

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
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Submitted on: Saturday, January 16, 2021 - 5:14pm

Name: john sallah

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: 90 n main st leased spaces

Comment:

The fact that Longacre Investment Properties wants to sign a lease indicates that there is not enough parking in that area. The City should not be deciding which nearby business are granted these (or any) spaces in a public lot of this size. I understand that the City leases spots in other large double decker garages, but those lots have hundreds of spaces. In this case, it seems like the 9 spots up for lease account for almost half of the spots available in that lot? It benefits one building owner to the detriment of all other local businesses, who also may depend on those spaces for their clientele. Public, city-owned lots should, by and large, be available to anyone.

This also sets a dangerous precedent. Will the City begin leasing public spaces to the first nearby entity to ask? To the highest bidder? How will council decide which businesses are able to lease spaces and which will not?

The entity seeking the lease bought the building on N Main knowing full well that it had no guaranteed parking. It should remain so.

If memory serves, the last parking survey commissioned by the City concluded that there was no shortage of parking. The fact that City council is discussing this would seem to dispute that conclusion. Why would Longacre be willing to pay good money for something that is plentiful?

Contact: No

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