

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

May 6, 1998

5:45 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Cashin.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, Shea, O'Neil, Girard, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, and Hirschmann.

TABLED ITEM

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted to remove following the item from the table.

Resolution:

"Amending an Amended Resolution 'Approving the Community Improvement Program for 1999, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.'."

- (a) Communication from the Director of Planning recommending that the proposed FY99 CIP be amended by adding:

Table 1-4 General Obligation Bonds:

221799 Dental Van - Health Department	\$17,000
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Table 1-5 Projects financed through Enterprises, Fees and Other Dedicated Sources:

221799 Dental Van - Health Department	\$83,000
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On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to read the Resolution by title only, and it was so done.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to amend the resolution by adding \$17,000 to Table 1-4, and \$83,000 to Table 1-5 for project 221799 Dental Van - Health Department, and amending related amounts in the summary paragraphs.

- (b) Communication from the Director of Planning recommending that actual construction of Prout's Park be included in the Bond portion of the FY2000 CIP rather than attempting to use CDBG funds.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to accept and approve the recommendation of the Planning Director

In response to question, Mr. MacKenzie advised no amendment to the resolution was required.

Alderman Girard asked in referring this to the FY2000 CIP are we putting it on the priority list for projects that Parks & Recreation has or are we saying we are going to do this regardless of what the priority order is.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I can't, unless the Board directs so. I would just submit it for the budget. Parks & Recreation does have funds this year to look at the park, do a plan of the park, see what the deficiencies are. They will come out with a recommendation on it. If it does come onto their recommendation list, then I would presume that the Board would fund it in the FY2000.

Alderman Girard asked so this is going back to Parks & Recreation for consideration among all of the other projects that they have; the priority listing that gets sent to this Board.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes that is how we would work it. They did have, I believe it is \$15,000 granted to look at the park for an engineering and master plan of that park.

Alderman Shea asked can we put in amendments to the CIP budget or is this the final vote.

Mayor Wiczorek answered we are getting to the final vote.

Alderman Shea stated before we do, I would like to put an amendment in.

Mayor Wiczorek stated now is the time.

Alderman Shea moved to add \$100,000 to the CIP General Obligation Bonds 1.4 Community Management Service Efficiency in order to do a feasibility study for the Chandler School. I have documentation here, your Honor, that was provided to us at one of the meetings concerning the difficulty that would be involved if the Easter Seal were to be an option and I mentioned in the past how expensive it would be but in addition to that obviously there are substandard type of classroom areas, the bathrooms have to be relocated and renovations in the past were considered too costly and difficulty due to the location of the sewer. All classrooms need to have running water available and it goes on and on. My thinking, your Honor, is at this time it would be much better if we bonded \$100,000 feasibility study in order to put an addition onto McDonough School.

Mayor Wiczorek stated well I think, Alderman, that this is up to the School Department to decide what it is they are going to do. They are going through the process right now to take care of that situation so don't you think it would make some sense to have them decide what is going to be better for them before you try to make a decision for them.

Alderman Shea stated well I am making the proposal and if someone wants to second it that is fine and if they don't, that is up to the Board.

Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion for discussion.

Mayor Wiczorek asked Mr. MacKenzie where he would get the \$100,000 from.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I don't see any special funding sources available. It would have to be bonded. So it would have a certain percentage increase on the tax rate.

Alderman Shea asked how much that would be if we bonded it.

Mr. Clougherty answered every million we spend is \$.28, so \$100,000 is going to be a few cents on the tax rate. It is not going to have a major impact on the tax rate.

Alderman Shea asked and we have enough money so it won't affect our bond rating.

Mr. Clougherty answered no, this amount of money is not going to affect your bond rating. It is allowable cost and in all likelihood we would probably include it in the bond issue that we do out in another year or so.

Alderman Clancy stated, your Honor, I would like to add \$25,000 to the Library.

Mayor Wiczorek replied we are not talking about the Library now, we are talking about the motion on the floor having to do with Chandler.

Alderman Wihby stated, your Honor, I would hope that we would let School make that decision. If they came back the following year and thought it was a good idea, we would probably fund it anyway.

Alderman Sysyn stated I went to a meeting with the people from the childcare services and they said that they felt that the Easter Seal building, and believe me I am all for pushing Chandler School, it is in my ward, it is terrible and it is a disgrace, but they did say that the Easter Seal building was great for those kids. They work with a lot of the kids themselves and I was also given to understand that these kids might be integrated into the other schools after this lease.

Alderman Shea asked may I answer your question about inadequacy here. I mean I have a whole list of different...

Alderman Sysyn replied these are the people also who work with those kids. I am just telling you.

Alderman Shea stated this is from school officials.

Mayor Wieczorek asked are these the same school officials that are doing the negotiating with Easter Seal.

Alderman Shea answered no, this is the former principal of the Chandler School, your Honor. It has nothing to do with negotiations.

Mayor Wieczorek asked the principal of Chandler School works for the School Superintendent, correct.

Alderman Shea replied we all work with them, hopefully.

Mayor Wieczorek stated why don't we wait until the School Superintendent comes back with his recommendation to the School Board and then do what has to be done. I don't think you want to be getting into, you shouldn't at least, be getting into business that you don't have the authority over right now. It is up to the School Board.

Alderman Shea asked what do you mean, your Honor. Don't we bond different...did we get involved with Parkside Junior High School.

Mayor Wieczorek answered yes.

Alderman Shea asked is that a school matter.

Mayor Wieczorek answered yes.

Alderman Shea asked did we fund that, your Honor.

Mayor Wieczorek answered yes.

Alderman Shea stated well that is what I am trying to do with the Chandler School. No different.

Mayor Wieczorek stated but the Administration was looking for that to happen, Alderman, that is the difference. You are trying to get the cart before the horse.

Alderman Shea stated no I am not, your Honor. I am trying to do something for the children of Chandler School and I realize that there is no plan set forth for the School Board members in order to make a judgment concerning an addition onto a specific school or an addition. That is what I am doing and I think that what is going to happen is the School Department is going to have no option but to put additions onto the Easter Seal and be stuck there for three to five years. That is the original plan.

Mayor Wiczorek stated that is correct. That is what they were doing. That is their problem and they are trying to solve it. Now what you are doing is inserting yourself right in the middle of this thing.

Alderman Shea stated well I don't mind doing that because I think that we are wasting taxpayers money by putting additions onto buildings that we don't own and we are committing people to situations that they don't find reasonable.

Mayor Wiczorek stated you know, Alderman, it amazes me that you don't want to get all the information so you can make an informed decision but instead you want to take it in a direction that you think it should go in.

Alderman Shea stated I feel that I should do something to help the children, your Honor, if nobody else is going to do it or if people are throwing obstacles in their way. We can have a discussion here, you and I, but there are other members of the Board. Let them speak.

Alderman O'Neil stated with all due respect to the School Board, we did have a situation dropped in our lap not too long ago with regards to Parkside. I believe it was the right vote that we took, but I do agree with Alderman Shea that if they are not going to set a tone then we have to set a tone for the future and we know we have to do something long-term with the Chandler situation. I think you would agree that the Easter Seal is a short-term, whether it be three or five years. It is not a long-term solution and there has been discussion, at least by Board members, Alderman Clancy and Alderman Sysyn, that an addition to McDonough may be the right way. It may be building another building across the street. So, with all due respect that we are stepping over our boundaries, I don't believe we are when we get handed items at the last minute asking us to put additions on buildings. I support my colleague from Ward 7.

Alderman Pariseau stated my concern, I think Alderman O'Neil addressed, the addition to McDonough, your Honor. Isn't that what we were looking at?

Mayor Wiczorek answered that is one of the options.

Alderman Pariseau asked then why are we hassling over Chandler School. Let the School Department tell us what they want. They did with Parkside and that is why we supported it. They didn't tell us anything with Chandler or McDonough or Easter Seals.

Alderman Girard stated we could spend \$100,000 on a feasibility study to see what could be done for additional space and the School Department could decide that they don't want to have the addition anywhere or a new building. Part of the problem here, your Honor, is that two years ago those kids could have been moved from Chandler and moved over to the Hevey School at St. Marie and for a number of reasons led by the former principal, the School Board balked and now two years later those kids are still in that building. If we are going to go ahead now and try to tell the School Board they can't use Easter Seal and try to do a feasibility study for an alternative which they may or may not choose, the end result is that those children are going to stay stuck at Chandler School. So, it seems to me that the question before this Board and the question before the Board of School Committee is what is the most expedient way to get those kids out and if the School Board and the School Administration determine that in the short-term it is Easter Seal or some other alternative, then that is what should be followed. I don't think we should be second guessing that. Now as to whether or not we are actually going to need a new facility, I have had discussions with both the Planning Director and the School Superintendent who indicate that elementary enrollments may be such that we won't need a new facility and may be able to accommodate that population within current buildings. We all want to do something to help the children of Chandler School, but I think the best way to do it is to get them out in the most quick fashion and right now that seems to be what the Administration is working on. I don't see how this is going to help the situation. If anything, it is going to delay it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am not suggesting that we don't do the Easter Seal thing, Alderman. I think we need to have that in place for next September. I am looking more beyond that. The Easter Seal is a temporary solution, three years or four years, temporary. I am not saying hold up the move to Easter Seal. This is for the long-term.

Alderman Girard replied and I agree with that, Alderman, but the issue is we may not have to spend \$100,000 to do a feasibility study on a new building. If we had moved two years ago, we would have had the time to plan out some steps. So this move, wherever it is to on the lease space, is going to buy the time to evaluate the population trends, to evaluate the facility needs and opportunities and to rush right now and to spend \$100,000 could be throwing it into the wind for no good reason.

Alderman Clancy stated I am sure that everybody here on the Board knows that Chandler School is a priority. Let the School Board go out and do their work. I am behind them 100% no matter what they want to do, but I know that Chandler School was on the top part of the burner and all of the sudden Parkside snuck in. They came to the public hearing. They stacked the

deck more or less. They had a lot of people there speaking for them. Now I want to speak for Chandler. Whatever happens, I am for the Chandler School to have their addition.

Alderman Klock stated I think we are all concerned about the Chandler School. The bottom line is that it is the School Committee's responsibility, not ours right now. I don't think anyone on this Board isn't for Chandler School and improvements and moving the children. We are all for children, but it is not our decision to make right now. Period.

Alderman Cashin stated there has been a couple of references to Parkside and I am sorry but you people are wrong. We didn't sneak it in and we didn't do anything. I take exception. With all due respect, the people from Parkside went to the CIP meeting. It was a public hearing. That is what they were supposed to do. They went and they voiced their opinion and yes we funded the addition. This Board did. We didn't do anything underhanded. We didn't take any money from anyone. Now nobody is more in favor of doing something for the children of Chandler School than I am, but I think honestly, my honest opinion is that if you don't go into the Easter Seal building right now, they are going to be in Chandler School next September and I don't think anyone wants that to happen. I am not committing these children to the Easter Seal building for long-term and I don't think you are. If we work together we can work this out.

Mayor Wieczorek stated with Parkside, I had that in the CIP budget. The Parkside addition, so that was not a surprise.

Alderman Shea stated I want to add, because I think it is important, the commitment to the Easter Seal is a three to five year commitment according to my understanding. In other words, there is going to be improvements made to the building and it will be a three to five year commitment.

Mayor Wieczorek stated so that gives them time to study the long-term situation so that they can do it. They can do what they have to do.

Alderman Shea stated but, your honor, we are putting in a...

Mayor Wieczorek interjected look I have already had a lot of conversation here. You have got a motion on the floor. You made a motion and I am going to take a vote on that motion.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote. A roll call was requested by Alderman Shea. Aldermen Shea, O'Neil, Cashin, Thibault, and Clancy voted yea. Aldermen Girard, Rivard, Pariseau, Hirschmann, Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, and Pinard voted nay. The motion failed.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass and be Enrolled as amended. Alderman Reiniger duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that this being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented, and on motion of Alderman Klock, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk