

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIC CENTER

February 19, 2002

5:30 PM

Chairman Wihby called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Guinta, Sysyn, Garrity, O'Neil

Messrs: K. Clougherty, T. Bechert, J. Taylor, Lt. Lussier, S. Lewry,
S. Ashooh

Chairman Wihby addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

E-mail communication received from Mike Pelletier questioning whether or not there are noise limits for events at the Verizon Wireless Arena.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Wihby addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to parking and fines.

Alderman O'Neil stated we tried this process in the last session and we ended up with the Civic Center Committee doing one thing and the Traffic Committee doing another. Didn't we rule that this is the Traffic Committee's jurisdiction?

Chairman Wihby asked is this letter part of what we want to take up in this Committee.

Mr. Clougherty replied we can talk about it but it is not parking rates.

Chairman Wihby asked but isn't this something that you want the Committee to look at.

Mr. Clougherty replied if you want to we can.

Chairman Wihby stated since this is our first meeting let's bring the new Committee members up-to-date. As you remember back when we put this Civic

Center Committee together, it was formed to go over anything that happened at the Civic Center and a lot of the stuff that comes here goes to the full Board but only as an item for them to look at. They don't vote on it, just the Committee votes on it. This is one of those items that we would have to okay and then it will go to the full Board on the consent agenda. Kevin, could you talk about this letter?

Mr. Clougherty stated as part of the management agreement that was part of the documents that were put together for the civic center financing there were agreements that we would make payments to the arena for parking and there was a formula in there that we had to follow in terms of how those dollars would be arrived at. We are at a point in the process now where the arena is supposed to be giving us financial information but they can't give us the financial information because we are not paying the parking because the parking information hasn't been negotiated. So what we did is we sat down and tried to come up with a compromise in terms of the wording of the document to have this approved. For example, one of the things is we will pay an average rate. That average rate includes some of the parking. How do you average the on street parking unless you go out and count them? We haven't been counting on street parking so for us to go out and calculate an average rate, we are not there. Conversely, Tim has to pay us on a turnstile count and the turnstile count has to be adjusted for parking and the club seats but he hasn't been tracking that either. Rather than try to postpone everything we said listen for this first year let's agree that the average rate is the lowest amount that was agreed to in the management agreement, the \$3 and let's agree from your side so that you are not penalized we are not going to make you provide us information and on the turnstiles you will deduct the amount of club seats because they have all been sold and that gets us to a point where for the balance of the year we can make payments to Tim and get those worked through his financial department and get some financial reports understanding that this first year is somewhat of an aberration in terms of how this is all going to work anyway. We want to make sure that as we go forward we are collecting good data both at the arena and outside the arena so we can firm up these numbers and second of all keep the option open so if we still have the outstanding performance that we are seeing that we can make adjustments and not penalize the arena. What we have done here is come up with a compromised agreement that we have both signed and are submitting to you saying that we think this gets the process moved along. I can also tell you that in drafting this we met with the City Solicitor's Office and with the Economic Development Office to make sure that what we were doing was consistent with all of the other documents that were reviewed by Bond Council and others. I think what we have here is a compromise that we can all operate under for the balance of the year and meet our requirement.

Chairman Wihby asked so this would be good until year-end.

Mr. Clougherty answered right at the conclusion of the initial fiscal year and then a settlement would be arranged if necessary.

Chairman Wihby asked otherwise it just keeps on going.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't have a problem with what you are proposing here but how do we get a handle though...I know that Jay has attempted to do some monthly reports for us and we need to, not just for our agreement with the arena, but just get a handle on parking and how many people are using on street, garages, lots, etc. so that we can make some business decisions. Some of these garages we are keeping open and actually losing money on them.

Mr. Clougherty replied I think on the garages what we are finding is that we have good information and that it is accurate. What we don't have good information on is the on street parking and we are probably going to have to sit down and talk to the parking control officers. They may have to do an inventory for us as they are going around in the evenings within a defined area to give us some idea as to what the percentage of utilization is. SMG has been reasonable too. They are not going to ask us to come up with an exact accounting overnight but if we can show over time some figures that are reliable that is what would be easier for all of us.

Alderman O'Neil stated you mentioned the garages. Are you also including the lots that we are managing on event nights?

Mr. Clougherty asked can I defer to Jay on this. Jay, the lots you have good numbers on right? I think the lots and garages we are okay but it is the on street that we need to do a better job with.

Alderman O'Neil asked if we make a decision to not utilize a garage or a lot, does that affect this agreement at all.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes it does because it is the average rate that you are charging and that we are trying to get to. The way the agreement reads it says "for any event total attendance, the turnstile count, divided by 3, not to exceed 2,000 cars subject to a good faith negotiation between the manager and the City. Should actual paid parking consistently exceed 2,000 cars..." which I think we are at because we have consistently, at least at the initial outset have exceeded 2,000. We realize that when most arenas open that happens and we are going to take a look at that down the road and just monitor that. It says "should the City's actual parking exceed 2,000 cars multiplied by the average event parking rate, which in no event shall be less than \$3." So depending on what the average cost of that rate

is and its amount of spaces contributed to the total average it could have an effect to either raise it above \$3 or bring it below.

Alderman O'Neil stated we can't control how many people park in private spots but yet if there are 10,500 at an event it is safe to say that a good many of them are parking in private spots yet it appears we are going to pay for that.

Mr. Clougherty replied right. When this was all put together in the proformer what there was was a determination as to what are the revenues that usually go into this type of facility worldwide and one of those is parking. When you go through and come up with all of the ticket prices and all of the other revenues, there is a number there that has to be realized and that number is your parking. We said we know we are going to have to raise some revenue here and we know we are going to have attendance that is going to exceed some of these formulas so that we will certainly make the revenue that we need to meet our obligation to the arena. That is what we used as a base.

Alderman O'Neil asked so if everyone parked in a private lot we would still have an obligation to the arena.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes we do up to a cap of 2,000 cars. Just to back up you may recall that we had this discussion with the Committee and said do you want the arena management to take over parking. At one point that was discussed to see whether you wanted them to go out and manage parking and the City said no because we think we can do a better job and on the City side we have other policy issues about the flow of traffic and things like that that they might not be sensitive to.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have no problem in the sharing of revenues for parking that we control. I don't know how we can pay for parking that we don't control.

Mr. Clougherty replied at the time the agreement was made, in order to make the proformers work, you had to make a decision and at that time you didn't know how much private parking there was going to be or how much parking there was going to be so you had to make a decision based on utilization and that is the decision that was made.

Alderman Lopez stated I don't particularly share those comments about the private parking and I really believe that we need to take this one step farther and I wish the Committee would look at it very seriously and get a ruling from the City Solicitor on this whole aspect. The Traffic Department can tell you where all of the parking spaces are and how much money is coming out of them and all of that if that needs to be done for this Committee. My last comment would be

respectfully you are amending an agreement that the full Board has signed on to and I don't really believe that it is in the scope of this Committee to amend an agreement without the rest of the members of this Board.

Mr. Clougherty stated we are really agreeing to just follow the agreement as it is without making any changes. We are not asking to take an average above the \$3 that is in the agreement already.

Alderman Lopez replied this is an amendment to the agreement isn't it.

Mr. Bechert stated it actually isn't. As Kevin said, we are following the agreement at the least common denominator that would be acceptable by the agreement. We are giving both parties an opportunity to revisit it at the end of the year to make adjustments if need be. This is simply allowing the process to go further so that monies can be exchanged without tying up the process and starting to nit-pick when certain formulas, quite frankly, aren't in place right now.

Mr. Clougherty stated you are right Alderman, if we are going to make a substantial change or amendment I will come back and tell you that. What we are trying to do is live up to the minimum agreement and just process this along and revisit it at the end of the year.

Alderman Lopez replied just to point out again Tom Lolicata can give you every parking place in the City of Manchester and the revenue coming out of those meters.

Mr. Clougherty responded right he can but he can't break out for those meters how much was collected during the afternoon and how many cars were there in the evening.

Alderman Lopez replied I think we can and I have done 10 hours of work on it and I think I have some pretty good figures.

Mr. Clougherty responded if you have something we would love to see it and that will help our lives and if there is a reliable number there that is terrific.

Alderman Lopez stated I think that we will hear this evening...I calculated about \$1,900 just on Saturday and I was probably off \$200 or \$300 but in calculation of the revenues coming in from the City we can get it down to a reasonable figure and how much money is collected from 5 PM to 8 PM and how much money is collected on Saturday, etc. I have taken the liberty of doing that and I can share that with the Committee.

Chairman Wihby asked, Kevin, is this what we are going to have to pay SMG. There is a total dollar that we know by signing this and what is that number?

Mr. Clougherty answered roughly \$340,000.

Chairman Wihby asked and this is for a quarter.

Mr. Clougherty answered not that would be for the year.

Chairman Wihby asked so with this we are expecting on paying \$340,000.

Mr. Clougherty answered roughly, yes.

Chairman Wihby asked have you gone back to Tom Lolicata and gotten any numbers from him to show where we are.

Mr. Clougherty answered we have gotten some numbers for parking on the lots and garages. The question that we have is on the parking meters and the income from those would be sufficient to make the payment to the arena.

Chairman Wihby asked the income from the numbers you have gotten so far.

Mr. Clougherty answered if we project forward it should be enough to get the payment.

Chairman Wihby asked so that is without using the on street parking.

Mr. Clougherty answered no with using on street parking at an estimate.

Chairman Wihby asked so you are predicting that the \$340,000 will be covered by the revenues that we will be getting from the people using the facility.

Mr. Clougherty answered we will meet our commitment to the arena through what we have collected through parking.

Chairman Wihby asked so that leaves what. We are hearing all of this talk about we need Saturday and we are down \$1 million and we have this problem and that problem yet you are telling me that we have sufficient revenue to cover what we have anticipated.

Mr. Clougherty replied what we have anticipated with the arena. Now if you recall the budget last year included some additional parking monies to cover a whole bunch of other items.

Chairman Wihby asked do you know how much that was. I think there was a number assuming so many officers and everything else.

Alderman Lopez stated it was \$183,000 for the Police Department (\$124,000 for the officers and \$63,000 for the parking control officers) and \$40,000 for traffic, which has been increased by approximately \$10,000 since then. I would say that because we made them change the meters.

Chairman Wihby asked so about \$233,000.

Alderman Lopez answered right and it cost us approximately \$100,000 to put the meters in. The total revenue that we projected was \$740,000 and we increased that to \$1.2 million as revenue from Traffic.

Chairman Wihby asked but we wanted to cover \$740,000 on the expense side.

Alderman Lopez answered yes but we have two things here as Kevin alluded to. We will meet the obligations to SMG but we are going to be short \$600,000 to \$700,000 in our revenue projection.

Chairman Wihby asked what is the \$740,000 number. Was that the total expense?

Alderman Lopez asked are you talking about SMG.

Chairman Wihby replied no you threw out a number of \$740,000.

Alderman Lopez responded that was the Traffic Department's original revenue projection when they came in.

Chairman Wihby asked but what is the expense that we figured we were going to have for Police, Traffic and Parking.

Alderman Lopez answered \$183,000 for the Police and \$40,000 for Traffic, which was increased by about \$10,000 and then Highway had a figure but I don't recall what it was.

Chairman Wihby asked are we going to generate that \$233,000 plus the Highway number in additional revenue. I think the problem that we have here is there are too many hands in the soup. I don't think anybody sitting in this room knows what the other hand is doing and we get all of these phone calls and some Aldermen are saying let's cut Saturday parking and others are saying let's not and

others are saying let's cut all of the parking and others are saying let's license the private owners. Who is doing what for parking? Tell me somebody.

Mr. Clougherty replied I can tell you that in our office we record into the system and provide the financials. We are not out looking at Traffic or running their budget.

Chairman Wihby asked is anybody looking at the budget that showed what we had anticipated for Police and Highway and what we are not using because there is good weather and the events are going smoother and we have less officers there. Is anybody looking back at what we thought the expenses were going to be and changing those numbers and moving forward on what we are going to have for revenue?

Mr. Taylor stated those figures have been reported for November and December and I am about to send out a January one. The number that the Police has was \$124,000. Highway has spent about \$88,000 or \$89,000 out of their \$120,000 or so that they had.

Alderman O'Neil stated that is not on the report you are sending to us.

Mr. Taylor replied the Highway numbers are not because I just got those but the Police numbers are on there and have been.

Alderman O'Neil stated not the financials. It tells you how many officers are being used but it doesn't say anything about the amount or draw downs on it.

Mr. Taylor responded there should be a number there.

Alderman O'Neil replied I don't remember seeing that. You gave a report on buses and how many people and lots, etc. but I don't remember financials as part of that.

Mr. Taylor stated I think you will see the numbers for Police. There is none on the Fire because all of those expenses are born by the arena.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think it would be helpful to get a report and the problem is that there are too many hands in this.

Alderman Sysyn stated there are too many committees dealing with the same thing. It should have stayed with the Traffic Committee.

Mr. Clougherty stated I would be happy to go back and develop a report for you that shows...

Chairman Wihby interjected I think somebody is going to make a motion today to get rid of Saturday parking. How do you vote on that if you don't even know what the numbers are? I know that you did up some numbers and brought them to the Committee on Accounts today that show that we are down \$1 million in total revenue. How are we expected to vote...I thought we would have something at this meeting where we were going to have...I thought we talked about this last time that we were going to have some numbers that showed what parking lot and I thought the Traffic Department was going to be here and I don't even see Tom Lolicata here. I thought we were going to get some numbers from them on what we generated in all of these different areas. I know that he has a number for Saturday meters and that he looked in the lots and got better numbers but we haven't seen them yet and if Traffic is not dealing with this then who is.

Alderman O'Neil stated I will make a motion because this is a numbers thing but we really need a financial report that shows where we are on our draw downs, the \$183,000 for Police and where they are at and where Traffic is and where we are on the other end with our revenues coming in so that we can get a good handle on this.

Mr. Clougherty replied we can prepare that next week.

Alderman O'Neil asked is something going to happen if we don't act on this.

Mr. Clougherty replied this doesn't affect it. Actually this document helps us because it allows us to get some funds over them and get their financials so that we can get the reports that you want completed.

Alderman Guinta asked the \$1 million or so shortfall that people are referencing, when did you become aware of that figure.

Mr. Clougherty answered we have been reporting a shortfall in parking for quite some time in each of these reports that you get on a monthly basis. The projected forward...if you recall if you look at the financials for the end of December you will see that there is actually \$600,000 to the good. It is only in the month of January that we mentioned to the Committee on Accounts that we have seen that slow down. Now we have seen the slow down in parking right along but other revenues have been there to offset against that. We are seeing those start to slow now and that is what is causing the problem.

Alderman Guinta asked when you say a slow down in parking revenue, can you explain that to me.

Mr. Clougherty replied part of the problem was in my opinion the parking revenues that were included in the budget were more than could be realized. Even if you are performing better than last year, you are not performing up to the very high standards.

Alderman Guinta asked so the expectation was set extremely high and we can probably agree that it was set too high.

Mr. Clougherty answered right.

Chairman Wihby stated it was set high but where are the numbers today as far as what we are bringing in. We did Saturday parking because of the civic center. We had free parking before?

Mr. Clougherty replied right. We did Saturday parking because and again I haven't been that involved in this discussion but my understanding is that you did that because it was requested by the downtown businesses in order to control the movement of traffic.

Chairman Wihby responded I thought that too but I am hearing that it wasn't requested from them.

Mr. Clougherty stated that may be. That is my own general recollection but I was not involved in that.

Chairman Wihby asked, Jay, were you involved in that.

Mr. Taylor stated the merchants expressed a concern about having meters occupied by event attendees so that their customers would not be able to park and use the meters downtown, that includes both Saturdays and evenings. So, if you recall we originally started with four-hour meters and then we went back to two hour meters to accommodate the merchants. We went with the two-hour meters as kind of a compromise to see how that would work. Keep in mind that nobody really knew exactly how any of this was going to work. The original discussion was not about how much we were going to have to pay for parking because everybody was saying that we didn't have enough parking and it was going to be a disaster. It turns out that it was not a disaster and if you want to look at it we have too much now because they are not using the City lots but that is another issue. Now we are talking about doing away with Saturday parking. As you recall we did away with Saturday parking in the Canal Street garage as an accommodation

to the Y and some of the other merchants. The question is how far do we go with this and what is the impact on the revenue collection.

Chairman Wihby asked is it true that the downtown merchants wanted the parking meters on Saturday.

Mr. Taylor answered it was my impression that they wanted some control of the meters so that the meters would turn over and they would have parking for their customers.

Chairman Wihby asked because of the events.

Mr. Taylor answered yes.

Chairman Wihby stated the events are really until the afternoon and how many do we have on Saturday.

Mr. Taylor stated the ideal solution would be if we could do and I will use a term that I invented here, selected enforcement, and what I mean by that is if we could enforce meters only on times when there are events that would be dandy but I don't think the Police Department is going to go along with that. That is the issue. We either have meters or we don't have meters. There is nothing in between apparently.

Chairman Wihby asked what happens if we don't have an officer doing parking control on Saturday mornings when there are no events.

Lt. Lussier stated we have PCO's that work different shifts now to accommodate the hours set by the Board for parking and that includes nights and Saturdays.

Chairman Wihby asked how many people do you have on Saturday.

Lt. Lussier answered two.

Chairman Wihby asked so keep them inside.

Lt. Lussier answered it is not going to happen. If they are paid to enforce the law then that is what we do and that is what they will do.

Chairman Wihby asked so you either have it or you don't.

Lt. Lussier answered yes and that is the right way to do it.

Chairman Wihby asked did you know, Jay, that they had a meeting today. Did you go to that meeting? Nobody is bringing the right people to the meeting.

Mr. Taylor answered I didn't go.

Alderman Guinta stated I did attend the meeting today and I did talk to several other business owners over the course of three months. What you are saying in terms of what the business owners requested is not the recollection that the business owners have. They are telling me something completely different. They were not asking for meters on Saturdays. I guess my first question would be did you attend the meeting where business owners were present and they said we want meters on Saturday?

Mr. Taylor replied I attended several meetings. The first one we talked about four hour meters and we adopted a four hour meter thing but because the merchants were concerned that four hours was too long we went back to two hours. I attended a subsequent meeting when some of the restaurant people said two is no good either because that is not enough time. We bounced back and forth two or three times with respect to how long we were going to have these meters.

Alderman Guinta asked was this at the request of the business community or the Office of the Mayor. There is a big difference.

Mr. Taylor answered my recollection was that the Mayor's Office worked with the business community.

Alderman Guinta stated that is a big difference because if the Office of the Mayor is setting up a plan to create meters on Saturdays of course the business community is going to go along and work with the Mayor and other officers but what they are going to do is try to get the best deal for themselves to get their customers to come. I have a sense that the business community probably felt like they were caught between a rock and a hard place because other officials were saying this is going to happen, what is your input. I think that is a big distinction versus the business community saying we want meters on Saturdays. I am talking to the business community and they are telling me that they never requested meters on Saturday and they don't want them now. Maybe there is a difference of opinion as to how we interpret what happened over the course of the last four or five months. My interpretation and again I am just speaking on behalf of who I have spoken to. Between today and the last three months I have probably talked to or communicated with 100 business owners.

Chairman Wihby asked did Intown have anything to do with this. Do you recall any business owners saying that they wanted meters at the time? Was Intown at all involved with parking?

Ms. Lewry answered I attended numerous meetings over the summer on this issue. The Chamber and Intown Manchester were both trying hard to work a situation that we felt we were between a rock and a hard place on. The most important issue during the summer months was whether or not there was going to be prepay or exit pay in the garages. I think we can look at the garage issue right now and see that people are not using garages and that is a pretty good indication that as the Civic Center Committee said originally when we met, we have to come up with some kind of a plan and we don't know what is going to work and what isn't going to work so let's come up with some kind of a plan. We agreed to come up with some kind of a plan. The original plan for meters was, I believe, a five-hour limit, which the business community felt was going to be detrimental to having turnover in front of their stores. As a compromise, we went with two-hour meters agreeing to go with two-hour meters with perhaps a misguided understanding that there was an option of not having meters. Again, when the business community was afraid that there was going to be a lot of parking in front of their stores and their own customers wouldn't be getting in and finding parking spaces and the garages were going to be jammed, where were their customers going to go? It was an area that nobody knew anything about and I have to say I have egg on my face as well because I really thought that the big issue was going to be in the garages and now that we have discovered what some of our leaders had told us in the beginning, let's just wait and see, I think we do have a pretty clear picture of where people are parking now and the issue with respect to the business community is that if they had their druthers they would rather not see any meter parking on Saturday.

Chairman Wihby asked so that is their new feeling right now based on if they had an option. What about employees parking there? That was always a problem before.

Ms. Lewry answered I believe that the retail business community would agree that parking does need to be monitored Monday through Friday and they like the two hour limit. That prevents the employees in the office towers from taking up parking spaces. On Saturdays, the issue could be that their own employees are parking at those free meters, however, my understanding from the business community is that the public relations of getting a ticket on Saturday for customers coming downtown has been so negative that they feel that their business is impacted by veracious tickets and if they had their druthers their feeling would be let's let the public relations campaign be that you have free parking on Saturdays and we see what we can get with our parking on Saturdays. They are looking at

free parking on Saturdays. This does mean that anybody will be able to park on the street, including employees and it would be up to the stores to try to move their employees off the street. I feel, again, it is a very difficult situation to control parking but the real issue here is to control parking from our perspective Monday through Friday. As far as how the revenues are impacted, that is another situation. When we went with two hours we felt that was a better compromise than five hours.

Alderman O'Neil stated we are not going to reach any conclusion tonight on this. I think all last year we had two different committees working on it and at one point we were going in two completely different directions. There were several staff committees that weren't always on the same page. Number one, I think this belongs in the Traffic Committee and when we wrap up our comments here I will move on that recommendation. I do think somehow we have to get...as you indicated there are five or six different hands on this thing and I don't know how we work it out to get one voice on this. I think if we are talking financial it really has to be Kevin. However he gets those numbers from Police, from Jay, from Tom Lolicata, we need a monthly report on the draw down from the \$230,000 or whatever the number is. We need to get a hold of that. I appreciate everybody's comments tonight, but we are never going to reach any conclusion on this and I think it is an issue for the Traffic Committee.

Alderman Guinta stated I agree with those sentiments. To move back to the issue regarding Saturdays and employees parking in front of their stores, at the meeting today at 3 PM at the Palace that was discussed. The employers who attended the meeting agreed that they would make the concerted effort to find alternate parking for their employees and they would certainly rather have that problem to contend with than turning customers away because customers are receiving tickets and feeling like the City is not an inviting City and almost feeling like businesses are not inviting to their customers.

Chairman Wihby stated we have eight Aldermen sitting here. Does somebody envision some kind of a motion is going to be made tonight?

Alderman Guinta asked regarding Saturday. There is going to be a motion. I will make a motion. I think it is an issue that we need to address separate of the civic center, I really do because this is more a downtown business issue at this point. The customers are being turned away because of the fines that are being imposed and I don't think we want to be that type of City. I think we want to be an inviting City and I think we want to encourage business to grow so I certainly think there will be a vote tonight. I am pretty confident that I can get a second and I am pretty confident that the majority of the Board agrees that we do need to rescind parking on Saturdays. Regarding this letter, I think it should be referred to the Traffic

Committee and I would certainly second that if someone else would like to make the motion.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve an interim compromise agreement to allow arena management to prepare required monthly and quarterly financial reports based on a cash flow that includes parking revenues.

Mr. Taylor stated I just wanted to remind the Committee and the Board that when we adopted all of these parking recommendations back last year I think a number of us said many times we need to run this thing for a few months and see how it is going to work out. We know there are going to be some bugs and that we will have to revisit this again at some point to make some adjustments. I think this is exactly what we are saying now. Maybe the time has come to make some adjustments and that is not a problem because I think everyone anticipated having to do that. I think basically though the issue has changed from one of not having enough parking and that was the original concern and I think everybody has been disabused of that idea so to that extent it is good. People from outside the community are finding a place to park and going to the arena and not getting caught in traffic jams and all of that is good. If we need to do some more tinkering, I have absolutely no problem with that.

Chairman Wihby asked so you are not opposed to the motion that is going to be brought up tonight.

Mr. Taylor answered no.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked are you referring to the Saturday parking. There is a report of the Committee on Traffic on the Board's agenda, which eliminates metered parking on Saturdays.

Alderman Guinta stated that was a 5-0 vote coming out of Traffic and I appreciate Jay's support of that.

Chairman Wihby asked, Tim, how are things going over there.

Mr. Bechert answered great, keep coming. Things are progressing fantastically. We are exceeding all expectations and will continue to do so.

Chairman Wihby asked are we going to be number one. Can you assure us of that?

Mr. Bechert answered I wish I could. I think we are going to be there by week's end and I look forward to the play-offs and we are going to have a few more exciting announcements coming up in the near future.

Alderman O'Neil asked can Kevin work with other City staff to get a hold on this financial information and maybe present it to the Civic Center Committee at a future date.

Chairman Wihby stated what we would want is anything associated with the expense side and the revenue side.

Alderman O'Neil stated the reports I have seen from Jay have been helpful but we also have to make some business decisions. We are keeping facilities open and paying for them and we may not want to.

Mr. Clougherty replied I understand what you want and we will put together a report.

Mr. Ashooh stated I just want to inform the Committee that the MDC Civic Center Committee is going to meet this Thursday at 5:15 PM in the conference room here at City Hall. We are going to be examining the language surrounding the viability of a second surcharge being put on the ticket. There are a lot of discussions about a surcharge being put on tickets at the Verizon Wireless Arena. I have put together a questionnaire of about 10 items. I sent these questions to Mr. Bechert, Mr. Eisenberg, City Finance, City Solicitor, Bond Council for the City, and the City's financial advisor to examine the issues surrounding the application and the use of a surcharge. We hope to gather that information, put it into a report and then bring it back to this Committee so that you will have some hard facts to deal with the impacts and consequences of putting a surcharge on tickets there. It is kind of like a one voice type of thing. While I am here just one thing on the parking payment that the City makes to the...the revenues and how they are applied to the building. It has been reported erroneously in the paper several times and we tried to correct it but this is not a payment to SMG. This is a payment that SMG receives on behalf of the building and puts in part of the revenue stream. I think people are getting the impression that all of the parking revenues that we are raising are paying SMG and they are not. I just wanted to make that correction.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee