

**DRAFT**

**City of Middletown, CT**

**Economic Development Committee**

**Parking Advisory Committee**

**Draft Minutes from the meeting of April 14, 2008**

**Economic Development Committee: G. Daley, R. Santangelo, H. Kasper, J. Bibisi, D. Bauer**

**Parking Advisory Committee: J. Alexander, L. Baldoni, N Zullo**

**Also Present: Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano, W. Warner, R. Kearney, M Stone, T. Davis, W. Cranshaw, C. Johnson, J Pugliese, T. Nigosanti, T. Hibbard**

**Minutes**

**A Call to Order:** Daley called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM

**B Minutes:** none

**C Communications:** none

**D Old Business:** none

**E New Business**

**1) Presentation of report:**

Discussion of when the committee members are available to present the report to the Common Council. Alexander stated a street car study should be the first step to establishing a street car on Main Street. Alexander noted that MAT needs to begin construction of a \$3M maintenance garage. The garage funding would come from the earmarks and MAT would apply for additional funding and reimburse the city for using the earmark funds.

Warner presented a PowerPoint presentation of the study. The committee made suggestions on revisions of the presentation. Alexander discussed the fact that creation of a Parking Department would remove \$500,000 from the General Fund. Daley stated the earliest a new department would be created in July 2009. The City Charter requires public meetings and the department and needs 2 votes should go through the budget process. Alexander suggested the parking management be initially placed in the Police Department. General discussion of the bus facility. Discussion of whether a motion was made to decide on rebuilding the Arcade Garage. General discussion of the Route 9 reconstruction project and the proposed pedestrian bridge at the arcade. Daley requested the State DOT convene a meeting of the Route 9 Corridor Advisory Committee since one was not held last year. Warner noted MAT and FTA met and agreed that the city consider starting a study on street cars feasibility and engineering. Alexander noted the idea of Pratt & Whitney creating a fuel cell street car to avoid stringing electric wires along Main Street. Daley questioned the process of securing the earmark funding. Warner stated the 2006 funds were in jeopardy and the next appropriation bill would

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extend the funds by one year giving time to commit the funds after approval by the Common Council. Daley stated the need to get back with MAT to incorporate the maintenance garage into the plans and asked Alexander, Greenberg and Warner to tighten up the presentation so that it would demonstrate the proposed projects' annual financial obligations to the city. Further suggesting the May committee meeting would be to complete the presentation and to coordinate the presentation and decide which members make which parts of the presentation. Discussion of trimming the parking management presentation. Warner stated the bike paths could be a contingency part of the plan. Bauer stated concern about the funds and the need to give a timeline of city funds needed for the projects. Daley stated the need for a sources and uses of funds and the need for time sensitivity for not losing the \$19M. Members were requested to talk about the study and plans to build a consensus about the viable use of the funds.

**F Other:** Hibbard, representing the Harbor Improvement Agency, stated the agency does not like the tunnel. Warner stated CT DOT is planning a wide pedestrian bridge from the Arcade Garage to Harbor Park. Hibbard questioned why the committee was not considering building a parking deck at Melilli Plaza since the public voted for a garage there. Daley stated a plan for Melilli was considered but ranked lower than the Arcade site. Hibbard stated decks can be built at more sites than one large garage. Discussion ensued over plans to connect the Melilli lot with the old court house lot and using a large garage to house monthly long term parking to free up Melilli for short term use.

**G Adjournment:** The committee adjourned at 8:40 PM.