

Kearny Town Council

Permit Parking Meeting # 1 Minutes

- Minutes -

Wednesday, January 15, 2020	Permit Parking Meeting #1 Minutes	Kearny Town Hall – 7:00 P.M.
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------

**Mayor and Town Council Special Meeting
Permit Parking Meeting # 1
January 15, 2020**

SPECIAL MEETING STATEMENT

This Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to (or faxed to) the Jersey Journal and the Star Ledger on December 5, 2019 for publication on December 11, 2020. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice having been given, the Municipal Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting. Minutes of this meeting should also reflect the purpose for which the meeting was called.

The Special Council Meeting was open to the public at 7:00PM. Mayor Santos stated that this is a Special Public Meeting of the Town of Kearny. Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements of this special meeting have been complied with in that a Resolution was passed giving the date and time of the special meeting of the Town of Kearny.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Alberto G. Santos

Councilman Albino Cardoso

Councilwoman Marytrine DeCastro

Councilman Richard Konopka

Councilman Peter Santana

Councilwoman Eileen Eckel

Councilwoman Susan McCurrie

Councilman Gerald Ficeto

Council Members Absent:

Councilwoman Carol Jean Doyle

Also Present:

Michael Neglia, P.E., P.P., P.L.S., Town Engineer, Neglia Engineering Associates (**NEA Job No.:** KEARMUN19.010)

David Silva, P.E., Neglia Engineering Associates

Brian Intindola, P.E., Neglia Engineering Associates

Items Discussed

1. Mayor Santos Introduction:

- a. Mayor Santos provided an introduction and broad overview regarding the intent of the meeting. Mayor Santos' overview focused on the following key points:
 - 1) Volume of vehicles in Town
 - 2) Abusers of the current parking system that is unregulated
 - 3) Different types of permit parking systems that are implemented in the surrounding Towns
 - 4) Illegal apartments not being able to obtain parking permits

Kearny Town Council

Permit Parking Meeting # 1 Minutes

- Minutes -

Wednesday, January 15, 2020	Permit Parking Meeting #1 Minutes	Kearny Town Hall – 7:00 P.M.
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------

2. Michael Neglia, Neglia Engineering Associates (NEA):

- a. Michael Neglia provided a brief background of Neglia Engineering Associates' history as the Town Engineer.
- b. Michael Neglia explained the purpose of the meeting and advised the public that no executive decisions have been made yet, and fees and costs are undetermined at this time. The purpose is to begin receiving input from the public prior to getting detailed with the permit system. The intent of the parking permit system is to increase the availability of on-street parking and may not necessarily mean that a parking space is guaranteed.
- c. Michael Neglia explained the situation with adding line striping to roadways to define parking spaces. This will ultimately result in this loss of parking spaces. Regulations have on-street parking spaces at 20 feet long. In a situation where you have 60 feet of a parking area, you can only provide roadway striping for 3 parking spots, whereas, 4 to maybe 5 vehicles can realistically fit within a 60 foot area.

3. Brian Intindola, Neglia Engineering Associates (NEA):

- a. Brian Intindola began his presentation by explaining the unique supplies and demands of the Town of Kearny.
- b. Brian Intindola proceeded to give an overview of the Harrison Parking Permit system, and other nearby Towns.
- c. Brian Intindola provided an explanation of parking permit vendors that manage the system. Some Towns are evolving towards no police enforcement, and having vendors handle such.
- d. Brian Intindola explained situations of residents not utilizing their driveways due to the hassle of shifting vehicles around, and trying to set up a system that encourages driveway use in order to free up parking volume on roadways.
- e. Brian Intindola explained that vehicles must be registered to valid a Kearny address in order to get a parking permit. Employer vehicles, employees in Town, and overnight guests will be able to obtain special permits.
- f. Brian then presented a parking zone map, should the Town want to proceed with a "rolled" out method of testing areas.

4. Meeting Opened to the Public for Input:

- a. Resident advised of a situation on Devon Street between Garfield Avenue and Bergen Avenue, where individuals are spot saving by taking up two parking spaces. Can line striping for the parking spaces be provided? NEA explained the situation of losing parking spaces by striping (see #2c above)
- b. Resident inquired on how the parking permit system would work with illegal basement apartments? NEA advised that residents in illegal basement apartments will not be able to obtain a parking permit.
- c. Resident advised of a situation on Forest Street between Belleville Turnpike and Seeley Avenue, where individuals are spot saving similar to Devon Street. Resident also advised that there are 20 tenants across three buildings, leading to no available space on the street. NEA advised that the parking permit system is intended to increase the volume of available on-street parking, which may help in some of the more densely populated areas.
- d. Resident inquired on how the system will get people to use their driveways. NEA advised that it is not determined at this time, however, it may be potentially worked out through the fee structure where residents have the incentive to not obtain a permit.

Kearny Town Council

Permit Parking Meeting # 1 Minutes

- Minutes -

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Permit Parking Meeting #1
Minutes

Kearny Town Hall – 7:00 P.M.

- e. Resident inquired on how visitor parking permits will work. NEA advised that there are call in systems to advise the enforcement party that a vehicle is visiting and be left overnight. Some systems allow for the information to be submitted online.
- f. Resident asked if diagonal parking along Kearny Avenue would work and provide more spaces? NEA advised that we will review the feasibility.
- g. Resident advised that they believe registering your vehicle to a legal address in Kearny is a great idea. Resident also advised that the area near Brighton Avenue and Bergen Avenue is densely populated with many multi-family residences and there is not parking in this area. Resident inquired whether the green space near the VFW can be turned into parking. Town advised that the property is owned by the VFW. Resident advised to not hurt the residents that are truthful and fair; hit the abusers of the system with fines.
- h. Resident provided feedback that the root is the illegal apartments in Town. They need to be flushed out. Resident would like to see a plan on the enforcement of vetting out the illegal apartments.
- i. Resident on East Midland Avenue advised that people are not using their driveways, parking in the cul-de-sac illegally, and there may be illegal basement apartments adding to the volume of vehicles. Resident believes that a parking permit system will work on this block. Resident would like to know how many permits per family? NEA advised that a decision on the number per family has not yet been made.
- j. Resident advised that they are in an area with multiple apartment buildings; what can be done to solve the parking issue in these areas? Can the Town reach out to more businesses to allow people to park overnight? NEA advised that the parking permit system is intended to increase the volume of available on-street parking, which may help in some of the more densely populated areas. The Town advised that they are always actively inquiring with businesses to see if they would allow overnight parking in their lots. Some businesses do not want the liability.
- k. Numerous Residents inquired on the fee structure for permits? NEA advised that a decision has not yet been made on the fee structure, but will incorporate feedback received from the public input session.
- l. Resident inquired on the process for permit renewals – yearly? NEA advised that a decision has not yet been made, but renewals can be done on a yearly basis.
- m. NEA advised that there will be accommodations made for elderly residents to assist with obtaining a parking permit.
- n. Resident commented on the “rolling out” method of implementing the parking permit system – this will just cause people to jump to the next free zone and not solve the problem. Resident provided a suggestion to price the 3rd permit in an expensive fashion in an effort to have people utilize driveways.
- o. The Town advised that commercial parking will be kept off the street overnight.
- p. Resident advised that they do not want to be penalized on the 3rd permit as they use their driveway and already pay taxes on it.
- q. Resident suggested that the Town look into constructing a parking deck if possible.
- r. Resident advised that they believe 10pm is too late for enforcement on commercial plates. 6pm seems to be more reasonable to have commercial vehicles off of the street.
- s. Resident inquired on the number of permits – is there a way to regulated based on the size of the home? NEA advised that this could potentially be done with assistance from the Tax Assessor’s office.
- t. Resident provided feedback that part of the success depends on the community participating. It may be a good idea to have a complaint hotline.
- u. Resident inquired whether the permit will be a decal, sticker, or license plate? NEA advised that it can be any, dependent on the enforcement technology.

Kearny Town Council

Permit Parking Meeting # 1 Minutes

- Minutes -

Wednesday, January 15, 2020	Permit Parking Meeting #1 Minutes	Kearny Town Hall – 7:00 P.M.
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------

- v. NEA will look into systems that can potentially track if a vehicle has been parked in the same spot for more than 48 hours.
- w. Resident inquired on the different zones – if I live in the blue, visited the green and stayed there overnight, do I get a ticket? NEA advised that a ticket will not be given if you have a valid parking permit for the Town.
- x. Resident inquired on permits during events at establishments? NEA advised that this will be looked into.
- y. Resident inquired on the cost of a license plate reader.
- z. Resident inquired if they will need to pay parking meters on Kearny Avenue if they have a permit.
- aa. Resident advised that there is shared parking near Sanford Avenue and Harrison Gardens.
- bb. Resident advised that there is a situation where someone with 6 vehicles is using a car rental app to rent the vehicles out. All are parked in the street. NEA advised that the individual would not be able to obtain permits for all of the vehicles. The Town also advised that this may not be a legal operation.
- cc. Resident advised that near the Forest Street / Belleville Turnpike area, some residents will park in North Arlington due to availability. Do not want to hurt any North Arlington residents that may park in Kearny.
- dd. Resident inquired whether there are any legal rights to request information on the number of vehicles people own? Or how many registered vehicles in the Town of Kearny?
- ee. Resident advised of a situation where a mechanic does not live in Town but parks personal vehicles on the street, then rents out his lot overnight. NEA advised that the mechanic will not be able to obtain a parking permit since the vehicle(s) are not registered to a legal Kearny address.
- ff. Resident inquired if the same family lives in separate floors of the home, does everyone get permits. NEA advised that the permits will be on a per unit basis.
- gg. Resident inquired whether exceptions can be made for immediate family members on the fee structure.
- hh. Resident provided feedback to make considerations for people who work in Town overnight that are non-residents.
- ii. Residents advised that they see handicap spots not being utilized. Rather, the person spot saves a different space with their vehicle then moves it. The Town advised that this is illegal and should be called in.
- jj. Resident provided feedback suggesting that pricing should be done a scale basis; I do not have a driveway, I don't think I should pay as much as someone who does not use their driveway.
- kk. Resident on Webster Avenue advised that they will not pay additional fees because they have a driveway that they sometimes chose not to use due to safety concerns of the road and speeders.

END MEETING MINUTES

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Carpenter, RMC
TOWN CLERK

Parking Meeting #1 Minutes Prepared by:
David Silva, P.E., NEGLIA ENGINEERING