

ITEM # _____
DATE: 8-12-24

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

AGENDA ITEM: Request no parking zones added to certain narrow streets to permit fire department access.

HISTORY: Last year the fire department was called to a stove fire at the intersection of 15th Street Place and F Avenue. At the time, parking on both sides of the road prohibited fire apparatus from gaining direct access to the structure during the emergency. There was a response delay as apparatus had to navigate a different street to get close to the structure. The issue was discussed with the council and it was suggested to review the entire city for emergency access and handle all ordinance changes at one time. Limiting parking to the side of the street where no fire hydrants are placed would allow additional clear access to fire hydrants during an emergency.

The International Fire Code (IFC) Appendix D recommends the minimum width of a fire access road adjacent to the hydrant and/or for aerial fire apparatus use should be 26 feet in width (see below). The codes have recognized 24 feet width to be the minimum acceptable width for a residential road. SUDAS standards for road construction use road width as a means to slow traffic in residential areas. The tradeoff of narrow roads to slow traffic vs. changing fire apparatus that have increased in size and width over time is the issue to be considered.

D105.2 Width. Aerial fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet (7925 mm), exclusive of shoulders, in the immediate vicinity of the building or portion thereof.

SUDAS Table 5C-1.01: Preferred Roadway Elements Related to Functional Classification
Urban Curb offset (ft) 7
Parking lane width (ft) 8
Roadway width with parking on one side 31
Roadway width without parking 26

The fire department used 24 feet as the minimal acceptable road width for single side parking and 26 feet if parking were allowed on both sides. We recommend single side parking in residential roads where at a minimum 24 feet is not met. We also recommend the no parking side of the road where listed be on the hydrant side of the road to avoid parking in front of fire hydrants.

The ladder truck is 11.5 feet wide, the average car or pickup around 6 feet. In other words, there would be 6 inches between a passing fire truck and two cars if the roadway

were 24 feet wide (or 3 inches on each side). We should consider 26 feet to be the minimum width needed in future roads when parking is allowed on both sides.

The following roads were determined to be 24 feet or less and should have no parking as specified below:

- 1) 14th Street Place (No parking West side of road from F Avenue north to 734 14th Street Place 23.7 feet)
- 2) 15th Street (No parking West side of road from F Ave North to the intersection of 14th Street Place – 23.4 feet)
- 3) 15th Street Place (No parking West side of road between F Ave North to H Ave – 23.4 feet)
- 4) 18th Street Place (No parking East side from South RR Tracks North to 732 18th Street Place – the road starts at 20.5 feet and averages 22.4 feet until reaching this address and widens the farther North you travel)
- 5) H Ave between 1st Street and 2nd Street (no parking on the north side 20.10 feet)
- 6) 3rd Street south from G Ave to the dead end (no parking on the East side 23 feet)
- 7) 7th Street south from D Ave to C Ave (no parking on the West side of the road, width 20.85 feet)
- 8) D Ave between 8th Street and 7th Street (No parking on north side of the road width 20 feet)
- 9) C Ave between 8th Street and 7th Street (No parking on the north side of the road width 21 feet).
- 10) B Ave between 8th Street and 7th Street (No parking on the north side of the road width 21.35 feet)
- 11) 9th Street between C Ave and D Ave (No parking on West side width 19 feet)
- 12) 10th Street between C Ave and alley north of D Ave at the dead end (no parking on East side of the road width is 19 feet)
- 13) 4th Street from North RR tracks to Q Ave (1600 block of 4th Street no parking on the West side width 22.94 feet)
- 14) 7th Street from North RR tracks to Q Ave (1600 block of 4th Street no parking on the East side width 20 feet)

15) Westwood Drive from the hydrant located near the West drive of 448 Westwood North to 700 Westwood Drive (No parking on the West side of the road width 21.35 feet and a curve with narrow width)

16) E Ave from 5th Street to 6th Street (No parking both sides due to new S-14 truck route)

17) 500 block 5th Street between E Ave and residence 515 5th Street (No parking due to new truck route on 5th Street- Currently there is no parking on all of West side of 5th Street but allowing trucks to make the north turn on 5th requires ½ block no parking on both sides).

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the above listed limitations to parking and make changes to the existing parking ordinance.
2. Reject the above listed changes.
3. Recommend staff look at alternatives to parking ordinances.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Department of Public Safety in cooperation with the Street Department recommend the following changes be made to the municipal parking ordinances. The ability to access properties during an emergency is a paramount concern to the fire department.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Administrator that Council approves Option #1.