

AGENDA
CITY OF HARTFORD
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
6:15 P.M.

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Public comment period.
4. Discussion and consideration of amending Ordinance 340.0014 (2) to allow BID permitted parking in Mill Street parking lot. (Executive Summary attached).
5. Discussion and consideration of a resolution to change winter parking regulations with alternatives provided. (Executive Summary attached).
6. Adjournment

NOTE: "PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT LEAST ONE (1) BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING."

"MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY ATTEND THE ABOVE MEETING. PURSUANT TO STATE EX REL. BADKE V. GREENDALE VILLAGE BOARD; 173 WIS 2D 553, 494 N.W. 2D 408 (1993) SUCH ATTENDANCE MAY BE CONSIDERED A MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL. THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY ATTEND THE MEETING WITHOUT VIOLATING THE OPEN MEETING LAW."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AMENDING ORDINANCE 340.0014 (2) TO ALLOW BID PARKING IN MILL STREET PARKING LOT

BACKGROUND:

City Ordinance 340.0014 (2) reads:

(2) The Business Improvement District may issue permits which allow eight hour parking of vehicles along the three westerly most parking spots in every row of the Johnson Street parking lot, except the rows adjacent to City Hall. The same permits may be used in the seven parking spots along Johnson Street nearest the intersection with West Sumner Street.

In 2018, the City purchased the property known as 30 Mill Street for the creation of a large public parking lot which would encompass both the Master's Lot on the north east corner of East Sumner and Mill Street along with what was 30 Mill Street. With assistance from Tom Masters, Cobblestone Inn and Suites and the Downtown BID the house was purchased and removed and a new public parking lot was created primarily for the purpose of downtown customer parking.

Currently, permitted parking is allowed in this lot for both Mineshaft employees and on rare occasion, overflowing parking of Cobblestone guests in exchange for their contribution to this public project.

Even with the above mentioned permitted parking, and that of customers to the downtown, it has been identified that there is still ample available parking spots open primarily between normal business hours of 7 AM – 4 PM in this 83 spot lot.


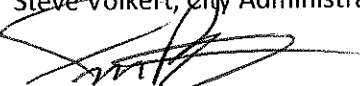
Representatives of the Hartford BID have come before the Common Council and asked that City Ordinance 340.0014 (2) be amended to include BID parking permits be allowed in this lot as well as in the specified sections of the Johnson Street Lot.

In discussing this with BID President Jason Wix who issues the BID Employee Parking Permits, he has roughly 200 parking permits issued at any one time. Not all of these are active as some employees leave their employment in downtown and no longer need these passes.

In discussing this with City of Hartford Parking Enforcement Officer Dave Troller, he sees roughly 25 (12.5%) are found to be used at any one time in the Johnson Street Lot currently during these hours.

RECOMMENDATION:

To assist the downtown business employees with convenient parking during the hours of 7 AM – 4 PM, since the parking lot in question is identified not to be busy during these hours, staff recommends the amending of ordinance number 340.0014 (2) to include the issuance of BID Parking Permits for the Mill Street Parking lot. If approved, this ordinance will be marked for review in one year to determine if this change causes issues with the original intent to improve downtown customer parking.

REVIEWED BY:  DATE: 9-21-23
Steve Volkert, City Administrator
 DATE: 9-28-23
Ian Prust, City Legal Council

Jacob A. Maas
Jacob Maas, City Planner/Development Director

DATE: 09/21/2023

Committee Routing: Public Works
Common Council

Sept 26th, 2023
October 10th, 2023

Policy Analysis: Winter Parking Regulations

Current Policy:

For the purpose of facilitating the removal of snow, no automobile, truck, trailer or any other vehicle shall be parked on any public street, alley, or public parking lot between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during the months of January, February, March and December, unless due to unusual circumstances, special permission is granted by the Police Department, provided that notwithstanding such restrictions, vehicles may be temporarily parked for actually loading or unloading of passengers, or property, and provided further that no other regulation restricting parking as to place, time, or manner is violated thereby

How many snow/ice events required us to plow or salt in 2022/23: On average we have 45 events.

How many timed out to actually plow between 3-6 PM: 15 clearing operations happened between the hours of 3-6 PM or 33% of the time.

How Many Residents are affected: On average we receive an estimated 1000 calls per year over the 121 day season and grant 454 parking privileges per the Hartford Police Department. Of the 1000 calls per year, 12 complaints on average, will escalate to Administration level.

How Many Tickets are issued by Police Department Annually: Annually we write between 800 – 900 tickets for unauthorized overnight parking during this season.

How Much Time does it currently take to clear streets: For a 2-3" snowfall, on average 6 hours just to clear streets, not including sidewalks, parking lots, parks, etc.

How much does it cost the City to clear streets on average: \$13,800 for a 10 hour operation or \$12,400 for a 6 hour operation.

Revenue received under current policy: \$13,140 in tickets were collected in 2022/23.

Net Cost to provide service under current policy:

Overtime	\$35,162.10
Fuel	\$81,000.00 (45 events at \$1,800 per event)
Salt	<u>\$133,492.27 (1,617.5 tons per year average x \$82.53/ton)</u>
Total Annual Cost	\$249,654.37
Tickets Issued	<u>(-) \$13,140</u>
Net Cost:	\$236,514.37

Alternative #1:

For the purpose of facilitating the removal of snow, automobiles, trucks, trailers or any other vehicle, when needing to park on the street, shall be parked on the side of the road corresponding to the date of that night either odd or even side of the road. Nights that start with an even number (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc) will be allowed to park on the even side of the street between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during the months of January, February, March and December. Nights that start with an odd number, vehicles will be allowed to park on the odd side of the road.

If no charge, how many residents would take advantage of this (Based on Complaints and call ins)

40 Were parking on grass or across sidewalk
500 Are calling in for permission from PD
450 Presumed to be cramming cars into driveways and garages
12 Are complaining that current system doesn't work for them.
1002 Total of households effected (20%)

How Many Tickets could be expected to be issued for parking on the wrong side:

Currently 876 tickets are issued.

Assumed more tickets will be issued as upwards of 1000+ vehicles will park on roads with 1/4 parking on wrong side on a regular basis of at least three times = 750 – 875 tickets

How Much Time would it take to completely clear streets:

Based on other communities, the first night would take the normal 6 hours, second night would be 2 additional hours.

6 hours the first night (Travel lane and one parking lane)

2 hours the second night (One parking lane)

How much would it cost the City to clear streets on average:

Overtime	\$46,883.00 (2 additional hours total)
Fuel	\$97,200.00 (assuming 20% increase for second night run)
Salt	<u>\$166,865.00 (Estimated 25% more to work on frozen roads)</u>
Total Annual Cost	\$310,948
Tickets Issued	<u>(-) \$13,140 (750-875 tickets x \$15)</u>
Net Cost:	\$297,808 (+\$61,294)

Results:

Nearly 1000 residents (6.25%) would have an option of where to park over winter.

Much less phone calls to get permission to park on the street overnight.

Increase in cost of \$61,294 or mill rate increase of \$.06. \$18.75 on a \$300k house.

Other issues from changing:

Likelihood of more plow/vehicle accidents (Currently have 1.5 per year average).

Possible burnout of staff if plowing twice as many nights.

Changes how we enforce per Police Department.

Have to clean curb to curb which could include blowing out on narrow streets taking additional time.

Reduced efficiency of departments by transferring more time into snow removal and less into other winter responsibilities including: tree trimming, clearing snow from public parking lots, maintenance of equipment and vehicles.

Alternative #2:

For the purpose of facilitating the removal of snow, automobiles, trucks, trailers or any other vehicle, when needing to parking on the street, shall be parked on the side of the road corresponding to the date of that night either odd or even side of the road **as long as they have a Finance Department issued Winter Parking permit.** Nights that start with an even number (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc) will be allowed to park on the even side of the street between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during the months of

January, February, March and December. Nights that start with an odd number, vehicles will be allowed to park on the odd side of the road.

With a \$135 per season charge, how many residents would take advantage of this (Based on Complaints): Assuming that 1000 vehicles would park on the road for free, we would assume half of those would pay to park or 500 vehicles.

How Many Tickets could be expected to be issued for parking on the wrong side or without a permit: I would assume our ticket count would go down with some people still trying to get away with it and either park without permit or on the wrong side. 500 tickets.

How Much Time would it take to completely clear streets: Same as the free even/odd parking or 8 hours per event.

How much would it cost the City to clear streets on average:

Overtime	\$46,883.00 (2 additional hours total)
Fuel	\$97,200.00 (assuming 20% increase for second night run)
Salt	\$166,865.00 (Estimated 25% more to work on frozen roads)
Total Annual Cost	\$310,948
Tickets Issued	(-) \$7,500 (500 tickets x \$15)
Permits issues	(-) \$67,500 (500 permits at \$135 season)
Net Cost:	\$235,948 (+\$566.37 = Budget Neutral)

Results:

An estimated 500 residents (7%) would have an option of where to park over winter.

Removes all phone calls to get permission to park on the street overnight.

This added convenience for some does not impact all. This would be budget neutral.

Other issues from changing:

Likelihood of more plow/vehicle accidents (Currently have 1.5 per year average).

Possible burnout of staff if plowing twice as many nights.

Changes how we enforce per Police Department.

Have to clean curb to curb which could include blowing out on narrow streets taking additional time.

We would need to create a mirror hanger and use more police or finance staff time used issuing said permits.

Alternative #3:

For the purpose of facilitating the removal of snow, light duty vehicles like cars or trucks which have a Class A or B license plate, would be allowed to be parked on the grass on that party's private property between the daily hours of 7 PM – 7 AM with a maximum of 2 vehicles per property. Any vehicles parked on the grass outside those hours or outside the winter parking regulatory months of December – March would be ticketed. More than two vehicles on any one property parked on the grass would be ticketed.

How Many Tickets could be expected to be issued for parking outside those hours or those months: As we have just enforced this rule on the surface level over the past few years, we have only issued 25-30. Most of the times, our officers will approach the subjects and they have had some pushback but then they move the vehicle negating the need to issue a ticket. However, if this new option is approved, we

anticipate the number of tickets to increase to between 60-80 as people will look to push the envelope and park on the grass earlier or later than the posted 7 PM – 7 AM or will park more than the allowed two vehicles.

How Much Time would it take to completely clear streets: Same as the current method.

How much would it cost the City to clear streets on average:

Net Cost to provide service under current policy:

Overtime	\$35,162.10
Fuel	\$81,000.00 (45 events at \$1,800 per event)
Salt	<u>\$133,492.27 (1,617.5 tons per year average x \$82.53/ton)</u>
Total Annual Cost	\$249,654.37
Tickets Issued	<u>(-) \$1,200 (80 tickets x \$15)</u>
Net Cost:	\$248,454.37 (+\$11,940)

Results:

An estimated 1000 residents (14%) would have an option of where to park over winter.

Removes all phone calls to get permission to park on the street overnight. That option would be removed.

The City would see a mass increase the amount of vehicles parked all over the lawns decreasing the curb appeal/aesthetics in several neighborhoods.

This will cause deterioration of top soil and grass come spring.

This added convenience for some could impact all due to the unsightly look of junkyards in neighborhoods and liquid contaminants free access to ground water.

Other issues from changing:

Changes how we enforce per Police Department (Monitoring how many vehicles and which types are parked on lawns.

Alternative #4:

For the purpose of facilitating the removal of snow, no automobile, truck, trailer or any other vehicle shall be parked on any public street, alley, or public parking lot between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during the months of January, February, March and December, unless due to unusual circumstances, special permission is granted by the Police Department, provided that notwithstanding such restrictions, vehicles may be temporarily parked for actually loading or unloading of passengers, or property, and provided further that no other regulation restricting parking as to place, time, or manner is violated thereby. **The only exception would be public parking overnight in specified public lots or street parking stalls as demonstrated on an official public parking map.**

How Many Tickets could be expected to be issued for parking outside those hours or those months:

We would hope that by providing an option for parking outside of what is already granted, this would reduce the number of tickets currently given out to closer to 500-600 per season.

How Much Time would it take to completely clear streets: Same as the current method.

How much would it cost the City to clear streets on average:

Net Cost to provide service under current policy:

Overtime	\$35,162.10
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Fuel	\$81,000.00 (45 events at \$1,800 per event)
Salt	\$133,492.27 (1,617.5 tons per year average x \$82.53/ton)
Total Annual Cost	\$249,654.37
Tickets Issued	(-) \$8,250 (550 tickets x \$15)
Net Cost:	\$241,404.37 (+4,890)

Results:

While not perfectly convenient, residents would have an option of where to park over winter besides their driveways and garages.

Would not substantially cost staff more time to plow besides addressing these specified public parking areas sooner.

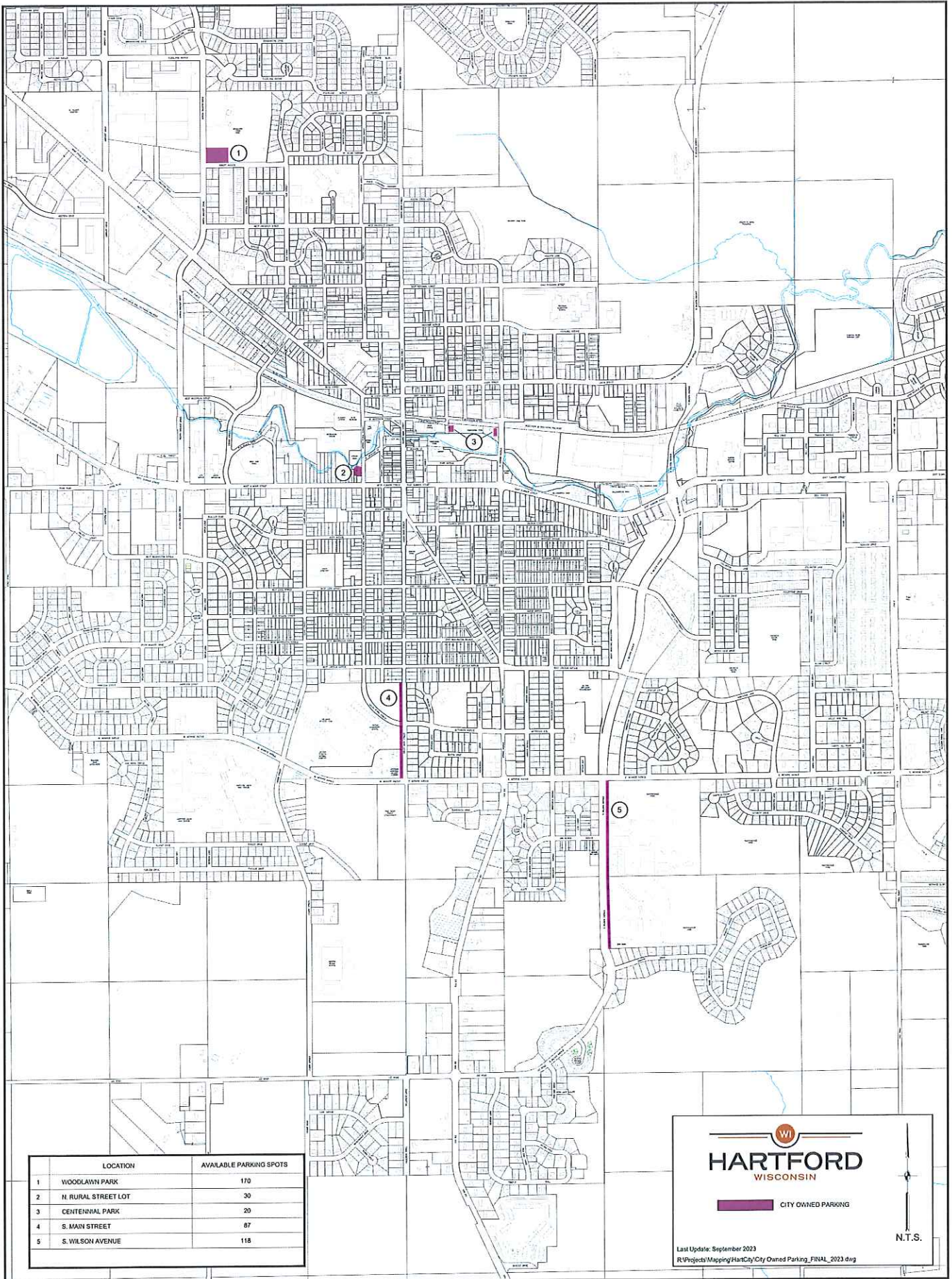
Other issues from changing:

Street Crews would need to address those specified public parking areas sooner.

Other Options:

Keep existing policy in place but do not enforce when it is not snowing. This would mean of the 121 days within this period of time, 45 days would be no parking, the other 76 we would wave it. This is what Mosinee does. This would give residents only 1/3 of the season to worry about where to park.

Drawbacks to this idea: Large numbers of issues as people park one day and an unexpected storm comes through. No direct way to communicate with people that they have to move their vehicles due to a change in weather. Also, people will park long-term on the street and be gone when something comes up.



	LOCATION	AVAILABLE PARKING SPOTS
1	WOODLAWN PARK	170
2	N. RURAL STREET LOT	30
3	CENTENNIAL PARK	20
4	S. MAIN STREET	87
5	S. WILSON AVENUE	118

CITY OWNED PARKING

N.T.S.

Last Update: September 2023
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