

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIC CENTER

April 30, 2001

5:15 PM

Chairman Wihby called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Pariseau, Cashin, Hirschmann, O'Neil

Messrs.: Aldermen Gatsas, Vaillancourt, Lopez
T. Beckert, Don Clay, Kevin Clougherty, Jim Hoben, Peter Levy,
Sean O'Kane, Jay Taylor, Lt. R. Tracy

Chairman Wihby addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Review of Change Orders 27, 28 and 29 for authorization to execute for incorporation into Contract Documents.
(Reviewed and authorized by Peter Levy.)

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve Change Orders #27, 28 & 29. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Pete, bottom-line...what do we have left.

Mr. Levy replied in contingency we have a balance of \$645,512.48.

Alderman O'Neil stated I thought I saw a different number.

Chairman Wihby called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Wihby asked what else, Pete. Is everything on schedule.

Mr. Levy replied everything is on schedule, the budget's tight, we're working hard to contain the costs; that there is one more large impact one (electrical) which is still being negotiated. Looks like it's going to be around \$200,000 and that is the end of the high impact ones that we're aware of.

Chairman Wihby asked when is that coming, how long.

Mr. Levy replied a couple more weeks.

Chairman Wihby asked, Jay, who do want to do first.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just want to thank, Pete, I had asked him about a product that replaced...normally, in some cases this might be block wall, so when somebody said drywall, I said jeez won't somebody put their fist through that pretty easy, but you don't really call it drywall do you.

Mr. Levy replied no, they won't put their fists through that.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Status report from the Civic Center Parking Committee to be presented by the Economic Development Director.

Mr. Taylor stated as all of you know in the past six weeks or so we've formed a...Wayne Robinson and I decided we needed to form a committee to deal with some of these parking-related issues and we did that and the committee consists of about 20 people and we've had three meetings so far to discuss a variety of issues including signs, parking, traffic flow, public relations and the potential for shuttle service and I just wanted to let you know what we're doing and we don't have the answers to all of the questions, I'm sure you have at this point, but hopefully by the end of June we'll be able to come back to you and present a full plan for all of these things. So, I thought it would be a good exercise tonight if I had representatives of the various working groups that are working on these issues come in and give you two or three minutes each of what it is they're doing, what they hope to do before we present the full plan. So, with your indulgence I'll do that. The first individual I'd like to have come talk about it is Jim Hoben who dealing with signage issues.

Mr. Hoben stated two weeks ago we met with DOT representatives and they wanted us to have a package together before they'll go to Highway and put their signs up, they want to make sure that our signs are correct coming off the highway, where they're coming off and that's also going back out. So, we created a package, put it together and it's going to be presented to the Traffic Committee next Monday for approval for the signs. Once it's approved, we'll send it up to DOT and they can take it from there.

Chairman Wihby asked what did you do with it. If you're coming down from the south are you bringing them down to the Amoskeag Bridge.

Mr. Hoben replied the Amoskeag Interchange, Wellington (Exit 8 on 93) and Exits 4, 5 & 6. So, coming in we're directing them on Second onto Queen City Avenue down Elm, Granite, Amoskeag to Canal and down and Wellington to Bridge to south on Chestnut to the civic center.

Alderman O'Neil stated the intent is to get them more to parking garages or lots than it is to the civic center itself, correct.

Mr. Hoben stated the State wants their signs correct for directions to bring the people there, they want to make sure...we'll take care of the parking on the other end.

Alderman O'Neil stated if you've got signs taking them to...for instance, you come off Granite Street, we want people to start dumping for parking at Commercial Street, correct.

Mr. Hoben replied we would like to see them go to Rubenstein and the Millyard.

Alderman O'Neil stated you don't want signs continuing to send them straight up to the civic center.

Mr. Hoben replied we will have "event" parking signs.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you follow where I'm coming from on that. We don't need everybody showing up at Lake Avenue and then Elm...where do I go to park now.

Mr. Hoben stated I proposed to have lot attendants and traffic control (the police officers) put out portable event parking signs for directions...just send them down to Rubenstein into the Millyard...

Alderman O'Neil stated the fixed signs, if I may Mr. Chairman, the fixed signs will indicate the civic center.

Mr. Hoben replied correct.

Chairman Wihby stated you're putting this together, it's going to the Traffic Committee when.

Mr. Hoben replied Monday night.

Chairman Wihby stated they're taking just that one item up.

Mr. Hoben replied it's a whole package we're presenting.

Chairman Wihby stated then you're going to DOT for approval.

Mr. Hoben stated once Traffic Committee approves placement of the signs and probably full Board approval, once it's approved we will send it up to DOT and they'll take it from there. They needed a two-month notice to fabricate the signs.

Chairman Wihby asked do you have a map or something that you have all of this written down on that we could see or where you have one.

Mr. Hoben inquired of the State Highway signs.

Chairman Wihby replied and the parking signs, everything...

Mr. Hoben replied we'll have to develop it, I don't have a map right now.

Chairman Wihby asked will you bring something to this committee that shows what you did with the signs, what they look like and where the parking is going to be and how you plan on doing that.

Mr. Hoben stated there's already a sign package that is part of the total civic center that they've hired a company out there to design them.

Chairman Wihby asked what do they look like.

Mr. Hoben replied they're a double-colored blue, Lavalley/Brensinger had hired a company to design them.

Chairman Wihby asked what does it say on it "Civic Center", a picture, what...

Mr. Hoben replied yes with arrows.

Chairman Wihby stated no picture.

Mr. Hoben replied it has waves on it.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Jim, is the State going to ask us to pay for these signs.

Mr. Hoben replied they didn't indicate that at all.

Alderman O'Neil stated or install them, are they going to...

Mr. Hoben replied they are going to take care of it.

Alderman O'Neil asked what about the ones coming down the City streets.

Mr. Hoben replied we're doing those.

Alderman O'Neil stated installing, but how about the cost to...

Mr. Hoben replied Tom thought it was out of our budget.

Alderman O'Neil stated the State to the best of our knowledge is going to pick that up.

Mr. Hoben replied the State is taking care of the highway.

Mr. Taylor stated that's my understanding.

Alderman O'Neil stated the State is taking care of all of the side streets...

Mr. Taylor replied no, the ones on the interstate the State is handling. They are not taking care of the ones in the City.

Alderman O'Neil stated that's what I'm asking.

Mr. Taylor replied no, those are coming out Traffic's budget as far as I know.

Alderman Cashin asked do you have a cost, Jim.

Mr. Hoben replied no, I don't.

Alderman Cashin asked will you have a cost before...

Mr. Hoben replied I believe the civic center ones for the City are \$14,000.

Alderman Cashin stated the civic center ones are being paid out of, I assume, out of the construction cost, is that right.

Mr. Taylor replied not the street signs, no. Just the signs that are in the building, the interior signs and the ones on the site will come out of the civic center budget, I believe.

Alderman Cashin stated so all street signs are coming out of where, who's paying for those.

Mr. Hoben replied we'll absorb the route signs; that we can fabricate the interstate signs.

Alderman Pariseau stated wouldn't all of those expenses associated with the signage be coming out of the parking fees.

Mr. Hoben replied that goes into the general fund.

Mr. Taylor stated some of the additional expenses related to extra police protection and trash collection and all that sort of thing are projected to come out of the parking revenue that's generated by the civic center; that is correct.

Alderman Cashin asked why aren't the signs coming out of the same.

Mr. Taylor replied I don't know specifically where the money for the signs... Tommy would probably be the guy that could answer that and obviously he's not here.

Alderman Cashin asked you don't have a line item for this, do you, in your budget.

Mr. Hoben replied not a separate one for the civic center, just a regular line item for signs.

Alderman Cashin stated I think it ought to come out of the parking fees like everything else, yes.

Chairman Wihby asked did Tom think he had the money within the budget or are you talking about the July 1st budget, the existing budget.

Mr. Hoben replied his was to use some of the money that we had left from this budget.

Chairman Wihby asked do you have money left over to do this with.

Mr. Hoben replied we have some of it.

Chairman Wihby in reference to July 1st stated you're getting the extra money that the Mayor gave you to take care of the rest.

Mr. Hoben replied right.

Alderman Cashin asked what extra money.

Chairman Wihby replied the Mayor gave them extra money in traffic...that's what he told us.

Alderman Pariseau stated because of anticipated revenues from...

Chairman Wihby stated we've still got to put it in their budget and the revenue comes into the general fund, it's the same, it's a wash.

Alderman Pariseau stated I just wanted to make sure that these charges are charged against the parking fees, there's no sense in having the taxpayers foot the bill for signage for the civic center.

Mr. Taylor stated I can't specifically tell you that I've had a discussion about the signs, but I know that those other items...the police and trash and all of the rest was definitely included in the Mayor's budget as part of the...was going to come out of the parking revenue, but I will look into the signs and find out where that supposedly is going to come from. The next person here is Sean O'Kane, he is going to talk a little bit about some of the issues that we run into with respect to the use of the Center of NH Garage, in particular, and to some extent some of the other garages.

Mr. O'Kane stated it seems like my committee has the most challenge, at this point, we still have more questions than we have answers, but we basically broke down the issue of parking garages and lots into two levels. One being the majority of the lots and garages the other being the Center of NH lot itself, the garage. There are concerns that have been brought to us by merchants and how to manage the other lots and garages in the City, some valid concerns and I think it was a very manageable issue that we'll be able to work on. The Center because that provides some unique opportunities because of it's multiple-use function, particularly with the hotel and the office tower. I'm not a parking expert, I'm a hotelier, so we have hired Lasz Parking who is our parking consultant in Boston with GPA Management who owns and manages the hotel and the garage for you folks and we brought them in to see if we can capture on their expertise some good solutions on how to properly manage the Center's garage effectively so that everyone can realize a win/win situation. We brought them on about a week ago, we're still waiting for some answers...they've been in to look at our parking facility physically, they're trying to look at some of the flow patterns that exist with functions that go on at the Center and within the tower and then try to create

a plan based on civic center activity...what is the best way to manage it. There are still a lot of unanswered questions in terms of infrastructure issues particularly as it relates to traffic flow that will impact how we manage that, so traffic is allowed in and traffic is allowed out effectively. So, we're working on that and I hope that within the next two weeks we'll have some more concrete answers as to how to move forward. JPA does feel that it is our responsibility since we are the managing agent of the garage to come up with a solution and we're working to do that.

Chairman Wihby asked do you need anything from us.

Mr. O'Kane replied at this point, no.

Chairman Wihby asked are you working with the Traffic Committee.

Mr. O'Kane replied we're working through Jay's committee here and coordinating through this body. It's conceivable that something will come forward, but I think if we can come to you with a concrete plan as to how this could work and have an intelligent conversation at that level, it seems to make more sense.

Mr. Taylor stated I think once we come back with the completed plan if there are actions that are going to be required for the City to take, I think that's the time we would make a request of this committee and/or the Board whichever is appropriate.

Chairman Wihby stated I guess my concern is that we're getting close to the time frame, we have committees that are formed and we have one committee, but yet things are going to other committees like signs and traffic and parking are going to Traffic first before we see it. Is that how you envision everything going to the different committees and then ironed out in that committee or...

Mr. Taylor replied no, I think Traffic is a little different issue because that committee does have the jurisdiction...the other parts of this puzzle which we're going to talk about which we've talked about so far and which we will talk about together...a part of this plan which I would envision would come back to this committee for a total presentation of what we think needs to be done for the civic center and then if it requires Board action or further committee action would go from there.

Chairman Wihby stated you don't see anything else going to other committees rather than Traffic. This committee that Sean's on, who else is on it. Who's determining who's on the committees or who's reporting back to you.

Mr. Taylor replied when we had the organizational Civic Center Parking Committee meeting back in March we asked for volunteers to work on these various issues, so there are three or four people working with you...Dave Waldecker from the parking garage company, the outside consultant, Tim Beckert, so there's three or four people on every one of these work groups that have been informally working on these things and every two weeks when we meet they write a report to the committee.

Alderman Wihby asked is there anybody from the City on that committee or are they just reporting every two weeks.

Mr. Taylor replied myself, Wayne Robinson, Jim Hoben, Tom Lolicata was on the committee prior to his getting sick, but yes there are some City people on there. There are two Aldermen, three Aldermen actually...Aldermen Lopez, Levasseur is a member and Alderman Clancy.

Mr. Taylor in reference to traffic flow issues and the accompanying neighborhood concerns are being addressed by a work group being headed by Lt. Tracy and I believe he's here.

Lt. Tracy stated I'm here to talk about traffic and parking enforcement and parking control from the Police Department's point. We had met with Felix Torres and representatives of the center city regarding some concerns and issues they had with civic center events taking up parking spaces within the neighborhoods. We believe that we have found a solution to some of these problems and in talking with Tommy Lolicata several of the streets east of Pine Street will be signed with 2-hour time zones which we will take enforcement action on. Enforcement point...one of the things we're looking to do initially is to cover the enforcement in the evening hours and on Saturdays with overtime until we discover exactly how much enforcement we are going to need to cover (time wise) in that area and then at some point we may have to look to add additional personnel to the Parking Control Division of the Police Department. But, initially, we are going to cover it with overtime. One of the other concerns we have is that the fines for the people that park illegally or use the center city lots, not the lots but the center city streets to park for the civic center events...the fines as they stand now may not be steep enough if the fees to park your vehicle is roughly about the same price. So, we want to take a look at the fines and see if they're conducive to encourage the people to move off the streets and use the parking lots, so that's an issue that we're currently looking at.

Alderman O'Neil stated Dick, I don't know if this is a fair question for you, but I kind of throw this out. I'm hearing from people in those neighborhoods east of Pine Street that they would rather just put up with inconvenience when there's events going on, but not have any...originally there was a proposal to put meters up there that went absolutely nowhere and they'd rather put up with the inconvenience of worrying about it...2-hour signs and having to control that with visitors and all that. Was there any discussion about not having any regulation east of Pine Street.

Lt. Tracy replied I would have to say that Felix Torres from Manchester Neighborhood Housing is a gentleman who voiced concern on behalf of the neighbors...now, I can't tell you who he spoke with, but he was representing the center city...predominantly the people east of Pine Street and all the apartment houses and I wasn't getting that message from them, so if that is being delivered certainly I will bring that to Felix's attention and certainly we should look at that before we put all these signs up if the people, in fact, don't want them.

Alderman O'Neil stated that is what I'm hearing from people; that they would rather put up with the inconvenience during civic center event times and have the convenience of non-civic center times...they were certainly very upset about meters and the few that I've heard from are concerned about the 2-hour time limit.

Lt. Tracy stated I know at one point there was a discussion of...somebody brought up a 1-hour time limit and at that point we then came back and said well, if somebody has a guest over, a family friend or whoever are you really affording them enough time to visit that person, have dinner, whatever the occasion might be. So, thus we went to 2-hours. If you go beyond two hours, if you make it three hours then you're talking about that's probably the average time of a civic center event and the person is going to be able to park there anyway, so.

Alderman O'Neil stated the intent of the two hours is to deter anyone from parking there for a civic center event.

Lt. Tracy stated that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked do we know what other communities have done with regard to neighborhood parking at either civic center or ballfields or something.

Both Lt. Tracy and Mr. Taylor indicated they did not know. Mr. Taylor stated I don't know if Tom has checked into that or not, I'm not sure.

Alderman O'Neil stated I've had some reservations about that.

Mr. Taylor stated I think we were trying to be sensitive to the neighborhood because those concerns kept surfacing as we talked about this that people who don't have any place to put their car and live in a 3-decker don't want to come home at night from work and find their parking space gone by people who are at the civic center. So, the concern was to try to keep cars, to the best we can, out of there. On the other hand, we also know that people do have company and they don't want to put money in the meter...I wouldn't either if I lived there. So, the two hour number came up and it's kind of a reasonable compromise between all of the...if we find out that people aren't concerned with that and they don't mind cars parking there, that's great because it gives us more parking closer in. But, I thought the concern was and I think Dick has heard part of this concern too that people were worried about it and you're hearing something different. So, I'd like to know and try to get to the bottom of that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I had mentioned at one of our last meetings about resident sticker parking rather than two-hour parking...two hours you're allowing anyone to just pull up for a two-hour span...you know they're going to abuse that. What happened to the resident sticker plan so that only residents would go there and have a sticker and anyone without a resident sticker...

Lt. Tracy stated the concern there again is what do you do with the people who have guests, where would that guest part. If I lived there on Laurel Street and I have a sticker for myself, but yet I have somebody come over to visit me where does that person park.

Alderman Hirschmann asked don't we have other districts in the City like up around Notre Dame College and other places that have a sticker program in effect. So, it's the same as up there.

Lt. Tracy stated there is no time zone there.

Alderman Hirschmann stated what this would do is allow residents to park in front of their house, make people park in lots and garages.

Lt. Tracy asked how would I discourage the civic center person from parking there.

Alderman Hirschmann replied I'd tow them.

Lt. Tracy stated the only person who can park in front of this house would have to have a sticker.

Alderman Hirschmann stated yes.

Lt. Tracy stated when they guests or they have company where do those people park.

Alderman Hirschmann asked how does it work in your district, Dave.

Chairman Wihby replied I don't have resident parking in Ward 1. We have parking for Notre Dame only that's a self program they put on for the students, not for the residents that are there.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are there any resident parking districts in the City.

Lt. Tracy replied yes...I'll give an example...Orange Street, Market Street...they have resident...those are a couple of areas that come to mind. If they have the permit they're then allowed to park at a metered space because all of those areas are metered, so they can park there. Now, if I come to visit somebody during the day then I have to feed the meter. If it's after 6:00 PM then I don't have to pay the meter. But, after 6:00 PM there's really no reason for all of this parking space to get taken up. The people with the resident permits because they needed a place to put their car during the day and we didn't want to make them pay to be there because they live there...thus they were given the permit. The folks east of Pine that live there were going to be given a permit which would allow them to park longer than the two hours if they have this permit. So, Tom Lolicata was still planning on putting up permit programs in this area, but we need to address the people from the civic center that would park there more than two hours, but as Mr. O'Neil stated if that's not a concern of the neighbors and they would rather work without the signage then I think Mr. Torres needs to be brought on board with that and certainly you folks that represent the people in that area and certainly we don't need to put the signs up if they don't want them.

Chairman Wihby stated so you're taking this as being taken up again at Traffic.

Lt. Tracy replied yes.

Alderman Lopez stated I just wanted to mention that that discussion...about 24 people sitting around the table was the same discussion and in the final analysis is in making a decision to present it to Traffic and then the Civic Center Committee...so, if there are some ideas like Alderman O'Neil, please pass them on because I think maybe we can get SMG to go and do a survey of the neighborhood in order to make a concrete decision to pass on here because it's the same discussion here we had at the meeting.

Alderman O'Neil stated that section that Tommy was talking about, do we know what's the north and south boundary of that...as far as Union...

Lt. Tracy replied I think it went father than Union, it might have gone as far as Beech but I think they were looking at Valley to Hanover and I'm not 100% on that...

Alderman O'Neil asked does Jim Hoben know.

Lt. Tracy replied certainly we could start in a smaller area and see how it works and expand it.

Alderman O'Neil stated to the best of your knowledge streets like Bell, Grove, Green would all be included in that.

Lt. Tracy replied possibly.

Mr. Hoben stated the boundaries was Hanover to Valley and Chestnut to Maple, the south side of Hanover all the way to Valley and up to Maple Street.

Alderman O'Neil stated to speak for myself that needs some work, guys.

Mr. Hoben stated it will be proposed street-by-street, you can pick and choose.

Chairman Wihby stated Traffic is going to look at it first to pick and choose before it comes before the full Board and it probably ought to come here before it goes to the full Board too.

Alderman Gatsas stated let me understand, Lt. There are parking permits one block west of Elm Street with meters, so if I'm living on Merrimack Street, I have a permit and there's a meter in front of my house and if a guest comes to visit me he must feed that meter.

Lt. Tracy replied yes, Sir, during the day.

Alderman Gatsas stated in retrospect one block above that going the other way off of Elm Street if I'm on Laurel Street there are no meters, so if a guest comes to visit me during the day they don't have to pay.

Lt. Tracy replied specifically on Laurel Street I believe there are one-hour signage and that was at the request of the neighbors because the people working in the

federal building and the neck of the woods were parking in front of these people's apartments all day and thus they didn't have room for themselves or guests.

Alderman Gatsas asked why wouldn't we put meters there, allow the parking so that we can get revenue and allow resident permits there.

Lt. Tracy replied I do believe the meters were proposed for that area but to the best of my knowledge have been discouraged by...

Alderman Gatsas asked is there a difference why...from your professional opinion is there a difference one block each of Elm versus two blocks west of Elm as being a difference for where meters should be and where they shouldn't be in residential neighborhoods.

Lt. Tracy replied my best guess...

Alderman Gatsas stated never mind, I didn't want to put you in...I didn't mean to do that...let's try it again. Why aren't the meters on Merrimack Street, Middle Street, Market Street...where the proposed resident parking tags allowed...why aren't they pulled out and put in one-hour parking.

Lt. Tracy replied those areas are a combination of residences and professional offices. The district east of Pine Street is predominantly all residences. There are very few businesses except you might have a corner store. As an example at Central and Union you have a little corner store there, but that whole area east of Pine Street on Central, Laurel and Merrimack Streets are predominantly apartment buildings. So, my guess is you weren't looking to charge people to park there, but they put the signs up because the people that work Downtown did park there knowing that they were only a block or two away from where they worked and they were parking for free, so they put the signs up to protect the neighborhoods.

Alderman Gatsas stated if we're telling a guest that he has to go pay to visit somebody on Merrimack Street why shouldn't that guest have to pay to visit somebody on Laurel Street if we give out a residential parking sticker.

Chairman Wihby stated a guest is not going to get a residential sticker.

Alderman Gatsas stated on Merrimack Street the resident gets a sticker. If I want to go visit that person during the course of the day, I must feed the meter. There are no meters on Laurel Street, so why wouldn't we institute meters.

Chairman Wihby replied they already looked at the meters and I remember there was a big tado.

Alderman Hirschmann stated it was never discussed that you'd put the meters up and get a permit parking pass, it was discussed about meters and Alderman Clancy, myself...no one wanted the meters, but if you could have a permit parking sticker and meters that would make sense.

Chairman Wihby asked wasn't the original plan having resident stickers with meters.

Alderman Gatsas stated the original plan last year when this conversation came up about parking was originally to put the meters there and also to issue resident stickers.

Chairman Wihby stated but that didn't go anywhere.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the meters were discussed, but not the stickers.

Chairman Wihby asked you're on Traffic too.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied yes, this was never decided by the Traffic Committee, I think it was tabled at the time. My concern is as you discussed the revenue from this area...there are two prongs that we are approaching. One, is obviously the convenience of people in the neighborhood, but if I come to a civic center event from say Lowell or Concord or something, I'm going to drive around before I decide to pay five to ten dollars in a garage and if I see there's a place I can park for free I'm going to park there, so I'm wondering if we leave these without any kind of enforcement, any kind of penalties as you say the fines might have to be raised and if we just make it so that just anybody can park there...how many spaces are we losing without any payment coming in...of course, every time we do that we're losing money that we have to pay to the management company because of the number of people going into the building. How many of the spaces are we talking about in this area that it now looks like we might have totally free with no fines either, how many would this be.

Lt. Tracy replied I don't know the numbers, Sir.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I don't believe this was ever decided at the Traffic Committee, it was mentioned briefly and kind of tabled.

Chairman Wihby asked, Alderman Lopez, are you on Traffic too.

Alderman Lopez replied no, but I was at that meeting and I think Alderman Hirschmann is right it's never been discussed about the meters and permits...that there were objections to putting meters in those particular areas and Alderman Gatsas is right...one place or another...it is a solution that maybe the permit aspect could be adopted with Alderman Clancy's committee. I don't think that was ever brought up in committee, it was just opposition for putting meters in a neighborhood.

Alderman O'Neil stated a couple of things, Mr. Chairman. I have been to baseball games up in Portland, Maine and have done both ways where you can park at Southern Maine right off the highway and take a shuttle bus to the stadium and the shuttle buses are waiting for you right outside or, if you so choose, there's actually three options. You can pay private parking...people have different businesses and have parking, but the third option is you can decide to park in the neighborhood, at no cost, but I can tell you to find a parking spot in the neighborhood you spend about a half-hour doing it. So, this easiest thing to do is come off the highway, park your car, get on the shuttle bus and you're at the game. So, it is true that you can search out inexpensive parking, but there's time involved with that. The other thing I want to go back to is just kind of the broad picture. I saw what was going to happen. We were going to have a total package on everything presented to this committee and then we would recommend to the Traffic Committee the changes for what needed to be approved and it seems as though we're going in kind of a reverse direction here unless I misunderstood the original objectives here.

Chairman Wihby stated I guess you're right, that's the way the direction is heading.

Lt. Tracy stated I have to say that I'm kind of glad that I don't have a final plan tonight only in the sense that I think you bring up an important issue and Mr. Hirschmann does and certainly we have things that we can look at...I would rather speak with Mr. Torres and I think Mr. Taylor brought up...maybe we need to have Mr. Torres survey the neighbors or somebody should get out and speak with them and find out exactly what they want and what you folks would like us to propose or work on.

Chairman Wihby asked, Alderman O'Neil, did you want it to go another way.

Alderman O'Neil replied I just kind of asked quickly...I thought "everything" from signage to parking to shuttles to whatever was going to come back to the committee, the Civic Center Committee and then get ironed out and then recommend that the items that needed to be reviewed by the Traffic Committee ask them to review those, but after...because I just think this is all going to end up all over the place.

Chairman Wihby asked when we have a committee report tomorrow, do you want to make that motion and we'll see if the full Board goes along with it.

Alderman O'Neil moved that everything associated with the civic center from traffic movement to parking to signage to shuttle service to planning, additional trash pick-up, to additional Police officers...I thought all that was going to come back to this committee. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Cashin stated I'd like to get a cost associated with all this too. How much is it going to cost for Highway, Police enforcement, Traffic or anybody else that might be involved in this...the shuttle bus, I want costs.

Alderman O'Neil stated the intent here is not to step over the authority of the Traffic Committee, it's just to try and work out some of the bugs with everything and then present a clean package to the Traffic Committee.

Chairman Wihby called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Lopez stated just to bring to your attention...as you're working on this DOT on the signs, they like to get all of the sign aspects of the whole package up at the State around July, it's going to take them about two months to put a scheme together and everything else and bring it back in September and have everything laid out, so just to keep that in mind these people came down from the State and they'd like to have that time frame to work with.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I just wanted to follow-up on what Alderman O'Neil says and I certainly agree that there are all kinds of people in the world...there are some people who would like the convenience of being able to park and hope on a bus and go someplace and be there, but believe me there are an equal number of people who would say 15, 20 minutes even 30 minutes of my time is worth looking around for something free. When I go to the casino in Montreal there's a place where you can take a shuttle bus, but I never use it because I'm of the mentality I like to be as close as I can to where I park, if it's free or it's not free. Certainly, I and I think a lot of other people would take the time to look around for a free space that gets them closer to their car because there's kind of this connection. So, I think we should understand that there are a sizable number of people who would be of that mindset as well.

Chairman Wihby stated, Jay, tomorrow we'll take that vote and then from there we will discuss if we have to have weekly meetings, we'll have weekly meetings if that what it takes in order to expedite everything.

Mr. Taylor asked when do we go to one meeting, is it July the first month we go to one meeting of the Board.

Clerk Bernier replied June, July, August and September.

Mr. Hoben stated we were planning on bringing in a package on Monday night at a Traffic Committee meeting. There is a whole host of increases and rates and parking issues.

Chairman Wihby asked what time is the meeting.

Clerk Bernier stated this evening's Finance Committee meeting has been canceled and has been rescheduled for the following Monday; that you're meeting will have to be rescheduled...this has all been decided two hours ago.

Chairman Wihby stated maybe we can have a meeting before you have your Traffic meeting or maybe we can make it a meeting of both committees (Traffic and Civic Center), a joint meeting to see it.

Alderman O'Neil stated why don't we get everything first instead of this piece-mealing of okay, we're going to adjust rates one night, we're going to do signage another night, let's get the total recommendation from this committee instead of piece-mealing it.

Chairman Wihby asked do you have the whole thing, are we under a time frame you're saying.

Mr. Taylor replied it's important to get Jim's signage package done early on because we need some lead time there and the rest of it we're planning on bringing it in at one time, hopefully. But, if he needs some lead time I think it's important to get at that. So, I think maybe a joint meeting is the way to do.

Chairman Wihby asked which would be sometime next week. You can't bring it forward anyway until two weeks after, or a week after, right.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is there going to be night time meter enforcement.

Lt. Tracy replied yes, Sir.

Alderman Hirschmann stated in a perimeter area of the civic center.

Lt. Tracy stated I believe the plan is to expand the hours of when you have to pay a meter and I think they're looking to go to Saturdays, as well.

Chairman Wihby stated it's going to be on the meters, it says this meter you pay on Saturdays.

Lt. Tracy replied yes, Sir.

Alderman Hirschmann stated if someone pulled up on Central Street near the court house or if someone pulled into McQuade's lot all of these meters will be enforced.

Lt. Tracy replied I believe that is the plan, Sir.

Chairman Wihby asked whose plan is that.

Lt. Tracy replied it's in discussion. I shouldn't say it's been finalized, but.

Chairman Wihby asked when is that going to be finalized so you can bring it to make changes or not...weeks, months.

Mr. Hoben replied we were planning on having it out Thursday.

Chairman Wihby asked having "what" Thursday.

Mr. Hoben replied the plan that we were going to submit to Traffic.

Chairman Wihby stated you plan on having the plan by Thursday so you can submit it to Traffic on Monday.

Mr. Hoben replied right.

Chairman Wihby stated so if we make a joint meeting sometime the following week with Traffic we would sit down and we're going to get all of the specifics of your plan.

Mr. Hoben replied right.

Chairman Wihby asked does that sound good. We'll know by next week, we'll meet next week and we'll have the two committees meet at the same time and hopefully come up with some...

Alderman Gatsas interjected I think he's talking about the budget session. I think Mr. Hoben is talking about his presentation to the budget, is that correct.

Mr. Hoben replied no. Originally, we were going to have the Traffic Committee meeting before the budget committee meeting.

Chairman Wihby stated your Traffic Committee was suppose to meet next Monday.

Mr. Hoben replied yes before our budget committee presentation.

Chairman Wihby asked what plan are you going to have on Thursday, the whole plan we're talking about on meters on Saturdays and everything else.

Mr. Hoben stated right that plan I was going to submit for the agenda.

Chairman Wihby stated so, if we meet sometimes next week we can understand what you have all met and discussed as far as where and when and how and all that stuff will be decided by sometime next week.

Mr. Hoben replied true.

Alderman O'Neil stated you're presenting your side of this whole thing. Jay the rest of the committee isn't ready to present this next week; that is what I'm saying...get the whole thing together and present it.

Alderman Lopez asked, Mr. Chairman, can I clarify something please. Alderman Clancy instructed the Traffic Department to fast track in getting the signs to his committee so it's not held up to get it to the State.

Chairman Wihby stated yes, we're talking about the interstate signs; that is the only thing that's done at this point.

Alderman Lopez replied the ones in the City, he has the whole plan for all the signs in the City and the State, but the crucial thing is to get the information to the State DOT in order to move forward because the naming rights and the other signs takes time.

Chairman Wihby asked what about meter changes and rates and all that. When is that going to be decided...Thursday.

Mr. Hoben replied that is what we were bringing in, what we were going to bring in Monday night...

Chairman Wihby stated that whole plan is going to be done for Monday. I'm getting different answers from people sitting there.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated the Mayor has already incorporated that into his projected revenues, maybe David Scannell or somebody from the Mayor's Office can tell us what they projected when they made this projected revenue for his budget.

Chairman Wihby asked, Jay, as the head of this committee what is ready for Monday or not.

Mr. Taylor replied the only thing that I understand that is ready for Monday is the sign package, the local sign package and I guess Jim now is talking about parking fees, is that part of your presentation or not.

Mr. Hoben replied we have the whole thing together. We have the residential 2-hour zones, residential parking permit zones (the boundaries), and all of the meters.

Chairman Wihby asked is that everything.

Mr. Taylor replied no; that is just his portion. Now, the rest of it is never going to be ready by next Monday, I don't want to convey that; that the rest of it...what Dick's talking about and what Sean O'Kane was talking about and what subsequent speakers were talking about we probably won't be ready till sometime in June to bring that whole thing in. But, I think the issue here is critical to get some of this stuff moving, so that we don't hold up the State.

Chairman Wihby stated I think the State DOT signs are fine, I don't think this committee really cares about...well, of course, we'd like to see them but it's not a big deal...the State's going to verify it and everything else. But, I think we're talking about...we'd like to see the whole...we've talked about resident's parking, we've talked about 2-hour meters, we've talked about 3-hour meters, no meters...when is the plan going to get done.

Mr. Taylor replied that is what he is talking about coming in next week.

Chairman Wihby stated so don't we want to sit it on part of that with the Traffic Committee.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Jay isn't that part of the total from what parking garages and what lots are going to be used. Isn't the total parking program one.

Mr. Taylor replied no because what Jim's talking about is...Jim is talking about two different...some of his assignment overlaps with what Sean O'Kane is talking about. Jim's thing is involvement with signs, directional signs, getting people to and from the Interstate...

Alderman O'Neil interjected forget the signs. we've conceded the signs.

Mr. Taylor continued by stating the meters...he's talking about and the 2-hour program that was talked about is to take care of the neighborhood issues and I gather that's part of what...

Alderman O'Neil asked doesn't that affect what happens in the garages and what happens in the garages affects what happens in the residential sections, it's all part of the same thing.

Mr. Taylor stated the rates on the various lots that we're talking about...those are not ready to come in, those will come in with the rest of this package when we bring it in in June, the fees for the parking.

Chairman Wihby stated Jim is saying that the Traffic Committee is going to meet next week to discuss this stuff, we've got to decide if we want them to meet first and then send it to us or do we want to be part of that meeting, I guess that is where we're at.

Alderman Cashin stated Leo said the meeting was postponed.

Chairman Wihby stated Monday's postponed.

Alderman Cashin stated why don't we let him go to Traffic, do their thing and then they can come to us within...then we'll get the whole package. I agree with Alderman O'Neil, I'm not going to sit here and listen to it piecemeal. It sounds like your package isn't going to be ready until June.

Mr. Taylor replied that's my goal, to get it done by June.

Alderman Cashin asked is the City going to have time from June until the opening to get all of this put together so that everybody understands what's going on.

Mr. Taylor replied that's about as fast as we could move given that we're working with volunteers here, but I think we can do it. June I think...we're still on track for getting most of this done. None of this is rocket science, it's just a matter of getting the program put together so everybody understands what it is at which point we're not at yet, I might add.

Chairman Wihby asked what was the rush then to make the presentation Monday.

Mr. Taylor replied I think we've been told by the State guys...

Chairman Wihby interjected other than the signs.

Mr. Taylor stated they have to have a couple of months lead time and we wanted to get some of these things in place prior to having some of these concerts that are going to take place this summer, just kind of do a dry run on the signs and the meters so that everybody will know...

Chairman Wihby asked are we looking to put up the meters, you were looking for a vote, Jim, this week and then come to the Aldermen and then actually start doing something with meters right away.

Mr. Hoben replied we need the lead time to manufacture new signage, we have to order labels for the meters and we program the meters. So, it's considerable work.

Alderman Cashin asked can you do that between June and November.

Mr. Hoben replied November 14th, I hope so.

Chairman Wihby stated what Alderman Cashin is saying is that if you waited a month to get the whole plan done rather than come in piecemeal, is that going to hurt you.

Mr. Hoben replied no, it won't.

Alderman Cashin stated my understanding is you're going to go to the State, give the State what they need to get their signs done, can we agree to that. Take that part out, that's gone. Now, the rest of it we'll address by June, is that what we're saying.

Mr. Taylor stated if you want to hear the whole thing at once, we'll bring in the whole thing at once, that's not a problem. It's just that if he's ready with part of this we thought it might be ready to get it started, but if you want to hear the whole thing at once...

Chairman Wihby stated if the motion passes on Tuesday, it'll come to this committee first and then we'll pass it onto Traffic, right. So, when you're done the whole thing comes to the committee and then we'll move on whatever parts we have to move on to other committees.

Mr. Taylor stated I have a couple of other quick issues. One, is public relations and Tim Beckert who is the Manager of this facility.

Mr. Beckert stated our sub-committee was charged with the task of advertising and promoting the package that will be presented to you once it is in its complete form. One of the things that we've separated as an important issue is that we have one voice on this and as a couple of the Aldermen have suggested we do not want to piecemeal this out, I think it will do a disservice to the parking issue in the big picture, so real quickly not to take up too much of your time, I think we have the easiest task out of all of these sub-committees in the form of advertising and promoting what ultimately will be our presentation. One of the most important features of the advertising and the promotion of the parking issue, if you will, is to develop a four-colored handout piece that will be distributed through many different sources and I believe there is attached in your papers tonight, I think Jay included this outline so you can follow along and you can catch up at a later time. But, in addition to this one basic piece that will include and I'd be more than happy to give it to you if you don't have it...okay, that's okay I'll run two copies off and make sure they get into your hands...but, in addition to this piece there will be supplemental pieces that will be provided by the civic center, be provided by the hockey team, by the Chamber of Commerce...but, it is the focus of this piece to identify the different print means and methods of getting to the civic center, where the different parking garages are going to be, where the different parking spaces are going to be...if and where shuttle service will be provided and all of those types of issues and again, all of the supplemental issues that will be passed out will include the same information. Again, we all want to make sure that we're all on the same page, we're all telling the same story, and we're all giving the same information. In addition to this piece, obviously, we'll be reaching out to our media partners to help support this program in the form of PSA's, television, radio, print...we'll have the opportunity, I think, to do some inserts. Obviously, the editorials will come into play and obviously this will be news coverage as well. All of these, I might add too, are projected to be done at no cost because of it's news worthiness and public service information. Another method of getting the

word out...the promoting is through the Internet, through the use of the different Internet and Websites, the City of Manchester Web Site, the Chamber of Commerce again. Obviously, the Civic Center Web Site, the Hockey Team Web Site, the MTA Web Site, hotel web sites, parking garage web sites, all of these vehicles will be utilized in order to spread the same message keeping consistency. There are a number of alternative tactics that exist having people standing at street corners where traffic builds up, handing these brochures out, but again, the primary focus is to convey the same message. We want to identify the big program, what it is, where you can go, how you can get there and that's what this sub-committee, if you will, has been charged with and it is what we ultimately hope to bring back to you in a single form, comprehensive package that we've all agreed upon as the best way and best means and then to have one single voice addressing that issue, so that there is no conflicting stories, so that it is not getting piecemealed out and so that people aren't tearing it apart piece-by-piece without a common ground because again I think that will do a disservice to the overall project.

Chairman Wihby stated I'm surprised we haven't seen a banner over Elm Street, yet, in front of City Hall, across the street. Is someone planning on putting that out as a handout along with this civic center we're talking about economic development and things opening up Downtown and everything else. Is somebody putting out some sort of a handout where it might be distributed at the civic center when people want to come from out-of-town to go somewhere to eat with diagrams or something like that.

Mr. Beckert replied absolutely. There's a whole host of things and ways that we're going to address this and without taking up too much more time of the committee, I'd be happy to give you that outline which actually addresses those specific issues and we're like any other sub-committee groups and we are welcome to any suggestions...we have been working (in committees) the local merchants, so the information is free-flowing and the welcome mat and we take all considerations.

Alderman Hirschmann asked, Mr. Beckert, are you going to go to press with that without knowing the naming rights person.

Mr. Beckert replied nope, we don't plan on doing anything on this particular issue until we are all in agreement that it is the best and most effective way to do it. Again, it will do nothing but a disservice if we have one group talking about doing this, one group talking about doing that. It will only do us a service if we're all together on the same page...we have the same thing, we are all in unison...this is what the situation is, these are your best alternatives and to unveil that all at one time, I think, is going to be our most effective solution.

Alderman Hirschmann stated you're talking about November, as well, right.

Mr. Beckert replied no, it will be prior to November. It doesn't need to wait that long, but to say that we need it tomorrow is not a reality. I think it's more appropriate for us to get our ducks in a row before we start shooting them.

Mr. Taylor stated incidentally that outline that Tim was talking about was attached to the meeting minutes of the Parking Committee which you should have received sometime over the weekend, I believe it went out Friday. So, if you haven't seen it you should have gotten it already. If you didn't, let me know and I'll make sure that you get it. Finally, the last piece of this puzzle is we're trying to have the MTA take a look at shuttle services and I guess Don Clay or John Webster, I'm not sure which or both.

Mr. Clay stated we were asked in March to join Jay and looking to see what the needs would be for a shuttle service for the civic center. I believe we're still in various stages of looking at what's needed. I think a lot will depend on what the event is, how many people will be there...that will determine how far away from the civic center they will be parking and how many vehicles they will need. We stand ready to aid in any way we can, we have brought what we consider some routes for shuttle service to catch both the east side of Elm Street and the west side of Elm Street by being down in the Millyard and up Pine, down Chestnut to try as fast to get the bus system move the people back to their parking areas, but in the totality and what we've come up with...a lot depends on what the needs are of the specific events.

Chairman Wihby stated you're still on that committee, so you'll be having somebody in attendance, so we can move forward.

Mr. Clay replied we sit with Jay on the committee.

Alderman O'Neil stated, John, I know that you gave us a couple of different scenarios of both east side and west side in the package that we received. If a lot was taken out or a lot was added to that plan would that have significant increases or decreases in cost or is it going to be approximately the same.

Mr. Clay replied it will be the same.

Mr. Taylor stated I think you can see from the variety of issues that we've talked about tonight that this is a little like having the question asked of you...when do you stop beating your wife to the extent that no matter answer you give you're in a little bit of trouble here, so we're not going to please everybody, we're going to do the best we can to come up with a plan that satisfies the needs. So, thank you very much.

Chairman Wihby asked, Kevin, do you have anything you want to go over.

Mr. Clougherty replied no.

Chairman Wihby asked, Skip...anybody else, no.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee