

# Scottsville Planning Commission

Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 2, 2005, 7:00 p.m.  
Victory Hall  
401 Valley Street  
Scottsville, Virginia

Members:  
Susan Carol Browning  
Matthew Ewen  
Richard Hansen, *Chair*  
Dolores Rogers  
James Svetich

## *Minutes*

1. Call to order – Mr. Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Establish a quorum – All members were present, with the exception of Ms. Rogers, who arrived at 7:05 p.m. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Barry Clark, Town Clerk Amy Moyer, and observers Tim Small, Jeannette Kerlin, and Bo Kerlin.
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes of April 4, 2005 – Upon a motion by Mr. Svetich, seconded by Mr. Ewen, the minutes were approved by voice vote.
4. Matters not on the agenda from the public – No one from the public rose to speak.
5. Public hearing on amendments to Zoning Ordinance Section 4.11, regarding off-street parking and loading requirements.

Mr. Hansen opened the floor for public comment; no one from the public chose to speak at this time.

Ms. Browning read a statement explaining the subcommittee's rationale for suggesting a sticker program to identify Valley Street residents and employees; the statement emphasized that it is imperative that on-street parking be available for customers and that enforcement of two-hour parking could penalize visitors.

Mr. Clark stated that these provisions would have to be in the Town Code, rather than the Zoning Ordinance, to allow for police enforcement. He also questioned what motivation employees would have to comply, and the program would be difficult to implement with employee turnover. He remarked that enforcement of two-hour parking would eliminate the problem, and all-day parking could be labeled to make it clearly visible to tourists.

Ms. Rogers commented that, as a resident, she would have no reason to put a sticker on her car. She noted that many owners want to park in front of their businesses, and she expressed

concern that excessive ticketing could cause an image problem.

Mr. Svetich stated that the best way to ensure parking availability is two-hour enforcement. Mr. Ewen questioned whether it would be a choice between parking and speed enforcement, due to the lack of police personnel.

Ms. Kerlin spoke from the audience regarding the difficulty in using the police department for parking enforcement, as the time spent marking tires and waiting is for naught if the officer is called away for an emergency.

Ms. Rogers stated that, when this issue was discussed at the Chamber of Commerce meeting, businesses were not supportive of parking regulations; she felt that the situation would not change until businesses self-enforce the restriction.

Mr. Svetich questioned whether this was an issue for the Government Services Committee to consider, rather than the Planning Commission.

Ms. Browning noted that the permit parking would not require police to wait two hours to enforce. Ms. Rogers questioned the logistics of the program due to turnover.

Mr. Hansen asked whether parking should be required when adding residential units. Ms. Browning responded that it cannot be required if it is not available. Mr. Svetich suggested that owners rent or otherwise obtain off-site spaces. Mr. Ewen stated that there is plenty of parking already. Ms. Rogers commented that downtown occupancy should be encouraged to support the businesses.

Mr. Hansen stated that no downtown businesses have off-street parking compliance. Ms. Kerlin noted that A. Scott Ward Realty provides off-street parking for its employees. Mr. Clark remarked that if owners were required to meet off-street parking requirements when uses change, there would be no businesses downtown. Members agreed to strike the employee permit parking requirements from 4.11.2.b.

Mr. Svetich commented that new residential units should be required to provide parking spaces, which could be rented from the Town, churches, etc. Ms. Browning stated that this requirement would be unfair unless also applied to commercial businesses. Mr. Hansen replied that residential and commercial could be considered separately. Mr. Clark noted that most existing commercial units would be exempt. Ms. Browning felt it was arbitrary and capricious to require off-street parking for residential uses only.

Mr. Hansen noted several other Valley Street buildings that could add residential units. Ms. Rogers commented that people and businesses are needed for economic growth, and the Town should make it as easy as possible for them to come here.

Ms. Browning suggested that the resident permit parking requirements be deleted from 4.11.2.a; if a solution is found, it could be added later. She stated that most residents would

park on the street only at night and on Saturdays, and commercial and residential units cannot be treated differently when they share the same inopportunity to provide off-street parking.

Mr. Svetich again recommended enforcement of two-hour parking. Ms. Rogers initiated a discussion of on-street permit parking for residents only. Ms. Browning noted that residents would not park off-site if the two-hour limit is not enforced, even if off-site spaces are required.

After further discussion of parking tickets, members agreed to strike the resident permit parking requirements from 4.11.2.a. Limits on loading and unloading times were also struck from 4.11.2.c.

Mr. Small spoke from the audience, stating that he has long advocated two-hour parking enforcement. He also remarked that a lot of aspects of this ordinance are predicated on two-hour parking to work well.

Mr. Svetich stated that it would cost \$7,500 per year to hire a parking enforcement officer, and this would be discussed in the Town Council work session. He remarked that he trusts the subcommittee on the technical aspects of the revisions.

Ms. Browning moved to accept the revised parking ordinance, with the modifications noted above. Mr. Svetich seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. The text of the approved amendments is attached to the original of these minutes.

6. Review of Comprehensive Plan (Background Section) draft – Members agreed to hold a public hearing on the revisions in June.
7. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.