

## Work Session

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska, held a work session in the Training Room, 309 North 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska, on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Josh Moenning called the meeting to order.

Roll call found the following present: Mayor Josh Moenning and Councilmembers Shane Clausen, Cory Granquist, Gary L. Jackson, Jim Lange, Rob Merrill, Thad Murren, Dick Pfeil and Fred Wiebelhaus.

Staff members present were City Administrator Andy Colvin, City Clerk Beth Deck, Risk Manager Lyle Lutt, City Planner Val Grimes, Chief of Police Don Miller, Public Safety Director Shane Weidner, and Secretary Brianna Duerst.

City Administrator Andrew Colvin said the meeting is to discuss Ordinance No. 5626, amending City Code to enact Section 27-352 creating parking restrictions on residential lots. Colvin said concerns were raised over social media regarding the ordinance. Staff requested clarification from elected officials as to what the ordinance should regulate.

City Planner Val Grimes provided clarification of the ordinance stating the effect is on front and side yards only and that there is no proposed restriction for parking in rear yards, but the ordinance does include a limit on the amount of paving allowed in rear yards.

Mayor Moenning asked Grimes about requirements other cities of similar to Norfolk's size have in place.

Grimes provided information on requirements and restrictions in Kearney, Hastings, and Omaha. Kearney provides the least restrictive requirements, whereas Omaha provides the most restrictive requirements.

Chief of Police Don Miller noted the proposed ordinance will be part of Chapter 27 and violations will be zoning violations, not enforced by the Police Department. Miller also noted the City has regulations in place regarding abandoned vehicles, which may have some crossover enforcement with the proposed parking restrictions.

Councilmember Merrill feels the ultimate goal of the Ordinance is for aesthetics and property values. Merrill also feels violations should be filed against property owners. Grimes stated that zoning violations can be filed against the owner, tenant, or both.

Councilmember Wiebelhaus expressed concerns over the type of surfacing required, grandfathering, and what qualifies as a substantial improvement that would require hard surfacing.

Councilmember Clausen questioned the ultimate goal of the ordinance and said citizens need to understand what they can and cannot do, in particular the issue of parking on corner lots.

Grimes said the grandfather date comes from the latest date of the aerial image available on Pictometry, as it provides a clear way to determine if a citizen had any sort of hard surfacing (gravel or otherwise) in place prior to that date.

Mayor Moenning asked in what ways the ordinance could be altered to address concerns and suggested looking at other models currently in place as a guide.

Councilmember Jackson moved, seconded by Councilmember Wiebelhaus, to model the ordinance after Kearney, allowing parking in the rear yard, and changing the grandfather date to a date closer to the present.. Roll call: All Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

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Josh Moenning  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Elizabeth A. Deck  
City Clerk

( S E A L )