



STAFF REPORT
Public Hearing 5/2/23

AGENDA ITEM #: 23-41
COUNCIL MTG OF: April 18, 2023
FROM: Michael A. Fowler, P.E, Director of Public Works
George R. Feole, Police Chief
OFFERED BY: SAME
PREPARED BY: SAME
SUBJECT: Request to amend the Traffic Ordinance to limit parking at Town owned property – Rider Field

PURPOSE: Staff is seeking the Town Council’s approval to amend the Traffic Ordinance Article I Section §150-6 – Prohibited Parking – Time Limitations.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Town Council is urged to accept the staff’s recommendations and amend Chapter 150 of the General Code after the May 2 public hearing.

BACKGROUND: Town Council appropriated funds to support improvements at several recreational fields and facilities. In early 2022, DPW paved the Rider Field parking lot and striped the lot which improved the lot significantly over the previous gravel conditions. Rider Field is used primarily for weekend youth soccer games and midweek evening practices from April to November.

DISCUSSION: Shortly after paving the lot, most of the spaces were filled by Pinkerton Academy students who arrive before 7am and leave by 3pm. The students walk to Tsienneto Road and walk to PA using either the new rear access road to PA or the sidewalk network along Tsienneto Road and North Main Street. The lot has been full throughout the winter as new drivers are licensed and seek to park near Pinkerton Academy on school days.

A new 30 unit planned development known as Oakwood is located adjacent to the parking lot without any physical buffer between the dwellings and the existing parking lot. A complaint has been received from a resident of this development regarding the noise and disruption caused by the PA student vehicular traffic on weekdays before 7am. Specifically, the concerns have been reported as excessive engine noise, tire burnouts and loud voices. Additionally, Parks staff have had the added burden of picking up trash left behind and there was an incident in the aftermath of March 2023 snowstorm where the students blocked access to the Tsienneto Road water tank and required Police action to remove the vehicles.

PA drivers have options to park on campus through a paid permit. There are also paid options with a few private lots located at Hoodcroft Country Club and the Trinity Church. The Rider Field lot is an attractive option to park due to its proximity to PA and free parking. Unfortunately, the actions of these students in utilizing the lot have generated an abutter concern from the use of Town property.

The Town Council has several options including restricting parking completely or narrowing it to selective times. Staff has recommended a balanced approach which would restrict parking to 2 hours Mondays through Fridays on school days from 7am to 3pm. This restriction would still permit public parking for youth leagues evenings and weekends. Any overflow for the Upper Room programs would be permitted as programs under 2 hours would not violate the parking restriction. Violators would receive a \$10 ticket as enumerated in Section 150-9 of the Town Ordinance. It is important to note that there are other streets in Derry adjacent to schools in which the same time restrictions were enacted as a countermeasure to student parking in neighborhoods.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$200.00 for the no parking signs and posts, not including staff labor cost to install.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Town Council amend the Traffic Ordinance and approve the attached resolution.

MOTION: The Derry Town Council MOVES to amend the Code of the Town of Derry, Chapter 150, Traffic Ordinance Article Section §150-6 D– Time Limitations to read:

ADD: Rider Field Parking Lot – 36 Tsienneto Road

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ORDINANCE
Number 2023-002

Amend Chapter 150 of the General Code Restricting Parking
at Rider Field

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Town Charter designates the Town Council as the governing and legislative body of the Town, and pursuant to Section 6.1, the Council shall legislate by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Town recently completed improvements to the Rider Field Parking Lot;

WHEREAS, the area is being used as a parking lot by Pinkerton Academy students; and

WHEREAS, said use has resulted in disturbances to the neighborhood, maintenance issues and public safety concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF DERRY ORDAINS that Chapter 150, Article I, Section 150.6-D of the General Code, Streets and Sidewalks is hereby amended to institute a two hour time restriction at Rider Field from 7AM to 3PM on weekdays during the school year.

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its adoption.

Adopted: May 2, 2023

Attest:

X _____

Charles Foote, Council Chair

Date: _____

X _____

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: _____