



President Swisher called the special Village Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: President John Swisher, Trustees: Fred Albert, Randy Bieri, Tim Semo, Donald Smith, and Kelly Wollschlager. Absent and excused: Dale Theder. Also in attendance: Administrator Mark Johnsrud, Fire Chief Jim Wolf, Police Chief Gary Bleecker, Attorney James Hammes and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Trebatoski.

**Statement of Public Notice** – This meeting was posted and noticed according to law.

President John Swisher stated this is a public hearing only for parking on N. Watertown Street and no other subjects will be discussed. He further stated to clearly state your name and address for the record, the board wants to hear from everyone, no decision would be made tonight and to be respectful for all who speak. President Swisher requested Chief Bleecker to speak on the safety issues of parking on N. Watertown Street.

Chief Bleecker stated parking on N. Watertown Street has been a problem for a long time. There are issues with large trucks, people having to wait and crossing the center line. Chief Bleecker stated if you live on North Watertown Street parking is an issue because you may not have a place to park but there are also complaints from other people that use the road. He further stated the issue is about safety, not taking away parking and the Village has put stop signs in to get people to slow down.

### **Open Public Hearing**

To propose to prohibit parking on the west side of N. Watertown Street from a point beginning at the intersection with Milwaukee Street proceeding northerly to the intersection with Hartwig Boulevard.

A Wollschlager/Semo motion carried unanimously to open the public hearing at 5:30 p.m.

Marge Creedon, 148 N. Watertown St, stated this would be a hardship as she has a physical disability and parking in the driveway on Lincoln Street has too steep of incline. She further stated since the stop signs were put in place she lost parking in front of her house and therefore is requesting a handicap parking spot. She stated that stop signs are pointless as people are not stopping. She has elderly parents and questioned where guests are going to park. She suggested making a one way going north for emergency vehicles.

Tom Schneider, 114 N. Watertown St, Schneider Printing needs a parking spot or loading zone to conduct their business.

Kathy Proffitt, 216 N. Watertown St, opposed to no parking. She stated it would decrease resale value of her home. She has a handicap son and mom who would no longer be able to park and enter the front of the house. Many families do not have extra parking and therefore no longer have family gatherings and churches and businesses have private parking. She stated the handful of people complaining do not have to use the street. She takes time and shares the road and this is not the only community with this issue and there are other routes for people to get around. She stated there is not a stacking of cars most of the time and mainly only when Schiller employees get off of work. Emergency vehicles would head north bound where there is no parking and by law other vehicles should give way to emergency ones. She stated people avoid going by the school. If another connecting street is needed, connect Maple St and leave the neighborhood alone.

Mark Lemminger Sr, 226 N. Watertown St, stated he owns four properties on N. Watertown St and this would inconvenience 43 homeowners and lower home values. He further stated that if there is no parking people will

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fly down the street until they get to the stop sign. He stated the road is narrow but not too narrow. He cited three different routes taking 1 min 26 seconds, 1 min 39 seconds and 2 minutes and 17 seconds longer. He agreed to connect Maple St as a long term solution.

Mark Lemminger Jr, owner of a duplex on N Watertown St, stated a solution is to connect Maple St and no parking would be difficult for homeowners to clear driveways in winter.

Adam Kircher, 221 N Watertown St, opposed the no parking and stated there would be no parking for when they have family visit, there are alternate routes, and a hassle to clear snow from driveways.

Nina Hanfler, 136 Lincoln St, ideally she would prefer no parking and is tired of being shoved into curb. She agreed they need to have parking for homeowners and a solution is to make a one way street.

Myron "Butch" Klug, 130 N Watertown St, stated he has lived here 40 years and it is not safe. He further stated that the street hasn't changed but the people living on the street have by parking boats and trailers, along with semis going down the street. He is open for any option but as the resolution states no parking, he supports, because it has to change.

Scott Morgan, 400 Abbey Ln, safety is a human need and major responsibility of government at all levels to help provide for citizens. The current traffic and parking pattern on N. Watertown St. is unsafe. He further stated the problem is compounded in winter with snow and ice and plowing making the width smaller. Parking of boats, campers and trailers also compounds the issue, which affects 3,000 motorists daily. It directly impedes the police and fire from safely using N. Watertown St. He stated while weaving oncoming traffic and avoiding parked vehicles he has to scan for pets, children and pedestrians. It forces people to crossover the double yellow line which is a violation. He stated he is sensitive to the residents but most have driveways or garages to park in. However, he is not sensitive to the oversized vehicles parked on the street because it is putting his safety at risk.

Todd Schneider, 114 N Watertown St, Schneider Printing, requested to allow for one parking space for delivering trucks and loading vehicle for the business.

Tisha Morgan, 400 Abbey Ln, stated besides the obvious safety hazard she would like to emphasize the fact that it is unlawful to cross the double lines and questioned why the police aren't writing tickets. More importantly, the safety and with the police, ems and fire trucks having to weave traffic, citing a recent incident in the village, of which the length of time could mean the difference between life and death.

Wendy Mares, 214 N Watertown St, had family park in church lot and was told to get out. She stated business don't want you to park in their lots and suggested building access to I94 on Hwy Y.

Clarence Hartwig, 312 N. Watertown St, was against no parking but after listening to people he sees the hardship it would cause residents on N. Watertown St. He stated most residents have about half acre behind their homes they could use for parking. He stated the suggestion of a one way street is the best solution.

Marge Creedon, 148 N. Watertown St, reiterated her statement about emergency vehicles would be in a hurry going north, not coming in (south) and cars have to pull aside and therefore it shouldn't be an issue.

Tim Lasage, 129 Chapel Hill Dr, stated he is new to the area and with a licensed 16 year old driver it is a safety concern to allow her to break the law for traffic violation. The one way is a simple solution for a temporary fix.

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Wendy Mares, 214 N Watertown St, spoke again stating when the new school is built, there won't be half the traffic.

Trustee Tim Semo stated most driving that way are driving elementary students to school and the traffic will still be there.

**Close Public Hearing**

A Semo/Albertz motion carried to close the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

**Adjourn**

President John Swisher adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Lisa Trebatoski  
Deputy Clerk - Treasurer

Disclaimer: These minutes are uncorrected; any corrections made thereto will be so noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.