

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIC CENTER**

**August 6, 2001**

Chairman Wihby called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs: P. Levy, S. Ashooh, T. Bechert, T. Lolicata, Lt. Winn, J. Taylor

Chairman Wihby addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Review of Change Orders 36 through 41 and Contingency Drawdown.

Mr. Levy stated what you don't have is an additional change order here. It is actually a zero cost change order, which moves \$400,000 again out of the GMP into the owner's reserve, which increases the owners reserve up to \$404,416. In essence, at this point we have over \$550,000 of contingency.

Alderman Pariseau I did have a question about the \$404,000 and I wanted to know where it comes from.

Mr. Levy replied as we did before in the \$1 million, this comes out of the GMP, the guaranteed maximum contract from the construction manager. This money was in his contract. It was part of his design contingency, which he did not need and has been turning over to the owner's reserve. There is another additional \$400,000 in that fund that they will release when we hit 90% complete, which will probably be next month.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to make sure that I understand this. The owner had \$1 million that he spent in the contingency fund. Am I correct? He spent his money.

Mr. Levy replied yes.

Alderman Lopez stated now there is \$400,000 that he is going to collect from...could you repeat what you just told Alderman Pariseau.

Mr. Levy asked the \$400,000 that still remains in his contract.

Alderman Lopez answered I don't know. You tell me.

Mr. Levy stated there is \$400,000 still left in his design contingency, which he will be turning over to the owner's reserve when he hits 90%.

Alderman O'Neil asked this comes out of the GMP.

Mr. Levy answered yes it does.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is the GMP.

Mr. Levy asked what is the original one or what is it now with the change orders. We started out at \$47 million plus the \$2.7 or \$2.8 million contingency. Then we added \$1 million in kitchen equipment to their contract, which we took out of the master budget and put into their budget.

Alderman O'Neil asked so this probably what is going to be \$800,000 is coming off the roughly \$49.8 million.

Mr. Levy answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked so roughly we are getting a \$50 million for \$49 million.

Mr. Levy answered I don't know if I would interpret it that way or not. Yes we are but in reality we are not. It was always part of the budget. We just moved it from the GMP over to the master budget or what we now refer to as the owner's contingency or the owner's reserve.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the change orders.

Chairman Wihby addressed Items 4 and 7 of the agenda.

Communication from Alderman Levasseur requesting that engineers who inspected the roof trusses be asked to inspect the cracked pier at the civic center since the State Department of Engineers have indicated they will not be doing so.

Communication from Eric Sawyer relative to the recent disclosure of the existence of a cracked piling at the Civic Center.

Chairman Wihby asked what are we doing about that. Are we having someone else look at that.

Mr. Levy answered yes. I understand the concern. The crack in the piling has been reviewed by the structural engineer of record. He has recommended the fix and the fix has been made. I would recommend that since the state will not do a review of this nature because that is not in their responsibilities that we will hire the structural engineer who did the peer review on our trusses to look at this issue and review it to clarify the situation and make sure that everybody is comfortable with it and render an opinion as to the repair.

Alderman Wihby asked when will he do that. Can it be done soon?

Mr. Levy answered I will contact him in the morning and I am sure that he can do that within the next 30 days.

Alderman Pariseau stated I think personally I would be more comfortable if they brought in another engineering firm rather than one that has already done work for them. I just don't want it to look like there is any hanky panky.

Chairman Wihby asked who is this person that you were going to use.

Mr. Levy answered this structural firm is an independent firm that was not involved in the design of the arena. What he did was a peer review of the trusses so he is familiar with the project. He has no tie to the structural engineer of record. He is totally independent. He does have, again, the knowledge of the building and that would shorten the time necessary but would give us an independent and fair and honest opinion of the situation.

Alderman O'Neil asked was the first review a peer review double-checking the work of the primary structural engineers.

Mr. Levy answered yes. What they do is they review the design. They review the structural calculations of the trusses.

Alderman O'Neil asked so there wasn't any problem it was just kind of a general practice of checking if the calculations were correct, etc.

Mr. Levy answered that is correct. This is a general practice now in arenas.

Alderman O'Neil asked so this would be the first review of something that was questionable.

Mr. Levy answered yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked, Peter, when the same inspector came in to do this pier that you are looking at he would have to sign off and give his opinion and put his name on it just like he did with the others.

Mr. Levy answered that is correct.

Alderman Levasseur asked so it is actually the same thing. You are going to have an engineer come in and sign off and then he is responsible if he makes a mistake.

Mr. Levy answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there money to cover this.

Mr. Levy answered I estimate that it is going to be about \$2,000 and yes there is money available.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the recommendation to have an independent structural firm review the issue of the cracked pier.

Chairman Wihby addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Copy of a communication from the Economic Development Office to Alderman Vaillancourt relative to the Civic Center Naming Rights.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file this item. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I was under the impression that we were going to receive some enumeration on how this breakdown occurs. \$4.1 million is the amount of actual cash money over the deal. \$4.15 million so I guess there is about \$7 million of other monies. I just wonder how we break this other money down. How can you quantify this? How much is good will worth? When are we going to receive this? Somebody told me that it might be a secret document, which of course sends red flags up. I would like to know how we say this is an \$11 million deal if the cash is only \$4 million. Where is the other \$7 million and how do we quantify that if we quantify it and where is the document that was supposed to be forthcoming?

Chairman Wihby asked what was the amount that we were counting on.

Mr. Ashooh answered the proformer that we used for the civic center in developing the fiscal program called for between \$225,000 and \$250,000 as the cash that would go towards the flow of funds in the building.

Chairman Wihby asked and the rest of the stuff we weren't counting on anyway so even if it was \$275,000 we weren't counting on the additional stuff.

Mr. Ashooh answered when the entire package of contractually obligated income for the building was put together, as one of the abilities of this building to generate revenue, the naming rights portion was included, as was an estimate for what we get for pouring rights and everything else. It was part of that package. Anything over and above that, cash or non-cash, whatever, is pretty much gravy to the project and nothing that we counted on in our plan. To answer Alderman Vaillancourt's question, let me start by characterizing what naming rights deals are because the initial temptation is to take a naming rights deal that perhaps gets done in Manchester and try to compare it to Albany or Providence or any of the buildings that have recently or not so recently sold the name on their building. The deals typically have two components in them. There is a cash portion and then there is a portion of non-cash either goods and services or guarantees of revenue to the building and each deal tends to be different depending on what building you are talking about. It is the mating of the desire of a naming rights partner and their desire to do marketing with this building and the type of business that they are in. As an example, the Pepsi Arena in Albany is a combination of a pouring rights deal where Pepsi's product is in the building and they are buying the name on the building. In Providence, where Dunkin Donuts just paid some money to put their name on the Providence arena, that was a combination of a concessionaire actually guaranteeing a certain amount of revenue out of their concession stands for the building and paying some money with their name on the building. Here we have a service provider who doesn't have a concession background and doesn't have a pouring rights background so the deal here is negotiated based on what Verizon Wireless can do for the building, what they are willing to pay to put their name on it, and what we feel is fair to the City for value received for the name. So there are those two components - what synergies that particular company can achieve with the building that they are dealing with and what is the market level of the cash that we can get. That is pretty much the nature of the deal. I would just suggest that trying to compare Providence to Manchester sometimes doesn't work because they are different businesses. That is the bottom line on how these deals get put together.

Alderman Hirschmann stated what Alderman Vaillancourt was referring to was there is a letter from one of Jay Taylor's employees, Michelle Harrington, and in that she says that an outline of the financials will be submitted to the Aldermanic

Civic Center Committee besides the \$275,000 per year so that he could understand what the advertising...

Mr. Ashooh interjected that is what Tim is here for. I just wanted to deal with the issue of how to compare these deals and not compare them. Tim basically has the bullet points on that.

Mr. Bechert stated I am actually going to speak in generalities and I will certainly reach out to you, Alderman Vaillancourt, if specifics are desired. There are obvious reasons of which primarily contractually obligations but even more so than that it is bad business to be putting the particulars of these types of deals out in the public. It, for lack of a better word, hamstring us in our efforts to get the most value for the projects we are involved in of which the City is a huge beneficiary. With that, I think again as Skip alluded to you can take these deals and you can look at them in a number of ways. Specifically with the Verizon Wireless deal we are actually thrilled as operators to have them on board. Primarily because of their presence in the marketplace as, for lack of a better word, giant. They are the largest cellular provider in the country. They have their footprint in over 90% of this country. They are leaders in over 45 of the top 50 markets in the country and from a bottom line as again Skip alluded to, the synergies that will be created between the two entities are huge. Their demographics are exactly what we are reaching out for as far as the building. There is very few people in this world today who aren't using cellular phones. That creates tremendous opportunity by sharing our resources from a marketing and promotion standpoint. In addition to the marketing and promotion which I don't mean to belittle but it is an absolutely huge determining factor in what goes into a deal. They will be around. They are giants. They are not going anywhere. It is not a dot com company. They are leaders in this country at what they do. That gives us credibility on a national basis. That helps us in our efforts to book and bring national shows to this particular region. It does, in essence, put us on the map. In addition to that, what they have agreed to do is with whom they are they have extended to us hardware that will be placed in the building giving us better reception. Obviously there will be equipment that they will be making available to us as operators to utilize for events in the building, as well as patrons in the building. With regards to signage, both interior and exterior, primarily with exterior they have extended to the City, to us as operators, they have actually put their money up front. They are actually paying for the exterior signage that will be going on the south side of the building facing 293 as you approach the building. That is money that they are outlaying in addition to what we have discussed here. The maintenance of that is at their expense as well. All of these things go toward that \$11 million nut that we have been talking about and again without belittling any of it or without...there is no secret document. Quite frankly it is bad business. There are contractual obligations that we as operators have made with that

particular group but by no means is it is a secret document. Discussing it in a public forum is not the proper place. It is bad business and I would invite you and any of the other Aldermen to view the document if you desire with the help and guidance of the City Solicitor, Tom Clark, who has had the opportunity to read the non-disclosure which we did sign and as long as there is understanding on that there are no big secrets. It is a common practice, quite frankly and it will be a bad business practice to go against that. It is a very, very fair deal and one that we are excited about.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated well I didn't make this \$11 million figure up and I certainly didn't ask for it. I guess we should be satisfied with the \$4.15 million but since it has been floated out there there is obviously \$7 million somewhere and I am wondering is that in signage and equipment and hardware or is this something simply goodwill.

Mr. Bechert replied it is a combination of all of those quite frankly. It is signage. It is hardware.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so I can put my finger on it.

Mr. Bechert answered yes, absolutely.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated and you say that this should not be in the public domain.

Mr. Bechert replied it hamstring us. It hamstring us in our ability, as well as their ability to negotiate other deals and to negotiate future deals for this building as well as their ability to negotiate future deals with other buildings. You are giving away your competitive edge. There is proprietary information that need not be known.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I think if I were the *Union Leader* I might try to find that out.

Mr. Bechert replied they have done a diligent job in doing so as has most of the other press and this did receive national recognition by the way. It was picked up by the AP. It has been picked up and run in all of our trade magazines as well as newspapers from Boston.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated this is a publicly financed building so I would think the right-to-know law might allow them to find out.

Mr. Bechert replied I hear what you are saying and again I would have to defer to the City Solicitor to answer specific questions on that.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I will be in touch with him tomorrow morning at 8:30 AM.

Alderman Levasseur asked do I have to say Verizon Wireless Arena every time.

Mr. Ashooh answered yes and just for distinction they are not the company as Verizon.

Alderman Levasseur replied I talked to somebody today from Verizon and they were not too thrilled about it. Anyway, my question is after the 15 years is up do we get to keep the hardware? Will all of the signage and all of the phone systems and everything that they are putting in be staying with the building?

Mr. Bechert stated it would be our hope that the contract would be reviewed and renewed for an extended period of time and that option does exist from what I understand. To answer your question directly, it is not on loan and would you want the sign on the exterior if the name wasn't going to stay.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am not worried about the sign. I am worried about the phone system itself.

Mr. Bechert replied well again we are not necessarily talking systems because this is wireless. When we say hardware we are talking about repeaters, actual phones themselves.

Mr. Ashooh stated also I don't know of any piece of technology that we have today that we would still have in 15 years.

Chairman Wihby stated maybe you should have Verizon Wireless on two different signs so we can get rid of the Wireless eventually and just leave it Verizon. Are we planning a big party for the opening of the civic center?

Mr. Bechert replied those will be future announcements. There is something in the works, absolutely and you will all be privy to it at the appropriate time and again it is not a big secret we are just trying to protect our marketing ability and get the most bang for our buck.

Chairman Wihby stated a lot of people are asking if they are going to be able to go in and see it and walk through it before it opens.

Mr. Bechert replied that opportunity will certainly exist.

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

Chairman Wihby addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Report from members of the Civic Center Parking Committee.

Mr. Taylor stated it is not my intent tonight to make a presentation, which I am sure you will all be relieved to hear. This report you received back in the first week of July...I assume that by now you have had a chance to look through it and all of the people who were involved in putting the various segments of this report together are here in the room so I think it would be more productive for us to answer specific questions rather than to go through a lengthy presentation.

Chairman Wihby asked are the businesses downtown and everybody in agreement to this plan.

Mr. Taylor answered I believe the parking plan, as has been adopted, is...I believe everybody is on board as far as I know.

Chairman Wihby stated well you are not going to get everybody but...

Mr. Taylor interjected well to varying degrees, yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated in looking through this, I think fees are 99% complete. I know there are a few discussions out there. Event parking signage, I see on the City side the signs have been going up. I understand...I think it was the Traffic Committee that took up the parking violation fees.

Mr. Taylor replied I believe that was adopted last week by the Traffic Committee.

Alderman O'Neil asked how are we doing on the event licensing and I know that Matt is here.

Mr. Taylor answered the reason that is in this report is that this Committee asked that anything relative to the civic center be presented here first. This still has to go to Administration and maybe one other Committee beyond this. If you want to discuss that tonight, Matt is here.

Chairman Wihby asked did we get anywhere with it yet. The Committees haven't met.

Mr. Taylor replied no. This has not gone to the other Committees yet.

Alderman O'Neil asked are the event shuttle plans all in place.

Mr. Taylor answered yes and Don Clay from the MTA is here if you have a specific issue about that.

Alderman O'Neil asked Don or John are we going to be heavy on the first few events and then kind of phase back. I have a real concern and I know that it is restricted to the budget but if two buses per event are going to cut it in January or February.

Mr. Clay stated we will start out high and then review that.

Alderman O'Neil stated it was brought to my attention recently that we seem for most of our parking to be using denominations of \$5. Are we locked into this \$12 at the Center of New Hampshire or could that be adjusted to \$10. It is a valid point to be honest with you?

Mr. Taylor replied with respect to that item, the \$12 came out of the original discussions with the budget. It is built into the revenue stream of the budget, however, it is certainly within the purview of this Committee and the full Board to change that if they feel that charge is unreasonable. There are a couple of other things that I think are going to have to be looked at as well. One being that under the current system there is no charge for parking in the garages on Sundays. I think we ought to look at that at some point and maybe if you did have in mind reducing that \$12 down to \$10 or whatever the number is, it is very possible that the revenue generated by charging on Sunday would make up that difference. Clearly it is easier in my mind to drop a rate than to try and raise it.

Alderman O'Neil asked would \$10 be more encouraging than \$12 and would we get more usage. It is going to be the highest spot in the City for the civic center.

Mr. Taylor answered I believe psychologically that a \$10 bill beats breaking a \$20.

Alderman O'Neil stated again I would rather see us on the side of caution then doing \$12 and dropping it to \$10 and people still don't use it because they are either parking in a private lot or...can we take a look at that.

Mr. Taylor replied I have no problem with that. There are two ways of looking at that. One, you can change it now or conversely you can run a few events and see

how the market accepts it and then decide what to do beyond that. There are two ways of looking at this and I have no particular preference.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would rather see us take the side of caution then go with the higher amount and it turns out to be a...I don't want to call it a disaster but it doesn't work as planned. That is my personal opinion.

Chairman Wihby asked the Committee to work on that issue.

Alderman Hirschmann asked if we are not going to work on this this evening...the Traffic Director only has 90 days from today to have it implemented. If we don't move on this until September, then he is only going to have 60 days. How much time does he need?

Chairman Wihby asked, Mr. Lolicata, do you have any problems with what is going on and the timeframe. Do you need some direction? Are you getting everything that you need?

Alderman O'Neil stated before Tom speaks, the last time we got involved with the parking it changed about five different ways before it reached the full Board. Shouldn't we just leave the parking to the Traffic Committee because it is under their jurisdiction?

Mr. Lolicata stated as far as implementation and getting signs ready, we will make it. We have already started 93 and 293 and as far as bringing the people in, etc., I can have that done in a short time because of what the state had said. We have to go by the manual for the coloration, etc. Traffic can get those ready. I would like at least a month's leeway or at least 20 or 25 days. Signage isn't the worst problem I have.

Chairman Wihby asked what is the worst problem that you have.

Mr. Lolicata answered right now it is going through these committees. Once you come up with a set rule and we know where we stand as far as an ordinance so that we can go forward with these things. Right now I think we have a lot of them done actually.

Chairman Wihby asked what do you need from us.

Mr. Lolicata answered not much. I think most of the stuff is going to be on a first come, first serve basis and we will see how this thing works out. I don't want to change anything right now. I have a few little things that have to be done that I want to talk to the Committee about but as far as ordinances, the south end of the

City will be our next big project to talk to everybody about and see what we are going to do down there. We have a lot of that stuff mostly done and the residential parking as far as the wording. I want to sit down with the Police Department and see what they are comfortable with because you have passed residential parking in certain areas already. That means that just those residents can park there and that is it.

Alderman O'Neil asked define south end of the City.

Mr. Lolicata answered the section from Auburn Street south.

Alderman O'Neil stated we didn't know if you were down on Brown Avenue or something with that. Tommy pointed out to me that he has outlasted at least 10 Lieutenants in the Traffic division and we have our newest Lieutenant, Jim Winn, here tonight.

Chairman Wihby asked, Lt. Winn, have you been following this whole issue and do you have any concerns as far as the Police are concerned with coverage.

Lt. Winn answered I don't think so. I think Dick Tracy has been working very closely with the Committee and with Tom Lolicata. Tom and Dick have kept me in the loop as far as what is going on with this and we are very comfortable with the way that things are progressing.

Chairman Wihby asked regarding Saturday meter enforcement has that begun yet.

Lt. Winn answered not yet. Currently we are looking at putting more personnel on for parking control officers.

Alderman Hirschmann stated people are eating in restaurants and putting quarters in the meters on Saturday mornings and there is no enforcement.

Chairman Wihby asked, Jay, where do we go from here.

Mr. Taylor answered what I think would be the way to go is for this Committee to adopt whatever is in this report and pass along to subsequent committees the things that need to be reviewed further. One being the licenses and fees. I would imagine that a recommendation from this Committee to other committees would be in order.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to recommend that the report be accepted and further that the section on licensing and fees be referred to the Committee on Administration.

Alderman Cashin asked you say that the business community is 100% behind this.

Mr. Taylor answered as far as I know. We have hashed and rehashed this thing and Robin Comstock from the Chamber is here if you would like to ask that question of her. I don't have a problem if she gives her opinion on that.

Alderman Cashin stated well I don't want to put her on the spot but I am having a hard time accepting the fact that the business community is buying into this 100%.

Mr. Taylor asked which portion are you talking about. Are you talking about the parking section?

Alderman Cashin answered yes.

Mr. Taylor stated well keep in mind that the parking section, which has already been adopted and is in this report and a good portion of that the Chamber and the business community were involved in, particularly with respect to the issue as to whether we collect money going in or coming out of the garages. That was a heavily debated item and I believe the concession was made to the merchants in the downtown to collect on the way out as opposed to on the way in as a way of satisfying their concerns about their customers having to pay the fee for civic center event parking. That was a rather substantial change in my mind.

Alderman O'Neil asked that is a done deal. I thought that was still being looked at.

Mr. Taylor answered that has been adopted. That is here as an ordinance.

Alderman Levasseur stated to answer your question, Alderman Cashin, I am the one who is starting to hear from the businesses since I am the downtown Alderman and I have received a few phone calls from people who are not members of the Chamber and not privy to the actual decisions that we are making. That is not anybody's fault. That is their own fault for not being aware of the situations but one of the problems is the stickers, the yellow stickers on the meters saying that you have to pay until 10 PM. That is a shock to some of the business owners because they have meters in front of their buildings and their patrons will come in at 6 PM and want to stay until 10 PM because they are watching a band or something and have to run out and feed the meters again. That is an issue that is starting to rear its ugly head and I think that as we get busier down here you are going to see a lot more problems but I think we all understand that these problems are going to be here and we are just going to have to work through them over the next year and try to figure out the best system. I would like to ask a question. I was over in Concord a couple of weeks ago and I went to a parking lot that was

city owned and city run and when you went in...I know that Alderman O'Neil had brought up this point about prepaying and I didn't really understand the concept. The way I saw it in Boston was you had to put money into a machine and then you had to put this sticker on your car and if you didn't have it on you got towed but in Concord the way they do it is the meters are actually right in the parking garage itself so when you pull into the parking garage there are two meter heads and they are 10 hour meters at 25 cents per hour. I liked that idea because we didn't have to man them and we didn't have to have people working in these garages all day long. Now I think with the savings we can have by doing it that way...Concord had the gates up the whole time. I am sure there is not a problem with having a permit but you drive up and there is a meter against the way and you put your quarter in for the hour or as many hours as you are going to stay and it is done. What do you think of that?

Mr. Lolicata replied first of all it would cost a bundle just to put the meters into each of the garages.

Alderman Levasseur asked what about over the long haul as far as the labor costs.

Mr. Lolicata answered it would take a long time. We call it Philadelphia style. It was done in the Kosciusko garage. We had to take them out because of vandalism and we went to permit parking. We found that permit parking works much better. Now if I put meters in every one of those garages you are talking about I would never complete them first of all, it would cost the City a bundle just to initiate this and then we would have to worry about vandalism after that. Plus, we have other programs going on that they don't have.

Alderman Levasseur stated but with a meter it doesn't mean that you can't have a permit, right.

Mr. Lolicata replied that is true. Right now we are up to 85% to 90% leases and the rest is for public parking. To me, that would be a waste of a meter. This is all prepaid in advance by leases anyway. It might work at night time but its initiation and the amount of meters I don't think it is worth it. We are too big of a City for that. We have two people down in the garages and we have a system where we have invested money to take care of these things and we are improving the Center of NH with this equipment. That is what all of this equipment is for rather than putting the meters in plus there is better accountability.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to clarify in my own mind because I talked to Tom before and as we went through this process we were talking about enforcement on those nights the civic center was holding an event, which was a number of 75 that was used at one time in order to make the calculation of the

revenue coming in. Lt. Winn just said something. He said they were going to put more people on to enforce the meters now so that is going to be an added expense and I think, like Alderman Levasseur said and even in Bob Shaw's article in the *Hippo Press*, the businesses downtown...how many people are going to run out from dinner and put money in the meter. When we went through this process I don't understand why we didn't calculate adding more people on to do the enforcement. Am I correct?

Mr. Lolicata replied the Chief spoke to you people about one or two extra PCO's temporary. Somebody has to enforce these rules at night, especially during events. If you don't have it...

Alderman Lopez interjected that is my point, during the events. He mentioned that in addition he is going to enforce other than the events.

Mr. Lolicata stated well downtown the restaurants and other businesses have the two hour parking and those people who want to go in pay the meter and if they are doing their job on enforcement they can park there for two hours and have their meal and get out. If you don't, the guy is going to park there all night long and take a ticket or maybe not take a ticket and take up a space for a retailer. It is a balancing act. It really is.

Alderman Lopez replied I know it is a balancing act but the point I want to make is that you are going to add more people on for enforcement and then the revenue is not going to be there.

Chairman Wihby stated I thought the Mayor had done that in his budget.

Mr. Taylor stated I think you will find, Alderman, that in the Mayor's budget there is \$124,000 for the Police Department to cover extra enforcement. It is already in the budget.

Alderman Lopez replied that is not my point. My point is that when it was presented to the Board and everyone else, it was the nights that we had events at the civic center that would be enforced. Now what I am hearing is that we are going to have enforcement and these people going to dinner, etc. as indicated in the *Hippo Press*, are going to have to go out and feed the meters. To me, something is wrong here.

Alderman Cashin stated I am going to call on Robin if she wants to speak.

Ms. Comstock stated in answer to your question about the business community, I think it would be very unfair to suggest to you that 100% of the business

community endorses this. However, I would say to you that through a series of meetings that were quite large and very diversified starting out with over 30 business people from the downtown area at the Chamber of Commerce and it is true that they were Chamber members although there were a few non-members at the meeting and two subsequent meetings brought us to the conclusions that you do see in this plan that was adopted. I would just suggest to you that to the best of my understanding and knowledge and as I hear from the business community on Elm Street and the surrounding areas, this plan is highly supported and is, in fact, reflective and developed based upon their feedback. I would also like to say to you that the Chamber is happy to serve as a platform as we move forward in this and modify it to accommodate our community. To serve as a platform to draw information from those who are most closely involved so that it can continue to be responsive and you can have the information that you need to make the decisions that you will be seeking to make if that helps at all. In conclusion, I feel quite reflective of the opinions that we heard having brought large numbers to the table to ask them their opinion, to ask them their needs and in fact this plan responds to that.

Mr. Taylor stated I would like to make one final comment while we are on the subject. None of us here with the possible exception of Tim Bechert has ever done this before. Are we going to make mistakes? Are we going to have to change things? Absolutely. Is this a perfect plan that 100% of the people can support? No. I think we have done as good a job as we can and we have also got to be willing to continue to look at this after we run a few events and make whatever changes are required in order to make this work properly. It is in all of our interests to do that and I am sure we will and I have nothing further.

Chairman Wihby stated I think this Committee should have a box seat at the civic center so we can have hands on for every event. We can meet there.

Alderman Hirschmann stated, Tom, I have already gotten some feedback on the yellow stickers that were placed on all of the meters and the one comment that everyone says is define the block because it says you must move your vehicle a block away. It is saying a City block. So you paid for that meter and when that expires you can't move five meters down?

Mr. Lolicata replied these stickers were put on after conversing with the Police Department. This has been a stickler for years where people are jumping from one to the other and we came up with this whereby they have to go a complete block or else they are going to get a ticket. This means just what it says. In other words, if you are in front of McQuades and your two hours are up, you better go down next to the telephone company beyond Merrimack Street, the next block, if you want another two hours. This is taking care of all of these people who are parking

day in and day out and feeding the two-hour meters in the retail zone. This is where we are getting all of the complaints and this is how we are trying to resolve it. They have fair warning and the Police Department worked on this with us.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I don't think it affects too many people but they are talking about it. There is a little bit of confusion.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee