

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

February 3, 1998

6:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Reiniger, Pinard, Cashin, Hirschmann

Chairman Clancy advised that the first purpose of the meeting shall be organizational in nature and requests the Clerk to provide a brief overview regarding typical issues addressed by the Committee.

Clerk Johnson stated the Committee on Traffic is actually now the Committee on Traffic and Public Safety. You will take up issues such as stop signs, all the regulations, the old signs, signalization projects, parking issues. You are actually the ones that control all of the parking garages and how those work and when you are going to open them up for free parking and those kinds of things. If there is a consideration in the budget process to change the rate, this is the Committee that would review that and perhaps hold public hearings on those issues. You also deal with public safety issues, such as police and fire issues that may arise from time to time and get referred to the Committee by the Board. There are several things that fall under public safety, it may not just be a fire or a police issue. It could be, you know cruising on Elm Street is both a traffic and a public safety issue. Those types of things, as well. The Clerk's office is in the process of reworking the Traffic Ordinance. It has been under work for about 15 years now. We have actually hit the point of being able to get a programmer from Info Systems to put together something in Access for us to start doing the data entry so we can have all the stop signs and red lights and all of that put into a computer system. As soon as those regulations are all done we will go back and do one more rewrite of the Ordinance and present it to the Committee. Every time the Ordinance has been rewritten, the regulations never got into one solid book and that has been the tie up so we finally got that resolved with Info Systems this year. Other than that, it might be any other matter that the Board considers either a traffic or public safety nature that it refers to you. You will be polled regularly on issues such as closing streets and that kind of thing and I will warn you about that

ahead of time. Sometimes we will just send it out in a memo saying respond if you have a problem because those are issues that won't necessarily get reported out to the Board. It may be for a short time for a parade or something like that and they have to get permission to close the street and we have to contact you for that.

Chairman Clancy introduced Lt. Mike Tessier from the Manchester Police Department. We also have Tom Lolicata and Jim Hoben here from the Traffic Department and we have Mr. William Kearney, our advisor for many years from the Police Department.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 12 of the agenda:

Communication from Brooks McQuade requesting permission for merchants to lease a portable house (at their expense) to be located at the Middle Street Parking Lot for a full-time attendant.

Alderman Hirschmann asked they don't control that full lot. They just have so many spaces, 16 spaces I think.

Mr. McQuade answered they have about 34 slots right now.

Chairman Clancy asked what is going to happen when we revert back to City Hall. Do we take that parking space back over?

Mr. McQuade responded that is a possibility. During the months of November, December and January we have had about 5,500 cars come in and out of those 34 spots. It has been great for the 16 people who are participating.

Alderman Pinard asked what size.

Mr. McQuade answered we are looking at something 6' x 6' or 8' x 8', you know a small little portable thing. We are having a hard time keeping the attendant out there in the winter just due to the fact of the cold.

Chairman Clancy stated keep in mind that when we go back to City Hall we might need those spaces back again.

Mr. McQuade responded I will come back at that time and plead my case again if I could.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to approve the request.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Aldermen Clancy and Shea requesting that signalization at the Jewett/Valley Streets intersection be installed.

Alderman Pinard asked how many accidents in one year at that intersection.

Chairman Clancy answered roughly 35. How many Michael (Lt. Tessier)?

Lt. Tessier responded we did a three year study and it was extremely high.

Mr. Lolicata replied it is up to 32, 33 right now. In answer to a question from this young lady over here, I just gave the CIP report to Jim for next year. Jewett and Valley are the top priority. It has to go to CIP and hopefully we will get the money. There are other things we are putting in for but this is a top priority, the signalization. It is up to 34 accidents now.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to recommend funding through the CIP Committee for signalization at the intersection of Valley and Jewett Streets.

Chairman Clancy stated while we are on that subject I do have a list of intersections here from the Traffic Department. The first one is Valley and Jewett, the second one is LED replacement program, the third one is Elm and Queen City Avenue, the fourth one is Elm and Valley, the fifth one is Main Street and Granite Street, the sixth is Main and Walker Street, the seventh is River Road and West Webster Street. This is the list from the Traffic Department as far as their priorities for 1998 for the signalization.

Mr. Lolicata responded it is not all signalization Aldermen. That is the prioritized list. The first one is signalized intersection. The other one is the LED program itself. That is the Elliott lights. What is the third one, Jim?

Mr. Hoben replied the third one is replacement controls. The third, fourth and fifth The one at Main and Granite is to split the phasing because there has been a problem over there.

Chairman Clancy stated I would assume the last one, the seventh, is a set of working lights.

Mr. Hoben answered that is the intersection. Main and Walker is a rebuilding of theirthey are hanging poles and...

Alderman Hirschmann asked is Montgomery Street going to get on this list.

Mr. Lolicata answered well right now we are talking only full intersections. You are talking about a complete set of lights. On that list there for intersections, River Road as you see on the bottom would be a second prioritized one. Now we have gone through and I have for you a copy by the way back at the office. We have different intersections. I think Trombly came up with something like five. I will get you a copy of that. We are trying our best to solve three or four different intersections. Let me go to the Police Department and get these things coming back to us.

Alderman Hirschmann stated my point is if you are going to submit this list, even if I am the last priority, I was hoping to get on the list so that next year I move up.

Mr. Lolicata replied before we even put them on the list, we are going to also warrant these. As a matter of fact we were trying to work with the Police Department to get all of these prioritized about two years ago. The other things are just things we need or the City needs itself. But intersectional wise, we need a study done. As of right now, the warrants aren't quite there. So I will get that copy to you as far as the warrants before we go ahead. Remember every time you talk about an intersection going through it is not just the money factor but we have to look at roads and then we are talking \$60,000 or \$70,000 on top of that. It is not the money, I could care less about that. It is the safety and the warrants that I am going to look at.

Alderman Hirschmann responded when people can't get to their house and they call me every night it is going to be warranted for something I will tell you that. I will pull streets, I will make one-ways, I will do something. If I don't get lights, I will do something else.

Mr. Lolicata answered and there are many ways of doing it, Keith. That is one way of doing it, correct.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the Agenda:

Communication from Alderman Reiniger submitting a proposed Anti-Cruising Ordinance.

Alderman Reiniger stated this is something I think the Police Department has been working on for many years and in discussions with them I looked into it and we found some...many other cities of course have dealt with this issue. We found some model ordinances that have worked and I have got a quote here from a Sergeant in Eugene, Oregon using the same ordinance basically as this and he said, "I have been a cop for 25 years and this is one ordinance that has had a 100% success rate." That is the background for this.

Lt. Tessier responded the Police Department supports this type of ordinance. We want it as a tool. Our concern would be that on an every night basis it would be expected that we would be out enforcing this specific ordinance. It is something that would be somewhat labor intensive, but we think it would be a valuable tool for us. We also want to check with the City Solicitor's Office because as Alderman Reiniger knows there may be different interpretations by different reasons but we certainly would want this to go forward to I guess it would be Bills on Second Reading if that is where it goes next in anticipation that we will have our work done by that time.

Alderman Hirschmann asked the hours that are recommended, 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., why not midnight to 5 a.m. I mean, I am just asking.

Lt. Tessier answered in this type of ordinance what we are trying to do is be as broad as we possibly can. There is nothing here that says that after a certain period of time that we are required to take action. What we need to do is have a vehicle go by us twice, on the third time we stop that vehicle, we give them written notice that if they come by again that on the fourth occasion we could impound their vehicle. All of which doesn't say we are mandated to do that. It would be more of an individual basis. Each one being on its own merit. I think this type of these time periods would allow us a broader range to work.

Alderman Hirschmann replied I think the Solicitor will tell you that you can't be selective like that. If you are going to pass an ordinance that you are stopping people, you can't be selective. You have to stop him if he goes down three times, or him or me.

Chairman Clancy stated well it is anyone that goes down more than twice.

Lt. Tessier responded right and we intend to follow the ordinance, but whether or not we tow the vehicle may be...and there is also a whole list of other exemptions at the end of it that allow us not to.

Alderman Hirschmann stated my only comment to the thing, I know what you are trying to achieve but I mean you are putting an ice arena downtown. I drop my kids off at the ice arena downtown, I cruise down to Staples, I go home, my wife goes down to pick the kids up at the ice arena. Cripe she is going to get arrested. She is going to get beat over the head.

Chairman Clancy replied I don't think that is the intent.

Alderman Hirschmann responded well I am just telling you what could happen so I say make it midnight. If you want to take care of the problems on Elm Street you pass a loitering ordinance. The kids are all sitting around down there drinking beer and raising hell, clear them out. Get the Paddy Wagon down there and clear them out. This is a step, but if you are going to pass something you better make sure it is right.

Alderman Cashin stated I don't know...kids sitting on Elm Street drinking beer and raising hell. I don't think that is happening. To paint them with a broad brush like that, I think that is wrong.

Alderman Hirschmann responded did you ever drive by Elm and Valley at 10:30 p.m. a night. Why do you think they are passing this Ordinance?

Alderman Cashin answered that has got nothing to do with this Ordinance, okay. When you paint anything with a broad brush I think you are wrong and that is what you are doing here. You have got some young people sitting here. Ask any one of them. I mean that is just, I think that is wrong.

Alderman Cashin stated as far as the Ordinance goes, I have got no problem with it. My only question is to Mike. Is it going to take any officers from any place, other locations, to enforce this? If it is, I am going to have a problem with it.

Lt. Tessier answered no. In our discussions what we are planning to use is some of our federal gang funds and use it as a tool to regular duties, not as something that is separate.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is this a summer Ordinance.

Lt. Tessier answered it is more active during the summer time, certainly.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to approve the Anti-Cruising Ordinance and refer it to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the Agenda:

Communication from former Alderman Robert requesting the institution of a residential permit parking system in the West High/Catholic Medical Center area.

Alderman Thibault stated I feel that there is an awful lot more research that has to go into something like this before we just do this. Frankly I think it is crazy to do that right now. I would like to look into it and see if there is another solution to this problem or a better solution to this problem and get back to the Board.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the Agenda:

Communication from former Alderman Robert requesting the expansion of Police walking patrols into some of our toughest neighborhoods and in the Downtown area.

Lt. Tessier stated certainly the Police Department is 100% in favor of walking routes. In many cases, we don't have the manpower to do that and it is not the most effective use of manpower. Recently the bicycle patrols have taken up some of the slack for walking routes and been very effective, along with the community policing which are required to spend some of their time in the area. Again, we are not opposed to walking routes. They are great, they have their functions, but I think we need to have the latitude to be able to assign our personnel as we need to so that we can be most effective.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 8 of the Agenda:

Communication from former Alderman Robert requesting the installation of three 4-way stop signs at Dubuque and Putnam Streets, Bremer Street and Coolidge Avenue, and Amory, Auclair and Bartlett Streets.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I kind of took offense because Tom didn't even contact me. This is part of my ward too. I spoke with Hank over the telephone and Hank and I had good conversations and I think what we both would like is for a study of these intersections and some kind of report established. We are just going on one recommendation. I think we need a group to look at it and take a little field trip over there.

Mr. Lolicata stated this is probably the second or third time, going way back about 10 years ago on Bremer and Coolidge for example. There have been two things done already. There have been no accidents there, you have got a hill there and we have done studies over there. The other one is going back three, four or five years ago now. The Highway Department put the stop signs the way they are now, changed the intersection over and there have been no accidents. The other one I couldn't tell you about, Dubuque and Putnam have warrants probably about three times or four times during the year. I will ask the Police Department to give a three year history again on this. All these corners that come up you have got to understand the situation. Where they are, what is going on, I don't know what to tell you but the accidents aren't even being warranted in some of these places. I know some of the hills...I would never put a stop sign on that hill.

Alderman Hirschman asked if the Committee would go with past precedent and only put these near schools, four-ways near a school. That is kind of what Mary Sysyn did last term.

On motion by Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 9 of the Agenda:

Communication from Sr. Janet Belcourt, Principal of St. Catherine's School requesting a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Carnegie and Russell Streets on Carnegie Street.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to approve the request for a stop sign at the intersection of Carnegie and Russell Streets on Carnegie Street.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 10 of the Agenda:

Communication from Doug DuVerger, Academic Director of the North Eastern Institute of Whole Health, Inc., requesting the posting of signs of their facility within City limits and also the painting of a crosswalk from the Pearl Street Parking Lot to their back door located at 22 Bridge Street.

Alderman Reiniger asked is the crosswalk a legal problem or is that a simple thing to do.

Mr. Lolicata answered no, not really. For me the only problem is that there is no warrant for a crosswalk there.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to receive and file request.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 11 of the Agenda:

Communication from Members of the Sheridan-Emmett Park Renewal advising of their clean-up efforts this past summer and suggesting that any questions, ideas, or suggestions be referred to Tina Hann at 622-1991 or write to 169 Green Street, Manchester, NH 03103.

Alderman Reiniger stated Tina Hann could not be here tonight, but one reason for this to be sent to the Traffic Committee was they have been for quite awhile requesting a crosswalk on Union Street to join the two halves of the Sheridan-Emmett Park.

Chairman Clancy asked so they can go from one park to the other.

Alderman Reiniger replied yeah, for some reason it has never been done.

Mr. Lolicata stated I met with her before the Fall. I went down there and we were going to have little signs put up. I would not recommend a crosswalk there. It is a big block which you know between two back streets. I would rather stay on intersectioning the lights up above where they are now or...

Alderman Reiniger asked couldn't we put in one of those...in front of the library there is a crosswalk with the big X's and the lines and also at Derryfield.

Mr. Lolicata answered I understand that. That is there for a purpose because of the pedestrian park and people are aware of that. When you go down Union Street and you start putting in something like that you are probably doing more harm than anything else, believe it or not. I am suggesting not to do it.

Chairman Clancy stated they can only do those within intersections I was told because if they do it within the area itself people kind of have the tendency to step on it and somebody can come running out and...

Mr. Lolicata stated on the other side we have to realize that there is a school there and crossing guards into the playground area. That is a different color and a different story.

Alderman Reiniger stated the problem is there might have been an unfortunate design...you have got kids running from one playground area to another.

Chairman Clancy responded maybe we ought to put a sign on Union Street, "Slow Playground" or "Slow Children" or something like that. How is that?

Mr. Lolicata stated I am in the process of doing that. I already explained that to the woman down there.

Chairman Clancy stated we will send Tina Hann a letter telling her we are going to update the crossing conditions on Union Street.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 13 of the Agenda:

Communication from Paul Miller, Director of Residential Services for the Greater Manchester Mental Health Center, requesting that a cone-shaped device be placed in the middle of the crosswalk located in front of the Queen City Variety Store on Elm Street.

Lt. Tessier stated I have got, right now, about 11 requests from people who want to put cones in different areas of the City. We started doing this awhile ago along Elm Street in hopes that it would slow traffic with the new engineering down there and it seems to be effective. I have some reservations at this point on putting them on outward lying areas of the City until I can resolve some of our speed softening issues and things along that line. My concern would be that someone would hit one of these and it would be one isolated cone in the middle of nowhere and I think that could be a problem. In the downtown area, we are trying to slow down

traffic. The engineering was set-up to do that. We are using them, obviously not as much during this time of year, but we are going to be using them sparingly down there. I just have some reservations of what it is going to do if someone is driving down an area where it is not expected.

Mr. Lolicata agreed with Lt. Tessier.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to receive and file the item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 14 of the Agenda:

Chairman Clancy advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed as follows:

Clerk Johnson stated before you do that there are two additions. One is Parking for 1/2 hour during school hours, sign on Elm Street, East Side from Bennington Road to a point 360 feet southerly. My understanding is that was requested by Alderman Wihby. The second one is No Parking, Loading Zone, a temporary for six weeks only to be placed in front of 45 Barr Street. That was requested by Alderman Thibault.

Alderman Thibault stated this woman is in a wheelchair for about six weeks. She can't even get out of her house the way things are so I am asking that for six weeks only...I told Tom about. After six weeks he is going to move it.

Alderman Reiniger asked, Tom, have you figured out the loading zone on Orange Street for that store.

Mr. Lolicata answered I was going to get to that. I went up and I saw the gentleman. I called you back, by the way, so you will know. I talked to a gentleman up there. Mike, you send the police up all the time on Orange Street. According to him, right now he has got his 15 minute parking and the other side says no parking, etc. People are parking, police dollars keep going up and it is at a point now where people are doing it on purpose and these guys are sick and tired of going up there when they have to go up there constantly. The signs are up there. I don't know what to tell you. I guess he wants a loading zone for his store now.

Alderman Reiniger stated he thinks that will help.

Mr. Lolicata responded well if we got a law in effect, what good is passing Ordinances if it can't be taken care of.

Lt. Tessier stated the way he wants to use a loading zone is exactly what the 15 minute zone...he makes out better with the 15 minute zone than he would the loading zone because he didn't understand that there is a time period that we have to deal with for a loading zone anyway. We do respond to his complaints up there. I do send someone up there on a regular basis.

Alderman Reiniger asked so basically you are saying not to proceed with a loading zone.

Mr. Lolicata answered not if we got the Ordinance. It is just that we are enforcing it all the time and if we do that it is going to be going for every store in the City of Manchester. The Ordinance speaks for itself.

Alderman Reiniger asked for a little more time on the River Road changes. He would like to hold that off for a month.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to table all of the River Road items.

RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR (8AM-6PM):

On South Wilson Street, east side, from Cilley Road to a point 65 feet southerly

Alderman Shea

RESCIND 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

NO PARKING:

On Riley Ave., east side, from a point 475 feet north of Young Street to a point 60 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

On River Road, west side, from West Webster Street to a point 145 feet southerly

Alderman Reiniger

On River Road, west side, from a point 185 feet south of West Webster Street to a point 75 feet southerly

RESCIND NO PARKING:

On Riley Ave., east side, from a point 425 feet north of Young Street to a point

110 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

RESCIND NO PARKING:

On River Road, west side, from West Webster Street to a point 80 feet southerly

Alderman Reiniger

RESCIND NO PARKING (UNLIMITED PARKING):

On West Sagamore Street, north side, from Elm Street to a point 65 feet westerly

Alderman Reiniger

RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR (8AM-6PM) UNLIMITED:

On Depot Street, north side, from Hampshire Lane to Canal Street

Alderman Reiniger

FLASHING SCHOOL ZONE SIGNALS:

On South Jewett Street, west side, south of Cilley Road

Former Alderman Domaingue

On South Jewett Street, east side, north of Weston Road

Former Alderman Domaingue

FLASHING SIGNAL:

On South Mammoth Road at New Middle School entrance/exit. (emergency act)

Former Alderman Domaingue

RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR (UNLIMITED):

On Belmont Street, east side, from Harvard Street to a point 90 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

RESCIND NO PARKING (UNLIMITED):

On Belmont Street, west side, from Harvard Street to a point 65 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

RESCIND PARKING 1/2 HOUR (UNLIMITED):

On Belmont Street, west side, from a point 65 feet north of Harvard Street to a point 65 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

PARKING 1 HOUR (7 DAYS):

On Beech Street, west side, from Spruce Southback Street to a Cedar Street

Alderman Clancy

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On Beech Street, west side, from a point 40 feet south of Spruce Southback Street to a point 20 feet southerly

Alderman Clancy

RESCIND NO PARKING:

On Beech Street, west side, from a point 60 feet south of Spruce Southback Street to Cedar Street

Alderman Clancy

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On River Road, west side, from a point 145 feet south of West Webster Street to a point 40 feet southerly

Alderman Reiniger

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On Lafayette Street, east side, from a point 55 feet north of Amory Street to a point 30 feet northerly.

Alderman Thibault

Parking 1/2 Hour (during School hours)

On Elm Street wast side from Bennington Road to a point 360 feet southerly.

This item was presented under the emergency act.

No Parking - Loading Zone (6 weeks only)

This temporary measure for in front of #45 Barr Street was approved having been submitted under the emergency act.

It was noted that this item was submitted due to a person in a temporary medical condition (wheelchair) and needing to be able to be picked up and dropped off for medical appointments, etc.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to accept the Traffic agenda.

DISCUSSION - SAFETY MEASURES REGARDING GOSSLER SCHOOL
Police and Traffic Department

Mr. Lolicata stated this was brought up the Police Department. We have to look for a better way to bring the kids out. The buses, there is are teachers going on. Mike said if anything happens they have to give the people citations. I would like to hold off on this for now because I was talking to Mike and on the CIP I think there might be reconstruction of Parkside School. The Gossler school is right next to it and has been submitted for improvements to the parking lot and park areas in the CIP.

Following brief discussion, on motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was vote to table this item pending review by Parks, Traffic and Police and budget considerations in the CIP.

DISCUSSION - SIGNAGE FOR SINGER FAMILY PARK
Traffic Department

It was noted that the current agreement with the Foundation running the park somehow included portions of parking areas. Following brief discussion, on motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to refer the issue to the City Solicitor's office for further action as may be required.

DISCUSSION - LEASING GUIDELINES FOR MUNICIPAL PARKING
LOTS
Traffic Department

Mr. Lolicata noted problems with the present guidelines for leasing in municipal lots, feeling more could be done with leasing. Discussion ensued where it was noted that Mr. Taylor was working with a group on a plan for the millyard area and In-Town was keeping a look on the downtown area.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to table this item pending further report from Traffic. It was understood that Traffic, In-Town, and Jay Taylor would review the matter and a report would be made.

TABLED ITEM

15. Communication from the Chairman of the State Liquor Commission suggesting that the Bureau of Enforcement could instruct liquor license applicants for an on-sale license within the City of Manchester to proceed to the Office of the City Clerk to receive instructions on obtaining health and fire permits required under Administrative Rule, LIQ. 702.03. (Tabled 7/15/97 pending further report from the City Clerk's Office and the Police Department.)

This item remained on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

A request of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee for a parking ban, painting of a shamrock and closure of streets was presented.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to approve the request subject to approval of the Traffic Department, Police Department, Highway Department and Fire Department.

Alderman Reiniger requested that Mr. Taylor be instructed to continue working on a parking issue in the millyard and pursue interest in railroad land for parking purposes and so moved. Alderman Pinard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee