

**COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/
PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 20, 1997

6:30 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Reiniger, Soucy, Domaingue
Alderman Robert arrived late.

Messrs.: Principal Adamakos, Rich Davis, Tom Lolicata, Lt. Tessier,
Steve Tierney, R. Girard

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Ratify and confirm poll conducted on May 6, 1997 approving the closure of the Notre Dame Bridge on Sunday, May 25, 1997 in conjunction with the Memorial Day fireworks display under the supervision of the Police Department.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to ratify and confirm the poll conducted on May 6, 1997.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Domaingue requesting that the issue of a uniform 25 mph speed limit throughout the City be further reviewed.

Alderman Domaingue moved for discussion. Alderman Reiniger duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Domaingue stated it wasn't my intention to take up the Committee's time with a long, protracted conversation this evening, Madam Chairman. The intent of this request is simply to respond to numerous concerns from neighborhoods all over the City. I would like to know whether the Committee would entertain forming another committee possibly with the Police Traffic Safety

Committee, is that the one I read about in the minutes of the Police Commission meeting, where pertinent departments and representatives of different neighborhoods or the Aldermen representing those neighborhoods can sit down with the Traffic Director and talk about what some of the hurdles might be to obtaining a 25 mph speed limit and how we might be able to overcome them.

Chairman Sysyn asked how does the Committee feel about forming a different committee. I think Tom might have some input on this.

Mr. Lolicata stated I've already talked to the State of New Hampshire, the City can go ahead and put up the speed of 25, but there are a lot of cautions involved with this because of the fact of what you have to go through. They highly recommend that speeds be put at 30 and keep them that way on your main arteries, number one. Secondly, if you are going to encumber also called "side streets" and you put a speed of 25 up there, you're going to have a double standard. Right now you have a prima facie law in New Hampshire whereby the Police Department can regulate saying if you're going 25 I can allow them at 30, 32, 34 it's not a maximum law. In a case like that, the court if they see a speed of 25 you're going to have to do it for all side streets, they've got to be posted. If you're going to go about it City-wide, I'll tell you right now you're talking about a \$70,000 figure for my department and nine months to implement it if you're lucky. The State highly recommends that you probably stay with what you have and have law enforcement take care of these little so-called troublesome streets. You're talking a few dollars here and you're talking about the courts. If the Police stop a guy who says is going 30 mph they've got to distinguish what street, is it posted, and I think the courts are going to have a ball with this and that's my own opinion from what I hear.

Lt. Tessier stated I do have a new Traffic Advisory Board which consists of people like John Stephens from the Attorney General's Office and people from the media. It's something we have talked about in the past. We have made some gains by purchasing some new equipment including four raiders and some counters that should help us out. I see no problem with bringing this up on the next agenda to see where it would go and see what input we would have, maybe in trying to do some targeting in reducing speed in the neighborhoods, it's been a very good committee, very active so far.

Chairman Sysyn asked would you like to table this until the next meeting and then he can make his presentation at the next meeting.

Alderman Domaingue replied, I don't have a problem with that, but I do want to respond to Mr. Lolicata's concerns. State law is out there, but I drove down Corning Road just this past week and saw a bright yellow 25 mph pedestrian sign on a road that I'm sure is wider than 20 feet and when you and I had talked about neighborhood streets and what the State will and will not allow you talked about the restrictions that are on you to be able to put a lower speed limit on a street that is even wider than 20 feet. Corning Road is much wider than 20 feet and I think it's the Litchfield portion, but it could be the Manchester portion where the sign is erected. So, either we're all following the same rules or there are allowances made within the law that is set by the State and I think that is why I wanted the subject to go before a separate committee so that we could investigate what the parameters are for this particular law from the State and what are options are.

Mr. Lolicata stated that is called an advisory sign which I can detonate in any circumstances like a sharp curve. I can put up a black and white or black and yellow speed 25, that is not a lawful sign. Yes, I can put up black and yellow which are considered advisories. They are not lawful...there's a difference. I can put up a speed 20 Pedestrian, I can put up a 15, I can put up anything that the circumstances call for. The regulation...black and white speed 20...can be put up on only streets that are 20 feet or less with the advisory of the Highway, myself and Police. There is a difference between regulation and advisory.

Alderman Domaingue stated this is the first time I'm hearing that. In all of the times we've talked about the speeding traffic and what was allowable that we could actually have advisory signs.

Mr. Lolicata stated I've used them on curves, I've never used them for speed outside of a curve. We have some on Goffstown Road and a few others.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to refer item 4 to the Police Traffic Advisory Board for review with report back to Committee at a later date.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from George Copadis requesting the closure of Kenney at Hanover Street and Hilton at Amherst Street on September 12-14, 1997 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM each day in conjunction with the annual Glendi celebration.

On motion of Alderman Domaigne, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to recommend approval of the closure of Kenney and Hilton Streets as requested.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Linda Gagne, St. Anthony School, requesting closure of Silver Street between Belmont and Hall Streets on Friday, June 6, 1997, in conjunction with the annual Student Appreciation Day.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to recommend approval of the closure of Silver Street as requested.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Linda Garriott, Intown Manchester, requesting the following items be considered with respect to the establishment of a Downtown Farmer's Market:

- (1) that the Downtown Farmer's Market management be given permission to "bag" all parking meters on Concord Street, between Pine and Chestnut Streets on each Wednesday evening that precedes a Thursday market;
- (2) that the Downtown Farmer's Market management be given permission to coordinate the placement of barriers on Concord Street, perpendicular to Pine Street, and to close the street to motor traffic at noon for the Thursday markets; and
- (3) that no violations be made after 3:00 PM in the Hartnett Parking Lot on each Thursday when there is a market.

Chairman Sysyn asked did he clear it with you, Lt. Tessier.

Lt. Tessier commented that Barbara Dziura of Parking Violations asked him to advise the Committee that she only had 12 bags and it would mean the purchase of new ones.

Chairman Sysyn asked Mr. Davis how many bags are you talking about.

Mr. Davis replied sixteen.

Lt. Tessier stated she also had them out on a regular basis and she would need to get more bags.

Alderman Domaingue asked how much are the bags.

Lt. Tessier replied they're canvas bags with a padlock and not very expensive, not a high-cost item.

On motion of Alderman Robert, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to recommend approval of items requested for the establishment of a Downtown Farmer's Market.

Mr. Davis made a brief presentation to the Committee with the aide of an area sketch outlining the Farmer's Market to be located between Pine and Chestnut Streets on Concord taking advantage of Victory Park as well as public parking in the Hartnett Lot noting it seemed to be an ideal space for the first year with 10 farmers to date.

Alderman Soucy asked if they bagged the meters on Wednesday night for the market on Thursday what would prevent someone from parking there for six or eight hours.

Lt. Tessier replied they would be bagged for "No Parking".

Ms. Davis continued by stating that barriers would be put in place by noon on Thursdays which would allow the farmers to set up between noon and three o'clock.

Mr. Lolicata stated with the closure of Concord Street, I would ask Mr. Davis that they notify the Fire Department as that was a major route.

Mr. Davis stated that the Fire Department had been notified through Chief Monnelly noting that the Chief had informed him of it being especially good because they really didn't have any buildings to worry about with the park and street, so he did not feel it was a real problem.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 8 of the agenda:

Communication from Thomas Horgan, NH College & University Council, regarding a problem encountered in the Center of NH Parking Garage on February 10, 1997 during their 23rd JobFair and requesting that the parking situation be improved by their next scheduled JobFair at the Center on February 9, 1998.

Mr. Lolicata stated I think Mr. Daniels is going to give a reply because at that time they kind of had their hands full, it's a tough time of year, storms, etc. and the roofs are always clear but things did happen and you can't stop Mother Nature. I'll ask Mr. Daniels...there's nothing else we can do other than the parking in the area and to try and keep the parking lots open as spares. I'll ask Mr. Daniels if there is anything else that I can do at that particular time. It's too bad they couldn't go further in May or something when there would be better weather and more parking, but it's tough in the winter.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to refer Mr. Horgan's communication to the Traffic Director to follow-up on this matter.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 9 of the agenda:

Communication from R. Sean O'Kane, Holiday Inn, The Center of NH, requesting that the Center be contacted prior to future parades that call for going beyond the park on Elm Street in order to determine the level of business which may be occurring at The Center during these times.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted that at any time that future parades go beyond that point that the Police Department review the traffic route prior to issuance of a parade permit.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 10 of the agenda:

Communication from Frances Rice requesting a traffic signal be installed at the intersection of Mooresville, Weston and Huse Roads.

Alderman Domaingue moved for discussion. Alderman Robert duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Domaingue stated this area has been looked at by the Highway Department for a number of years now. Part of the delay in getting traffic improvements there has been a result of the money coming from the Mall of New Hampshire and combining it with monies from the City of Manchester which were unavailable until recently. To my knowledge it is under design, but Mr. Tierney is here from the Highway Department and I am sure he can elaborate on that. It is a subject that has been in communication with the Alderman/residents of Huse Road in particular Mr. Gancarz who has been an active participant in the discussions and has submitted some ideas of his own. It is unfortunate that Mrs. Rice feels that nothing has been done. If she had called me, I would have been happy to tell her what had been done, but she never bothered to call the Alderman and that's unfortunate. I will write her a letter in response to update her on it, but I'm sure Mr. Tierney can elaborate.

Mr. Tierney stated the project is under active design right now and we anticipate a spring construction start on it.

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

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 11 of the agenda:

Communication from Jonathan Simard requesting the use of Arms Park and the Bedford Street Parking Lot (at Canal & Spring Streets) from 6:00 AM-4:00 PM; and the closure of streets under the supervision of the Manchester Police Department for a series of races (sections of Commercial & Bedford Streets as shown on the attached diagram from 6:00 AM-3:00 PM) on Saturday, July 19, 1997, in conjunction with the First Annual Inline Skate Expo to benefit the Salvation Army's "Kid's Care".

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to recommend approval of the requested use of Arms Parks and the Bedford Street Parking Lot by Mr. Simard.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 12 of the agenda:

Referral of the Committee on CIP recommending that the Committee on Traffic look at maintenance issues and long-range plans relative to the City's parking facilities; and noting concerns that a long-range plan needs to be addressed for funding and review of maintenance of the garages.

Alderman Domaingue stated I have asked Principal Adamakos here this evening and I was going to bring it up under other business, but it has to do with parking facilities not relative to City garages, but relative to high schools. So, I think it would be appropriate for the Committee on Traffic to revisit the issue of parking overall.

Chairman Sysyn stated we would probably have to have a special meeting to address this issue.

Alderman Domaingue stated I've got a situation right now just to make the Committee aware at Memorial High School where we've had to sign streets in the last few months "No Parking During School Hours" because there aren't enough parking spaces at the high school and the students are moving into the neighborhoods which would have been all well and good except that they have produced a negative response from the people who live there in terms of loud noise, wrong parking, litter and foul language.

Chairman Sysyn stated I know because I live right across from Central High School.

Alderman Domaingue stated I know Memorial is not alone and I know that Principal Adamakos has been very diligently wanting to work with the Aldermen or the Police Department whomever. We have to address the issue because I have a lot of angry constituents and I can't continue to sign "No Parking During School Hours" all the way through the ward.

Alderman Soucy asked is there any way of increasing the parking at the Skill Center, but if there's more space out there. If there isn't enough on the main campus, I thought there might be space out there.

Principal Adamakos stated being out there everyday because we do patrol that lot everyday as it has become a necessity. The issue has become that we have grown quite large for the spots that we have. If you remember correctly when the building was built in 1960 they were only planning on 800 or 900 students and about 60 faculty members. Both of those numbers have doubled. So, what's happened is the lot now because we not only have to cater to our own staff, but because of the kitchen personnel and the increased aides that we have and the educational assistants, we really have 211 student spots and when happens with 211 spots, we have 900 plus eligible drivers and can see what the dilemma is. Thankfully, not everyone drives to school everyday. But, we still have two to three dozen I'd be willing to bet of people parking on the street because every spot is taken and they were actually parking on lawns and everything else until we said hey look you're violating the fire codes and that whole parking lot was resigned last year to address those concerns that both the Fire and Police Departments had. So, what we have now is in the morning we have everybody scrambling to go and find a spot early in the morning and quite frankly, if you've been by the school we have a lot of space down on the lower lot that is just grass and it doesn't get mowed that often, to say the least anyway, but that could become more additional parking and maybe if not lessen could eliminate the entire issue on the side streets because by looking at it this morning because it was a nice day out and I knew I'd be here this evening, I think we can get quite a few cars in the corner area, if you can picture it where Weston and So. Porter are, the opposite corner because basically the faculty lot is a circular lot. It was designed for aesthetics more than for practicality back in the 60's and there's an entire section maybe an acre or two in that corner that is just grass that if we can expand into, maybe we can lessen the load and then I won't have to restrict parking and I think we can get everybody off the streets. Of course, that's an expense but we do have the space and that's something that you may want to look at.

Alderman Domaingue stated I don't think the issue would have gotten to the point it got to had the students been respectful of the properties on the streets that surround that school area, but I had several complaints from each of those streets about the language and the littering, in particular. Before they go in the direction suggested by Principal Adamakos which is directly across from residences that might not appreciate looking out at a parking lot when they are now looking out at grass. Knowing that they are all being very tolerant of students passing by them with automobiles, is it possible that on the other side of the high school further north on So. Porter Street where there is an open area.

Principal Adamakos stated there is a possibility, you're talking about behind the 600 wing where the dumpsters are and all of that. I think you're going to have more of a problem there simply because the water accumulates there. If I could add one other thing, if we expand the lot that is an area we can patrol and we can keep quiet during the course of the day. Three streets over, we don't have personnel to send anybody that far away, so we're caught and at least if we have it within the four corners of the school property that is something we can address with our own existing personnel and I think we can keep the neighborhood relatively quiet.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to refer the matter relative to parking at Memorial High School to the Highway and Parks & Recreation Departments for review and report back to the Committee.

Alderman Soucy asked should there be a separate Traffic Committee meeting to discuss the long-range plans.

Clerk Johnson stated the basis of the referral to Committee from the CIP Committee was to look at long-term maintenance as there was no real discussion and they really felt that it was a traffic issue. I think it would behoove the Committee to hear from the Traffic Director and the Highway Department in terms of what is being done with the garages and where it all came from and how it began and some background so that the Committee can come up with some future planning from there.

Alderman Robert stated the fees were to fund a particular course of action. I think what they are looking for is for us to redefine our situation and maybe come up with a course of action of our own.

Chairman Sysyn stated instead of doing the auto fees, you're borrowing money, paying interest on that money, and the burden is going to be on the taxpayers.

Alderman Robert stated the fees were a focal point for some people, but it was also an overall plan as to how to deal with parking in Downtown Manchester which was the Mayor's plan. I think what he wants us to do is think up something on our own.

Clerk Johnson stated that was not the only basis of the report. The basis of the report was also tied to the maintenance of the garages and whether or not that maintenance was being done and the fee structures and so forth tied to the rates should be looked at and I guess what I'm saying is it is obviously an in depth thing.

Alderman Robert stated if the Committee wants to develop its own concept as to how to go about doing it, I'm sure whoever handles the money aspect will review and consider the aspect. I believe it started off by borrowing a ton of money to fix the garages and to fill up the accounts that ran dry over the years. We can do that again if that's what the Board wants to do.

Chairman Sysyn stated you're going to pay no matter which way you go, there's no free ride.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to schedule a special Traffic Committee meeting to discuss the maintenance issues and long-range plans relative to the City's parking facilities.

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

Handicapped Parking Only:

On Prout Avenue, east side, from a point 40 feet north of the Dead end to a point 40 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

Parking 30 Minutes (8am-6pm):

On Middle Street, north side, from a point 40 feet east of Canal Street to a point 40 feet easterly

Alderman Reiniger

Rescind Parking 2 hours (meter #'s 3383,3384):

On Middle Street, north side, from a point 40 feet east of Canal Street to a point 40 feet easterly

Alderman Reiniger

No Parking During School Hours:

On South Porter Street, from Celeste Street to Fernand Street

Alderman Domaingue

Handicap Parking / Sunday Only:

On Lowell Street, north side, from a point 150 feet east of Chestnut Street to Pine Street

Alderman Reiniger

Parking 2 Hours:

On Central Street, north side, from Union Street to Beech Street

Alderman Clancy

On Taylor Street, west side, from Harvard Street to Somerville Street

On Elm Street, west side, from Stark Street to a point 30 feet northerly

Crosswalks:

Across Mammoth Road, north and south of Lake Avenue

Across Lake Avenue, east and west of Mammoth Road

Alderman Clancy

Rescind Parking 30 minutes (unlimited parking):

On Spruce Street, south side, from Barry Avenue to a point 50 feet easterly

Alderman Sysyn

No Parking (8am-Noon Mon-Sat):

On Beech Street, west side, from Spruce Street to Spruce South back Street

Alderman Clancy

Rescind No Parking:

On Beech Street, west side, from Spruce Street to Spruce south back Street

Alderman Clancy

No Parking Loading Zone:

On Laurel Street, north side, from a point 195 feet west of Cass Street to a point 25 feet westerly

Alderman Sysyn - emergency act

Rescind No Parking (unlimited):

On Dubuque Street, west side, from Durette Court to a point 50 feet northerly

Alderman Robert

On Dubuque Street, west side, from Durette Court to a point 55 feet southerly

Alderman Robert

Parking 1 Hour (8am-6pm):

On Silver Street, north side, from a point 210 feet west of Beech Street to a point 70 feet westerly

Alderman Shea

No Parking:

On Trahan Street, west side, from West Baker Street to Ahern Street

Alderman Pariseau

On Trahan Street, east side, from a point 30 feet south of Ahern Street, to a point 115 feet northerly

Alderman Pariseau

No Parking (8:00 AM-6:00 PM - Monday thru Saturday):

On Taylor Street, east side, from Somerville Street to Harvard Street

No Parking Loading Zone:

On Brown Avenue, west side, from a point 60 feet south of Hancock Street to a point 25 feet southerly

On Elm Street, west side, from a point 30 feet north of Stark Street to a point 30 feet northerly

Rescind No Parking Loading Zone:

On Elm Street, west side, from Stark Street to a point 30 feet northerly

METERS:

PARKING 10 HOURS (2 HOUR MINIMUM AT .50 HOUR)

On Commercial Street, east side, from a point 30 feet north of Phillippe Cote Street to Pleasant Street, 8 meters

On Commercial Street, east side, from Pleasant Street to a point 70 feet south of Stark Street, 37 meters

On Commercial Street, east side, from a point 50 feet north of Stark Street to a point 330 feet north of Spring Street, 31 meters

On Commercial Street, east side, from a point 430 feet north of Spring Street to a point 445 feet south of Canal Street, 56 meters

On Dow Street, south side, from Commercial Street to North Bedford Street, 3 meters

PARKING 2 HOURS @ .50 HOUR

On Commercial street, west side, from a point 610 feet south of Canal Street to a point 150 feet north of Arms Street, 40 meters

On Commercial Street, west side, from a point 40 feet south of Arms Street to a point 160 feet southerly, 9 meters

On Commercial Street, west side, from a point 280 feet south of Arms Street to a point 50 feet north of Stark Street, 20 meters

On Commercial Street, west side, from a point 150 feet south of Stark Street to a point 20 feet north of Cannis Street, 10 meters

On Commercial Street, west side, from a point 145 feet south of Cannis Street to a point 60 feet north of Waumbec Street, 12 meters

On Commercial Street, west side, from a point 70 feet south of Waumbec Street to a point 80 feet north of Textile Court, 3 meters

On Commercial Street, west side, from Pleasant Street to Phillippe Cote Street, 8 meters

On Stark Street, north side, from Mungall Street to Arms Street, 4 meters

On Pleasant Street, south side, from Commercial Street to Bedford Street, 61 meters

On Arms Street, east side, from Stark Street to Mungall Street, 21 meters

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to approve the Traffic Department agenda.

TABLED ITEMS

Communication from Alderman Reiniger submitting proposed revisions to existing City ordinances.

(Tabled 2/26/96)

This item remained on the table.

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to remove the following item from the table for discussion.

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)

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to refer the item to the Police Department's Special Traffic Advisory Board for review.

Alderman Domaingue asked, Lt. Tessier, will your Committee also have representatives from the Highway and Traffic Departments because this issue involves speeding and traffic in the neighborhoods as well.

Lt. Tessier replied at the present time none of the other members of my Committee are City agencies at all, they are all outside public members. I certainly would have no problem inviting people from those agencies to attend the meetings for addressing these issues.

Alderman Domaingue asked who are you referring to when you say members of the outside public.

Lt. Tessier replied average citizens, members from St. Mary's Bank, John Stephens, I have representatives from the media, the VA, I am looking for a member from the Health Department because we are going to be doing some targeting on alcohol prevention with youth, but I'd be glad to furnish you with a list of the people who are on that Committee.

Discussion with the Director of Planning relative to the traffic calming report.

(Tabled 12/17/96)

This item remained on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Validation Parking Program at Hampshire Plaza

Clerk Johnson stated there was a request made through the Mayor's Office and I believe the Chairman of the Traffic Committee, I was told. Apparently, there has been a lot of discussion about parking for people attending the Tax Office to register cars and there is a request that has been made to consider a validation parking program for a 1-hour period for customers of the Tax Collector's, City Clerk's, and Ordinance Violations.

Alderman Soucy asked would that involve much clerical work.

Clerk Johnson replied we would have stamps and would stamp the tickets up to one-hour in the garage only.

Alderman Soucy asked if any of the other departments such as Building would also partake in this program.

Clerk Johnson stated the Mayor's Office is represented here this evening, perhaps he could address it. I was just asked to bring the proposal to the Committee.

Mr. Girard stated this member of the Mayor's Office is completely unaware of what's being presented to the Committee, therefore, cannot comment.

Chairman Sysyn stated it's a nice gesture from us to the citizens.

Alderman Domaingue stated with all of the inconvenience now, it's probably a good public relations move.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to recommend approval of the 1-Hour Validation Parking Program at Hampshire Plaza for all City departments operating in the Plaza.

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