



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chaired by Council Member Victor Jones

Members: Jones, Moore, Williams, and Johnson

MARCH 23, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Following a roll call by Chairman Jones, the following attendance by committee Members was duly noted.

Present:

Chairman Victor Jones, Committee Member Britt Moore, and Committee Member Chris Williams

Absent:

Committee Member Tyrone Johnson

Staff Present:

Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Jeron Hollis, Managing Director; Tommy Reid, Fire Chief; Kyle Teschke, Officer Traffic Unit; Nena Wilson, Interim Community Development Director; Bobby Fitzjohn, Financial Services Director; Lori Loosemore, Code Enforcement Manager; Matt Carpenter, Senior Transportation Engineer; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

- 1. PowerPoint Presentation: Tractor Trailer-Parking.*
- 2. PowerPoint Presentation: Traffic Unit-Tractor Trailer Parking.*
- 3. PowerPoint Presentation: Fire Department-2021 Annual Report.*

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**2022-147 Discussion-Tractor Trailer Parking in Neighborhoods**

Staff will be discussing Tractor Trailer Parking in Neighborhoods.

Lori Loosemore, Code Enforcement Manager, made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP) regarding Tractor Trailer (Trailer) Parking in Neighborhoods; gave an overview of the City of High Point's Development Ordinance (chapter 4) that outlined the accessory, structures, and uses; and standards for specific accessory uses for tractor trailers; explained how the parking process worked for the Trailers, such as what was allowed versus what was not allowed for parking; provided a definition for 'Gross Weight' for Trailers; said that it was the method of determining the size of a vehicle for insurance purposes; referenced chapter 9 in the Development Ordinance that provided the steps, fines, and repeat offenders penalties regarding violations; and stated that the violation process would continue until compliance with progressive civil penalties from \$50 to \$500.00. Ms. Loosemore also noted that if a Trailer resulted in a traffic safety hazard that the High Point Police Department (HPPD) would get involved.

Discussion took place regarding civil penalties for illegal Trailer parking; front yard parking penalties; nonresidents parking; parking locations that allowed Trailer parking; concerns regarding residential streets being damaged; and on the home base business ordinance.

Chairman Jones asked if Trailer parking was allowed at the Planet Fitness parking lot located on Eastchester; inquired if changes could be made to the development ordinance regarding property/vehicle maintenance conducted on personal property; and asked if there were any for hire and for profit lots that the city could direct Trailer owners to park at. Ms. Loosemore replied that staff would have to confirm the zoning requirements for commercial locations; and said that business vehicles that were maintenance on personal property were allowed as long as supplies were disposed of properly.

Committee Member Moore asked about the changes made in the development ordinance regarding residential parking. Ms. Loosemore explained how certain districts allowed different things; and that the Planning Department was responsible for zoning districts for residential and commercial parking

Committee Member Williams inquired on the timeframe for civil penalties to stay in place. Ms. Loosemore replied that the civil penalties would remain in place for two years; and that if another penalty was issued after the two year timeframe that should pick up where it left off.

Committee Member Moore asked what the recovery rate was for parking citations. Ms. Loosemore replied that the rate was really low; and that the main focus was for compliance.

Committee Member Williams inquired on comparisons with the city of Greensboro regarding their development ordinance for towing; and voiced concerns regarding repeat offenders, and safety hazards. Matt Carpenter, Senior Transportation Engineer, replied that High

Point's ordinance was similar to Greensboro's; that he was not sure regarding Greensboro's changes as far as residential areas were involved; and that for safety hazards, the HPPD would be responsible for those types of complaints.

Kyle Teschke, Traffic Unit Officer with the HPPD, made a PPP regarding Tractor Trailer Parking in the City of High Point; gave a brief history on the development ordinance; spoke to the issues and complaints regarding Trailer parking; said that between March 2021-March 2022, there were around 1,132 calls for service for improperly parked vehicles; 53 of those calls were related to tractor trailers that included 3 call about parking on I-74 ramp, 16 calls were in areas with mixed zoning (residential and commercial), and 34 calls for service related specifically to residential areas.

Mr. Carpenter explained what the legal weight was for Trailers regarding parking in certain locations (residential/commercial).

Committee Member Williams asked if there were numbers regarding calls for service on vehicles that were considered exempt. Officer Teschke replied that the data pulled were for all types of vehicles that did not exclude vehicles that were valid.

Chairman Jones inquired on the weight distinctions for vehicles that weighed one ton. Mr. Carpenter replied that particular section in the ordinance was written mainly to help out commercial landscaping businesses that operated their truck/trailers frequently.

Discussion took place regarding the different types of complaints made toward Trailers to include expired tags, etc...; wear and tear on residential streets due to Trailer use; towing enforcement; and distinguishing city streets versus NCDOT highways regarding parking violations.

Officer Teschke continued discussion regarding the purpose for enforcement to include safety concerns, and eye sores; spoke to the challenges faced in residential and commercial zones; and recommended conducting a community outreach through social media, the city's website, and through utility bills making the public aware of the violations for illegal Trailer parking.

Chairman Jones inquired on the parking issues at Southwest Elementary School. Mr. Carpenter replied that there were 'no parking' signs posted, and voiced safety concerns for the students. Officer Teschke replied that letters were passed out to vehicles regarding safety concerns, and enforcement in September that included parking restrictions; and that there were no more issues for the remainder of the year following.

Officer Teschke continued discussion regarding the parking challenges faced for Trailers such as weekend parkers, etc...; spoke to the contract that the city had with a towing service; explained how the towing process worked, and what the fees were; and spoke to the idea of providing a list of locations where parking was free.

Committee Member Moore inquired if AAA storage allowed Trailer parking. Chairman Jones spoke to discussions regarding a project for parking. Ms. Loosemore stated that she had only seen RVs parked at storage facilities.

Chairman Jones inquired on the status regarding parking concerns on N. Main St. near Sheetz. Mr. Carpenter said that location was private property; and that it was beings proposed currently for development.

Committee Member Moore voiced appreciation for truck drivers; and voiced concerns for a visual impediment located at Oak Plank Road where truck drivers parked; and requested staff to assess the safety concern. Officer Teschke replied that staff would address the concern.

Chairman Jones requested that staff provide resources/list that provided locations for parking for truck drivers to Visit High Point. Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager, replied that staff would create a list and provide that information to Visit High Point.

2022-148 Presentation-Annual Report-High Point Fire Department

Staff will give a presentation regarding the High Point Fire Department's Annual Report.

Chairman Jones noted that due to unforeseen circumstances; that this matter would be presented at the next scheduled Public Safety Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jones asked if there were any additional comments/questions. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor Jones, Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
City Clerk