members have suggested that costs could be reduced by using City resources. This was done before and resulted in late payments to vendors. While Public Works Director Ron Culmo often assisted the Authority, the matter of snow removal and general maintenance would have placed a greater demand than they could effectively support while still accomplishing their citywide responsibilities. Regarding the bookkeeping, an annual audit is done in conjunction with the City and there has been positive conclusions expressed by the auditor. Reverting back to the previous practices would be counterproductive. The need is to find the funding for the reconstruction of the garage. What we have here is a good business with a flawed building.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE OF THE PARKING AUTHORITY:

Mr. Dulla stated that he spoke with Corporation Counsel and it was his opinion that only the Board of Alderman can disband the Authority. The Authority can not disband itself. While the oversight would change if the City took over, Mr. Dulla felt that the day to day operations would continue as they currently exist and it would be unlikely that a change would effect the staff. The discussion is that the building has reached the end of its useful life. The Authority does not have the money to reconstruct the structure so the City needs to speak to that capital expense. The City has explored grant funding and other financial resources but there is no viable resolution available at this time. The Authority is but one major repair away from becoming insolvent. Moving the operations back to the City could result in savings. Case in point, snow removal this year has already cost \$4,000. Could that have been done by the Public Works?

Members concurred that it would make sense to disband the Authority at this time. They did feel that they, as the Parking Authority, could speak to the condition of the building as no inspection has been done since the emergency repairs to offer a determination of the current status. They strongly suggested that an assessment of the structure be made by the City and should the structure remain open that annual inspections should be made as well as emergency inspections, if warranted. They felt that there remains a need for daily oversight and felt the current staffing has performed well. As the Authority has limited financial resource, the assessment costs would be best borne by the City.

Motion made by Anthony Dulla and second by Susan Baum. Move to recommend to the full Board of Alderman that the Derby Parking Authority be disbanded and that that city should take over the operations. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Susan Baum and second by William Boland. Move that the meeting be adjourned at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully prepared,

Karen Kemmesies

Karen Kemmesies, secretary

“These minutes are subject to the Authority’s approval at their next scheduled meeting.”