

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
PROVISIONS OF THE WEST HARTFORD CODE OF ORDINANCES DEALING
WITH PARKING METERS**

November 12, 1991 Council Chambers 999,1100,577

President Sandy F. Klebanoff called the hearing to order at 8:26 p.m.

Present were Councilors Linda I. French, Tom Johnson, Sandy F. Klebanoff, Charles R. Matties, Madeline S. McKernan, Joseph A. O'Brien, Larry Price, Fran Reynolds and Andy Schatz.

President Klebanoff: Mr. Feldman does the administration have a brief presentation?

Barry M. Feldman, Town Manager: Madam Mayor, just very briefly. At the request of Council member French Mrs. Wilder's office has drafted an ordinance for your review that is on the agenda this evening that if you choose to adopt it would specify certain hours of enforcement for the parking monitors to enforce parking laws in West Hartford. The ordinance change would require that the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday be the hours so designated for the parking monitors to enforce the appropriate parking law. If there should be any change, the ordinance also allows for the Town Manager after prior advertised notice for any special events or holidays to make certain amendments to those particular hours. From our perspective, an administrative perspective it is helpful and I think does identify the specific hours of enforcement that perhaps are not always clear or perhaps well understood by the general public.

President Klebanoff: Thank you, Mr. Feldman. Any members of Council have any questions? Mr. O'Brien.

Councilor O'Brien: Are there any specific hours specified now in our code of ordinances?

Mr. Feldman: Madam Mayor, Mr. O'Brien, it is my understanding that the hours, that there are no specific hours other than I believe it reads seven days a week twenty four hours a day if we wanted to actually enforce the parking meter aspect of the law. In other words, if we wanted to hand out parking tickets for parking meter violations we can do it any time the police or meter monitors so choose.

Councilor O'Brien: Right, so now what we are doing is saying it is between 9 and 5 we will enforce the parking meter...

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Mr. Feldman: I need to clarify though this is strictly on the parking meter provision. Fire lanes, handicapped parking, and other such major violations would be enforced seven days a week twenty four hours a day if a police officer observes that violation.

Councilor O'Brien: As a practical matter, we pretty much only enforce parking meter violations during those hours that this ordinance seeks to establish?

Mr. Feldman: Madam Mayor, Mr. O'Brien, your question is had we been by practice doing these hours?

Councilor O'Brien: These approximate hours.

Mr. Feldman: These hours I think by past practice have been the hours that enforcement actions have occurred.

Councilor O'Brien: Thank you very much.

President Klebanoff: Are there further questions? Mr. Johnson.

Councilor Johnson: Mr. Feldman, do you have any idea, is there any way to determine the revenue loss that will occur because of not requiring people to use the meters after the 5 p.m. time?

Mr. Feldman: Madam Mayor, I'm not sure I would know the answer to that and I'm not sure, Mr. Johnson, if there is a way to know that. They collect the coins out of the meters I believe daily or certainly every other day and we would have to empty the meters prior to 5 and then after 5 to determine that.

Councilor Johnson: So basically there is no way to really know.

Mr. Feldman: It is hard to tell but I do want to reference Mr. O'Brien's question again that by practice it has been long established that the hours essentially are 9 to 5 Monday to Saturday and if I was to venture a guess my guess would be that most people just didn't plug the meters after 5 or certainly not on Sunday.

Councilor Johnson: I always do. I would really worry about any revenue loss.

President Klebanoff: The town thanks you for your generosity, Mr. Johnson. Any further questions? Mrs. McKernan.

Councilor McKernan: I just want to ask Mr. Feldman about the terminology, since I have never had a subscription to

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the MS magazine I am assuming parking monitors are the old meter maids? Wow. Thank you.

President Klebanoff: Are there any further comments? Is there a sign up sheet?

Councilor Johnson: No, there is not, Madam Mayor.

President Klebanoff: Would anyone care to address the Council on this issue? Thank you. It is now closed.

The hearing adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin
Recording Secretary

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