

**COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**April 8, 1997**

Aldermen Sysyn, Reiniger, Soucy,  
Domaingue, Robert

**6:00 PM**

**Aldermanic Chambers**

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Alderman Sysyn, Alderman Soucy, Alderman Domaingue,  
Alderman Robert

Absent: Alderman Reiniger

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from the Planning Director, on behalf of the Special Building Committee, submitting proposed parking and loading changes related to the City Hall Renovations project.

Mr. Lolicata noted that the proposal appeared to meet the legal requirements in terms of space sizes and provided easier and safe access.

Discussion ensued relative to establishing timed parking in the customer/aldermen parking area. It was noted that people should generally be able to conduct their business with the city within an hour and if it were to be something requiring more time than that, they should be parking in a garage or somewhere else.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to approve the parking proposal as outlined subject to approval of the Fire and Police Departments; and further subject to the customer/aldermen parking area being established at a One Hour parking zone, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Communication from Deputy Chief of Police Robinson requesting ten more spaces at the Vine Street parking lot be assigned for Police Department personnel.

Chief Driscoll explained that they currently had 40 permits assigned and were looking for 10 more primarily because of problems at shift change times and the 3:00 PM on hours. Mr. Lolicata advised that to his knowledge there would be no problem if the committee so desired to approve the request, there was no waiting list and the daily numbers were down so there was space available in this garage.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to approve the request for 10 additional permits.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Communication from Lloyd Basinow requesting special parking privileges to the news media be granted.

It was noted that there would be a customer parking area when the departments returned to City Hall and the Annex, and that there had been no reports of problems made known to the aldermen or Traffic Department.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to receive and file the communication.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 6 of the agenda:

6. Communication from John Niemiec, Manchester Church of God, requesting  
that the church be allowed to erect two signs each on Mammoth and Huse Roads directing visitors to their church.

It was voted that the Committee had most recently established a policy of not approving requests for signs.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to request the Clerk to forward a letter to Mr. Niemiec advising of its policy not to approve such requests.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 7 of the agenda:

7. Communication from Ron Pappas, requesting use of Stark Landing from April 17-27, 1997 for the fourth annual Pappy's Pizza Spring Carnival, all proceeds to benefit the Central High School Gridiron Club.

The clerk noted that licensing requirements had been applied for and the Riverfront Stadium project had no objection for the dates requested. On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to approve the request.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 8 of the agenda:

8. Communication from Debra Quimby expressing her concerns regarding the car towing policy being implemented in the City.

Lt. Tessier advised that a hearing had been held with the towing company and Ms. Quimby and as a result Ms. Quimby had been reimbursed by the company for some of the expense that was not in line with the City's contract.

Alderman Sysyn noted that thank you letters had been received and Ms. Quimby was pleased with the outcome.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to receive and file the communication.

At the request of Alderman Domaingue, Chairman Sysyn addressed items 9 and 16 of the agenda:

9. Copy of a communication from Rene St. Pierre relative to a recent traffic citation he received in the vicinity of Westwood and Donahue Drives.

16. Communication from Alderman Pariseau requesting the Committee rescind its previous recommendation relative to the installation of "Right Turn Only" signs at the intersection of Westwood and Donahue Drives; and further requesting that the "Right Turn Only" signs be installed at the intersection of Sherwood and Westwood Drives.  
(Tabled 10/21/96)

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to remove item #16 from the table and address it with item 9.

Alderman Domaingue noted that there was a committee of people conducting a study of the situation and moved that the items be received and filed subject to review by the committee. Alderman Soucy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 10 of the agenda:

10. Report from the City Solicitor, if available, relative to a request for an ordinance prohibiting smoking in the stands and to designate certain areas for smokers at Gill Stadium.

It was noted that a draft ordinance had been forwarded to members.

Alderman Soucy commented that she had spoken with the Health Department and felt they should be added to review the areas to be designated. She commented that the ordinance basically prohibits smoking at Gill except where designated by the Parks Commission and felt Health was more appropriate to determine areas that met legal requirements, etc. She additionally noted that the word "area" under exception should read "area(s)".

Alderman Robert noted that this was an outdoor facility and though not a smoker, was in opposition to having an ordinance prohibiting smoking there.

Alderman Soucy felt it would not be a problem since most attendees at Gill on the weekends were young people who were not allowed to smoke by law, and therefore should not be smoking there or anywhere.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to amend the ordinance by adding “and review by the Health Department” to the second sentence of the exemption paragraph. Alderman Robert was duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Sysyn addressed items 11 and 12 of the agenda together:

11. Communication from Ted Herbert recommending that the Board reverse its recent decision to increase metered parking rates.
12. Discussion of new meter rates referred back to Committee by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, via report.

Mr. Richard Davis, In-Town Manchester, addressed the committee regarding the downtown parking noting that last year they had reviewed the parking proposal presented to the Board and conducted a study of the downtown area. Mr. Davis provided an update to the committee on the results of that study which reflected that people were utilizing the timed parking areas for long term parking. Mr. Davis noted that there were no perfect answers for parking only strategies to deal with the issue. Mr. Davis also noted one of the goals as he understood it was to have utilization of the garages which meant there was a need for incentives to utilize them. Mr. Davis commented that they were beginning to see use in the garages under the free customer parking program initiated with local downtown businesses. They had perhaps 20 to 30 businesses participating at present.

Mr. Davis outlined the specifics of the summer study conducted with high school volunteers and the results of same indicating that they hoped to do the same again this summer as a way of monitoring what was happening. He also commented on the long term parking at short term areas reflected a lot by “H” (handicapped), “G” (government), and “J” (juror) plates or stickers.

Mr. Brian Fortin, partner in the Modern Bride and Formal Shop, addressed the committee noting that he had been in business downtown for 11 years, and his shop for about 50. He had made a commitment to remaining downtown for another three years recently when moving into the Hampshire Plaza from across the street.

Mr. Fortin noted the continuous problems with employees and business owners tying up the parking spots in front of the businesses. It was something he had

been working with others on for some time and was supportive of raising the rates to 50 cents and putting in the meters in the downtown area. He pleaded with the committee that the city not stop the parking program it had initiated. Mr. Fortin provided specific examples of the problem.

Discussion then evolved around the issue of juror parking where it was suggested that Tom Lolicata, Lt. Tessier, Richard Davis and perhaps the Solicitor become involved in trying to address that problem by providing parking elsewhere, etc. It was noted that state law provided for free parking for the jurors but perhaps that something could be worked out to get them out of the on-street spaces.

Alderman Domaingue then raised issues with the enforcement reality of district parking and whether the city had the means to address that issue. Lt. Tessier advised that the hand held equipment would make that possible, but that the numbers of tickets issued tended to go down when he had the staff address the feeding the meter issue. It was easier for them to walk through a district looking for red flags.

In response to questions raised from Alderman Robert, Mr. Davis advised that Ted Herbert was not a regular participant of the downtown meetings but had provided him a copy of his communication to the Board. Alderman Domaingue commented that she was a customer of that business and it did not deter her in the least to put money in a meter for parking downtown to go to Ted Heberts.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to receive and file the communication from Mr. Hebert.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to again approve the regulations within the committee report, and send the report back to the Board with the recommendation such regulations be adopted.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to request the Traffic Director, Police, In-Town Manchester and Solicitor to review the juror parking issue and report back to the committee.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to request the Traffic Director, Police, In-Town Manchester and Solicitor to review the district over-parking issue to determine if anything could be done.

13. Chairman Sysyn advised that the Traffic Department had submitted an agenda which needed to be addressed as follows:

**STOP SIGNS:**

ON ALMEDA STREET AT CHARLOTTE STREET, SWC  
ON ALMEDA STREET AT BRENT STREET, NEC  
ON ELLINGWOOD STREET AT BRENT STREET, NWC  
ON LANDSDOWNE STREET AT ELLINGWOOD STREET, NEC  
ON LANDSDOWNE STREET AT CHARLOTTE STREET, SWC  
ON CALVERT CIRCLE AT LANDSDOWNE STREET, SEC  
ON SURREY LANE AT BRENT STREET, NEC, SWC (NORTHERN  
TERMINUS)  
ON SURREY LANE AT BRENT STREET, NEC (SOUTHERN TERMINUS)  
ON TROLLEY STREET AT BRENT STREET, SWC  
ON TROLLEY COURT AT TROLLEY STREET, SWC  
ON GANTRY STREET AT TROLLEY STREET, NWC  
ON GANTRY STREET AT BRENT STREET, SWC  
ON PULLMAN STREET AT BRENT STREET, SWC  
ON PULLMAN STREET AT TROLLEY STREET, NWC  
ON TROLLEY STREET AT HICKORY STREET, NWC  
ON BARBARA LANE AT VANDORA DRIVE, SWC  
ON HICKORY STREET AT BRENT STREET, NEC (NORTHERN  
TERMINUS)  
ON HICKORY STREET AT BRENT STREET, NEC (SOUTHERN  
TERMINUS)  
ON HICKORY COURT AT BRENT STREET, SWC  
ON WILDWOOD STREET AT HICKORY COURT, SEC  
ON WILDWOOD STREET AT BRENT STREET, SWC  
ALDERMAN DOMAINGUE

**NO TRUCKS ALLOWED:**

ON CHARLOTTE STREET, FROM BROWN AVENUE TO BRENT STREET  
ALDERMAN DOMAINGUE

**NO TRUCKS ALLOWED - 9:30 PM - 7:00 AM:**

ON SOUTH ELM STREET, FROM BAKER STREET TO THE DEAD END  
ALDERMAN PARISEAU

ON WYOMING AVENUE, FROM SOUTH ELM STREET TO CALEF ROAD  
ALDERMAN PARISEAU

**PARKING 2 HOURS - 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM:**

ON LAUREL STREET, SOUTH SIDE, FROM A POINT 65 FEET EAST OF  
UNION STREET TO A POINT 70 FEET WEST OF BEECH STREET

ALDERMAN SYSYN

**NO PARKING:**

ON BISMARCK STREET, EAST SIDE, FROM MILFORD STREET TO  
BROCKTON STREET

ALDERMAN CASHIN

**NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS:**

ON LOIS STREET, BOTH SIDES, FROM A POINT 290 FEET SOUTH OF  
ROYSAN STREET TO JEANINE STREET

ALDERMAN DOMAINGUE

Mr. Lolicata removed the Lois Street request, advising it should not be approved.

Alderman Domaingue commented that there were several stop signs being requested in one general area of her ward and that there were residents of the area here to request additional stop signs in this area.

A lengthy discussion ensued where Alderman Domaingue noted the need to address these residential areas for the safety of the families living there.

Ann Chouinard of 59 Ellingwood Street addressed the committee noting there were about 20 small children on her street and on Brent Street there was more, one family had seven children. Ms. Chouinard stated that because of the speed of the traffic additional stop signs were needed on Brent Street and particularly Charlotte and Brent should be a 4-way stop. Ms. Chouinard also commented on the need to reduce the speed suggesting a 25 mile an hour limit.

Mr. Lolicata advised of how the stop signs had to be warranted; and that 4-way stop signs were put in only when signalization was needed or accidents warranted it. In this case there were no accidents. Mr. Lolicata noted that the speed limit was 30 throughout the entire city which was set by the state.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Lolicata and Ms. Chouinard regarding speed limits being set by the state, the area being a cut through for Londonderry, enforcement issues, and the need to slow the traffic down.

Alderman Domaingue commented on how the city invited these developments and while they would like the police to enforce they have less staff than fire and did not have the bodies to address the problem throughout the city.

Mr. Kearney commented on the federal and state standards for putting up signs and how most accidents actually occur around signage or signals.

Lt. Tessier noted that they had sent people down and the speeds were not significant.

Mr. Kearney discussed the speed limit of 30 mph being prime facia and a 35 mph ticket being thrown out of court.

Georgiana McLaughlin addressed the committee commenting that she lived at Almeda and Brent and could hear the cars screeching as they came off Brown Ave around the curve on Brent Street. She felt a 3 way stop was needed at this intersection. She noted that it was a cut through form Londonderry and that when the Airport Access Road was put in, it would become worse.

Linda Burke of 169 Brent Street noted that she had seven children and one on the way. She had been living there for two years and found the speeding and traffic issues to be a nightmare. She commented that even the school buses went to fast. Mrs. Burke commented on a ball rolling into the road and a dump truck forced to stop popping the ball (which could have been a child) with the skid marks still there a year later. Mrs. Burke stated that she had followed a car to the man's home in a development off Brown Avenue which had passed her on the road and sped along, and commented that cars do that frequently because she only went 10 mph through this neighborhood. The man had indicated he would continue to speed through the neighborhood. Mrs. Burke commented on attempting to take walks with her children and the difficulties. She felt they should not have to be locked up in their yards, they should be able to take walks and have a quality of life.

Alderman Domaingue commented that they could do counts of the traffic noting there were vast complexes of residential developments which needed to be safe places.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to have a study conducted by police and traffic with volume counts, speed counts and enforcement in the area.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to approve all items on the traffic agenda except Lois Street and those for discussion.

Alderman Robert left the meeting as he had another to attend.

Chairman Sysyn addressed the Addendum Items to Traffic Agenda:

**NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:**

On Elm St., west side, from Stark St. to a point 30 feet northerly  
Alderman Sysyn

**RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS:**

On Elm St., west side, from Stark St. to a point 30 feet northerly  
Alderman Sysyn

**NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS:**

On Celeste St., both sides, from South Porter St. to Rockwell St.  
Alderman Domaingue

**PARKING 2 HOURS (meters):**

In the Myrna Parking Lot, upper level, (east end) on both sides, 66 meter spaces  
Alderman Reiniger

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to approve these regulations.

**DISCUSSION:**

**1998 CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING/PAINTING**

Mr. Lolicata requested the committee members consider his line item requests for equipment which he would review in his budget presentation to the Board.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANITE STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
SYNCHRONIZATION REPORT**

A report was provided to members conducted by Moni Sharma of Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. Mr. Jim Hoben advised that they would be attempting to implement the recommendations of the report over the next few months with regard to peak hour synchronization.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to approve the Traffic Department implementing the recommendations.

### **TABLED ITEMS**

14. Communication from Alderman Reiniger submitting proposed revisions to existing City ordinances.  
(Tabled 2/26/96)
15. Discussion with Highway and Police Departments regarding the development and/or recommendations for methods of slowing down traffic on certain neighborhood streets.  
(Tabled 8/26/96)
17. Discussion with the Director of Planning relative to the traffic calming report.  
(Tabled 12/17/96)

### **ADDENDUM - DISCUSSION**

Request to cover health benefits for the family of Denis Robitaille, a 20 year Traffic Department employee killed in a motorcycle accident on April 5.

A brief discussion was held with regard to the request. Alderman Domaingue noted concerns as to whether 12 months would be sufficient in this instance given the special circumstances, noting that COBRA is 18 months and suggesting perhaps the committee should recommend this amount of time for coverage.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to recommend that the City continue health benefits for the Robitaille family for an 18 month period, with the cost to be paid by the City.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee