

STAFF REPORT WEST ALLIS PLAN COMMISSION Wednesday, August 22, 2018 6:00 PM ROOM 128 – CITY HALL – 7525 W. GREENFIELD AVE.

6. Site and Landscaping Plan amendment for proposed site changes to Fire Station No. 1 located at 7332 W. National Ave. submitted by Chief Pooler, West Allis Fire Department (Tax Key No. 453-0222-000).

Overview

The West Allis Fire Department is proposing additional off-street parking On the west (S. 74 St.) side of station No. 1 within an 18ft x 19-ft area. The paved surface would be constructed of concrete and remove some existing landscaping. The purpose of the parking is to park command vehicles in proximity to the building.



Existing parking on site

Existing WAFD parking (off-site) south of National Ave. Existing street parking (public) W. National Ave. Existing angle street (public) parking S. 74 St. 9 spaces (includes 1 ADA) 10 spaces 5 spaces (post construction) 5 spaces





FIRE DEPARTMENT

July 24, 2018

WEST ALLIS FIRE ADMINSITRATION BUILDING PARKING SLAB PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Members of the Planning Commission;

Parking at the Fire Administration building has always been difficult. Several recent changes have increased the problem. With the National Avenue reconstruction project, we stand to lose two parking spaces on National Avenue due to decorative streetscaping and the addition of a bike lane. In 2016, we added an eight hour personnel to run our Mobile Integrated Healthcare program. This additional person resulted in an additional vehicle being parked at the building during the work week. One final significant change has been the change in our command staff. As recently as four years ago, nearly each member of the command staff lived in West Allis and was allowed to take their work vehicle to and from work. In 2018, no members of the command staff live in the city and nearly all members drive their personal vehicle to and from work. Once these employees arrive at work, they then drive a vehicle outfitted for emergency response and leave their personal vehicle parked for the day. This has, in essence, doubled the number of vehicles on site during the work day.

In order to free up parking spaces on 74th street for local businesses and residents, I am proposing that we pave an approximate 18 foot by 19 foot area in between the angle parking on 74th Street and the Fire Administration building. The area is currently a flower bed. However, the plants in is area a primarily decorative grass and the area is often overcome with weeds. Additionally, the area suffers each spring due to sidewalk salt applied during the winter months. If allowed to pave this area, we can park two fire department vehicles on the slab, freeing up two street parking spots.

The area in question would be outfitted with a curb of standard street height along the south edge to prevent vehicles from being driven into the remaining garden area. Also, one or two bollards would be added near the building to protect the gas meter on the west side of the building. Access to the slab would be off of the alley to the north side of the Fire Administration, across the existing approach foe the building's garage.

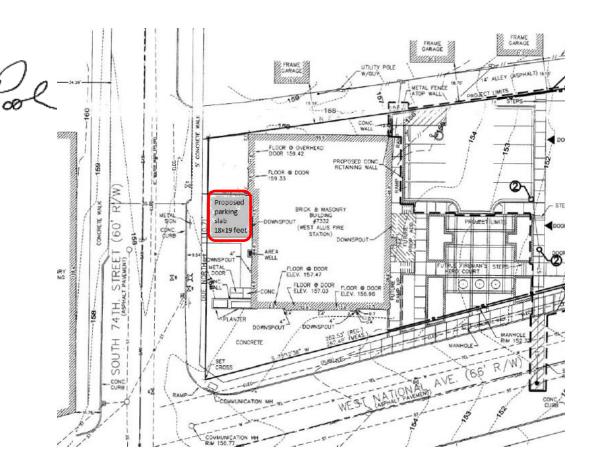
I have spoken to the DPW about this idea and they are supportive. We discussed the idea of using a permeable pavement to assist with rain water runoff, however, per DPW, this solution would be cost prohibitive. Additionally, the gas main for the building runs under the area discussed and installing permeable pavement requires digging much deeper than traditional pavement. The location of the gas main could be problematic if we attempted to dig that deep.

Please see the attached pictures and plan outlining the area being discussed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,

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Mason Pooler Fire Chief





Recommendation: Approval of the Site and Landscaping Plan amendment for proposed site changes to Fire Station No. 1 located at 7332 W. National Ave. submitted by Chief Pooler, West Allis Fire Department (Tax Key No. 453-0222-000), subject to the following: (a) vehicle parking not encroaching into the sidewalk area – ensuring that the Department vehicles will fit within the proposed space; (b) a revised landscaping plan for the remaining landscaping area south of the new paved surface.

** Staff notes that while it's recommending approval of the proposed pavement extension, other alternates may be feasible, and are offered below for discussion:

A1 – the existing on street angle parking on S. 74 St. and/or along W. National Ave. in front of the Fire Department, could be signed and designated for Fire Department personnel parking only.

A2- Furthermore, the City libraries off-street parking lot affords a surplus of parking that could be used by the Fire Department for overnight parking of personal vehicles. Command vehicles could then be parked within the angle stalls on S. 74 St. (if made permanent), and/or within the existing on-site parking lot north of heroes court for ease of access and charging.