

ITEM #: 19
DATE: 07-27-10

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PARKING REGULATIONS ON JENSEN AVENUE

BACKGROUND:

On May 11, 2010, City Council referred a letter from a resident in the two thousand block of Jensen Avenue regarding a request to restrict parking along one side of Jensen Avenue. This was related to a safety concern in allowing two-way traffic along the street with parked vehicles on both sides. As part of the referral, City Council asked staff to notify the residents that live along Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street regarding the feasibility of changing the parking regulations. On July 6, 2010, a notification was sent by mail to 34 households, which included each residence in the designated area.

Currently there are no parking regulations for Jensen Avenue between 20th Street and 24th Street. However, north of 24th Street parking is restricted at all times along the east side of Jensen Avenue north to Luther Drive. It should also be noted that Jensen Avenue is classified as a local street that is 31 feet in width.

The City has a policy to construct narrower streets in new subdivisions, typically 26 feet wide for residential streets, with parking restricted at all times along one side; preferably on the side of the street where the fire hydrants are located. If Jensen Avenue was newly constructed today, it would have such parking regulations established at the time of preliminary platting.

Of the 34 residents notified by staff, only seven responded with comments. Five of the seven stated that they were in support of the proposed change, whereas two said that they would oppose the change. The two residents who opposed the change expressed concern who reducing the available parking was unneeded and may cause hardships. Conversely, those that supported the change generally thought it would help to increase safety along the street, especially in the winter months when snow can further narrow the street.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to modify the current Municipal Code Section 18.31(133) to establish a "No Parking" regulation along the east side of Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street for all hours of the day.
2. Do not modify the parking regulations along this segment of Jensen Avenue.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is a challenging situation, since some of the Jensen residents who responded to staff support the parking prohibition while others oppose it. Prohibiting parking on one side would indeed reduce the available supply of parking for residents and their visitors. On the other hand, this prohibition would make the parking regulations consistent for the entire length of Jensen Avenue. It would also be consistent with current City policy along residential streets of similar width and classification. This restriction may also provide better access for emergency vehicles such as Fire, Ambulance, and Police.

Therefore, it is the City Manager's recommendation that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby directing the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to modify the current Municipal Code to establish a "No Parking" regulation along the east side of Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street for all hours of the day.



PKTs. 5-07-10
Copy John Joiner

March 23, 2010

✓ Mr. Tom Wacha, Councilperson
816 Duff Ave
Ames, IA 50010

Tom:

Thanks for returning my call this morning. As we discussed, I have been working with the city traffic engineer, Damion Pregitzer regarding parking on Jensen Ave. immediately North of our residence through to 24th Ave. Letters by me and Damion describing this request are attached to this memo, as well as photos I took during our recent snow months showing the one lane traffic that results because of a large number of cars parked on both sides of this street. Note my initial letter has the signature of 6 people whom I and others have secured.

My basic position is:

- 1) Parking on this stretch of Jensen Ave. should be restricted to one side only. (20th to 24th)
- 2) I and others have done sufficient due diligence securing signatures as requested. The City should take the ball from here and resolve this issue.

Any help you can offer on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Grieve

2031 Jensen Ave.

Ames, IA 50010

Ph 515 233 6069

Email rvgrieve@isunet.net

cc: Damion Pregitzer
Public Works Dept.

Richard Grieve

From: "Richard Grieve" <rvgrieve@isunet.net>
To: <dpregitzer@city.ames.ia.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 12:36 PM
Subject: Response Richard Grieve
Feb 23, 2010

Damion Pregitzer, Traffic Engineer
Public Works Department
City Hall 515 Clark Ave
Ames, IA 50010

Damion:

Thanks for your letter. My understanding of the process for addressing the parking issue on Jensen Avenue, based upon our last phone conversation, was that you would, following a preliminary review by the council of my previous letter dated Feb 8, 2010, notify all persons on Jensen Avenue with a letter from your office describing the issue. This letter would invite all interested parties to be involved in the process review. You would then make a recommendation to the council for final decisions.

Your request that I physically make contact with all residents along Jensen Avenue to solicit their signatures is something that I really don't want to do and further, I perceive it is not appropriate. A letter from your office is a much better approach. I understand that there may be differing opinions on this and your office will have to make a decision in any event. Myself, or others in the neighborhood, should not need to take such a lead in this project. It seems to me that it is your job to do this.

Possibly, Damion, there may be other approaches of which I am not aware. Thanks for your interest in this request. Please respond.

Sincerely:

Richard A. Grieve
2031 Jensen Ave.
Ames, IA 50010
515 233 6069
rvgrieve@isunet.net

3/24/2010

Damion Pregitzer, Traffic Engineer
P.O Box 811
Ames, IA 50010

As a follow up to our recent phone conversation, please consider modifying the on street parking arrangements on Jensen Avenue between the south intersection of Barr Drive going north to 24th street, to allow parking only on the West side of this street.

Furthermore, parking cars on the East side of Jensen at the curve located at the south end of Jensen makes seeing around this corner dangerous for all North bound traffic.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Richard A. Grieve
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Ames, IA 50010
PH 233- 6069
email rvgrieve@isunet.net

Richard C. Grone	2031 Jensen Ave
Jerry P. Kunesch	2034 Jensen Ave
Diane & Marty Swann	610 Barr Dr.
Andrew J. Jaber	2023 Jensen Ave
Carl Johnson	2101 Jensen Ave
Donald Briggs	2111 Jensen Ave