

Committee Members Present: John Millar, Graydon Burton, Rick Robbins, Lyle Wakefield, Randy Lewis, Jodi Weimer, Trudy Porter, and Randy Reese.

Reverse Diagonal Parking

Public Works Director John Millar explained the plan to redo the parking on Main Street. There is a lack of left turn lanes at 1st East and Center Street. The transportation department (ITD) knows it is a problem; they are willing to provide all equipment if the city will take care of changes to curb, gutter, sidewalk, etc.

Mayor Larsen explained when a request is made to ITD; it is usually 7 years out. This would be a unique project because would go under construction immediately this summer.

Public Works Director John Millar explained the different options that were looked at to improve parking on Main Street. Parallel parking would loose anywhere from 10-27 parking stalls per block, which would intensify part of the problem.

Reverse diagonal parking was also researched. The research showed reverse diagonal parking is much safer than forward diagonal. Cars cannot see traffic when they back out from forward diagonal until sometimes it is too late and there is an inevitable accident.

Rick Robbins asked what other cities have used reverse diagonal parking. Public Works Director Millar said Salt Lake City has used reverse diagonal quite a bit. Reverse diagonal is similar to parallel parking.

Mayor Larsen said a median would be painted in the middle of Main Street right now to help with U-turns on Main Street. It is possible a raised median would be put in sometime in the future. Snow removal would be a problem with a raised median, so further research would have to be done before a raised median was put in.

Public Works Director Millar explained the main benefit of reverse diagonal parking is that accidents would decrease significantly. ITD is in 100% support of reverse diagonal parking. Only one or two parking spots would be lost with reverse diagonal. This would also provide a left hand turn lane at 1st East and at Center Street.

Rick Robbins said he is concern because the width of the travel lanes would become narrower. Lyle Wakefield suggested a smaller 4 foot median so the lanes are still wide enough.

Captain Randy Lewis said in 2007 there were 55 accidents on Main Street and 10 of them were due to the inability to see when backing out of a parking spot onto the main road.

Rick Robbins was concerned that not having reverse diagonal parking on side streets would confuse people. He asked if the city would consider making all side streets reverse diagonal as well.

Mayor Larsen explained in the winter when snow and ice is a problem, reverse diagonal is much easier to get in and out because cars don't get stuck as much.

Mayor Larsen explained he went to each business on Main Street to explain this proposal and ask how they would feel about these changes. Most businesses were in favor of the plan.

Mayor Larsen explained to move forward on this, the City Council would have to approve this and construction would then begin this summer. Public Works Director John Millar explained they put off proposing this to the City Council until the Traffic and Safety Committee made a recommendation.

Jodi Weimer said she is worried about patrons to Main Street businesses. Will they still frequent these stores with reverse diagonal parking? Rick Robbins said his only reservation is confusion with side streets not having reverse diagonal parking as well. Lyle Wakefield said a left hand turn lane would be a huge advantage on Main Street.

Graydon Burton said he feels with good public education/instruction to explain how reverse diagonal works along with adequate signs up on Main Street, this would be a benefit to the city. He is in full support of this proposal.

Lyle Wakefield said Main Street needs to be accessible and inviting.

Jodi Weimer asked how the public would be informed. Public Works Director Millar said the Standard Journal has been good to work with. Mayor Larsen explained a video showing how to do it could be put on the city website similar to what they had for the roundabout.

Trudy Porter said she has observed this in other cities, and the system seems to work in those cities.

Graydon Burton asked how this would be handled in the winter with new students coming into town. Public Works Director Millar said people may have to be put out on Main Street for a few weeks to show how it is done. He also said signage will be critical. They will also work with the Scroll to get information to new students.

Mayor Larsen suggested having reverse diagonal parking in front of City Hall for people to practice if needed, etc. Graydon Burton said he thinks this would be very beneficial.

Lyle Wakefield moved to accept the proposal for reverse diagonal parking with the condition that adequate signage be put up along with practice stalls in front of City Hall. Trudy Porter seconded the motion. All voted aye, none opposed. **The motion carried.**