

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

April 7, 1998

5:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Reiniger (late), Pinard, Cashin, Hirschmann

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Presentation by Chief Kane relative to a planned disaster exercise sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) called *Response 98*.

Chief Kane provided hand-outs to everyone. He stated that on April 21, there is going to be a simulated hurricane coming up the east coast which is going to hit New Jersey and come up through New England into Canada. This will be a coordinated event through FEMA which is the national organization for disaster relief. They will be working with them for one day and opening up their emergency operation center to conduct a drill. They are going to be coordinating their activities with the State of NH and with a USAR team. There are 12 USAR teams in the U.S. and they are quick response teams to such things as building collapses, terrorist attacks and major disasters. The New England USAR team from Massachusetts will be coming up to work with the Fire Department and other city agencies. There will be a lot of activity on that day in the Millyard area. The building in the Millyard that will be used is owned by Dean Kamen. They have been using it for a training center for about three years now. It is going to be a simulated building collapse similar to the Hurricane of 1938 that collapsed some of the Millyard buildings in the City of Manchester. Most of the cost for this event is being paid for by the state through a federal grant. The total cost is about \$11,000.

Chairman Clancy asked when the event was going to start.

Chief Kane answered about 8 a.m. and we are going to run it through the day. We will open up our emergency operation center. We have the Police Department coming in and the Highway Department will be coming in. We operate that center maybe once or twice a year for some event, either a hurricane coming up or a large snowstorm. We haven't had it open in a year or so and it will be a good drill for us.

Alderman Pinard asked are you looking for any money.

Chief Kane answered no, this is just to make you aware of what is going on. There will be press releases going out.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Deputy Clerk Johnson relative to the Middle Street Lot/McQuade's agreement.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that in the process of filing minutes of previous meetings, she discovered that there was no official approval for McQuades to continue the lease agreement and she wanted it to be noted to the Committee.

Alderman Reiniger arrived at the meeting.

Brooks McQuade from McQuades passed out a handout of usage statistics from the parking lot. He stated in the last six months, we have had approximately 10,000 cars go through those spots which is great to see in the downtown area. The handout also gives you an update on the cost for the merchants who are participating in it. We would like your support in continuing this program. We have increased the parking spaces downtown with the angled parking, but this lot is crucial to some of the businesses down there.

Chairman Clancy asked how many spaces do you have right now.

Mr. McQuade answered 34 and that is monitored by someone that we hire through the merchants who is there a little before 8 a.m. and leaves around 3:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. five days a week.

Chairman Clancy asked have you put up your storage shed.

Mr. McQuade answered we could not find one that would accommodate that area. Everything we tried was too big. We are in the process of looking for something like a fishing house. The problem is that everything we looked at has been dilapidated.

Chairman Clancy suggested talking to the Manchester School of Technology or the Vocational Technical Center to see if they could make one.

Alderman Pinard moved to approve an extension of the lease agreement for the Middle Street Lot with McQuades. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson questioned the term.

Chairman Clancy answered we should go from a year to year basis in case City Hall wants some of those parking spaces.

Mr. Lolicata stated they have had two extensions now. One through Christmas the first time and we kept it until January and at the last meeting I was under the impression that until City Hall moves in, in September or October, we would talk about it then.

Mr. McQuade stated we have had quite a few inquiries from other businesses moving into that area that want to join up in the parking program. They have heard from the other merchants how successful it is so it is somewhat of an incentive for other businesses to move into that area knowing that they have access to that lot.

Chairman Clancy asked how many businesses are involved.

Mr. McQuade answered 18.

Chairman Clancy asked do you assess them X amount of dollars per month.

Mr. McQuade answered it depends on the amount of usage they have. Most people pay \$15 per month. That is just for their customers. That does not allow them to park there for the entire day. No employees can park in that lot.

Chairman Clancy asked how many parking spaces did you pick up on Elm Street when they did diagonal parking.

Mr. McQuade answered I think it was a total of 56. We picked up 17 in our section alone. It has been fantastic and we wish there could be more parking spaces downtown. If you drive down Elm Street now, you don't see many spots open. Those spots are taken up fairly quickly. I am at the Y at 5:30 or 6:00 a.m. and there are not many spaces left at that time of the day.

Chairman Clancy asked are merchants still stuffing the meters.

Mr. McQuade answered that is an issue for another day. We do still see it.

Chairman Clancy recommended having the Police Department mark a tire or something so people can't park there all day.

Deputy Chief Robinson stated we do time zones downtown now. We don't mark tires anymore, but we have computers to track it.

Alderman Cashin stated we have been trying to get business downtown for a long time. There were a lot of years when we weren't very successful. All of the sudden it is starting to turn around because we spent a lot of money downtown and people like McQuades store and a few others stayed here and they went through some pretty hard times. I think it behooves us at this point in time to say we appreciate their partnership. I would recommend you go a year and we could talk about it if City Hall causes a problem.

Alderman Reiniger agreed with Alderman Cashin. Also, that would take us through the holiday season.

The motion was modified to include an expiration date of January 1, 1999. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Fred Harris, President of Riverfest, Inc., seeking permission to:

- (a) designate the area generally bordered by Elm Street to the east, Brook Street to the north, Granite Street to the south, and the Merrimack River to the west as the "Riverfest Area";
- (b) allow those possessing valid Arms Park lease stickers to park "free-of-charge" in either the Canal Street or Wall Street garages from September 7-14, 1998; and
- (c) close the Arms Park Parking Lot from September 7-14, 1998.

Mr. Lolicata stated this is the first I have seen of this. I don't know what they have planned for Riverfest, but it has always been one day prior that I take all the cars out and place them in parking lots for them and they have Saturday and Sunday no problem. Now we are talking a whole week here from the 7th to the 14th. I guess he is asking me to place 300+ cars on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday since Monday is a holiday. I have never seen Riverfest ask for a whole week.

Chairman Clancy asked how long does Riverfest run.

Deputy Chief Robinson answered they usually start setting up Tuesday or Wednesday. By Wednesday you have all the tents up. That parking lot is gone for all intent and purposes and in the past what I have seen is we have opened up that whole area down there for parking and we keep our parking control officers away and let the people with the stickers park down there. The tents are up on Wednesday. We start security on Wednesday but they start moving things in on Tuesday. They kick-off on Friday.

Chairman Clancy stated the city's parking lot is filled up right now. Are we going to have any people calling us up and giving us grief about allowing this?

Deputy Chief Robinson replied you haven't approved it for this amount of time in the past. There are a lot of meters on Canal and Commercial Street and there usually are not a lot of people parked there.

Alderman Hirschmann stated with respect to (a), does that expand their area a little bit. Does that mean anything different for policing?

Deputy Chief Robinson replied that is not the way I would have worded it, but I think it is the same designated area that they have always had.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the designated area is exactly the same. This designated area is to designate it in terms of vendors. In the early years there were problems with vendors. We license the vendors through the fair license and a lot of vendors, rather than paying their share as being part of Riverfest, would set up right on the street outside. We had a safety issue there because people were blocking the streets and cars were trying to go through, etc. It was a real mess. The way it is verbaged here is the same way it has been verbaged every year for the past two or three years.

Alderman Hirschmann replied my concern was if it meant anything more to police and with (c) are you going to get complaints from somebody like Cafe Pavone. Does that put them out of business for a week?

Deputy Chief Robinson stated the customers don't normally park there, that is permitted parking that we are talking about. It does cause some inconvenience. There is no question about that. They have complained in the past.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are you and Mr. Harris coming together on the policing.

Deputy Chief Robinson replied yes, we have met two times now. We are going over what they are going to need for police protection. We are trying to cut back to a reasonable amount to help them with their finances and at the same time not at the cost of any public safety issues. We feel very comfortable with it at this point.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked for clarification on item (b) where they are asking for the Canal Street and Wall Street garages. My understanding is that the Committee is approving just parking in the Millyard area and not into the garages.

Mr. Lolicata stated the garages were used once but you have to remember about the UNH commitment that is going to put another little blow to us. I would like to leave the garages in there.

Alderman Hirschmann asked where does college park during that week. If you are a student, do you put money in a meter or do you get a waiver or what?

Mr. Lolicata replied they sell so many on street to UNH and the others they pay the meters during the day just like anybody else.

Chairman Clancy asked how does Riverfest and MPD stand as far as monies. Are they in arrears?

Deputy Chief Robinson answered they are a little bit in arrears. They paid us something like \$12,000 and they owe us about \$6,000 or \$7,000 and there was an agreement that they would make that up this coming year. Our part of the agreement was to really try to watch what is necessary for them to have. One of the problems we had in the past is there were three or four people from their committee who could authorize the hiring of police officers and we had what we referred to as a basic list that they had to have and then other people would say well it would be nice to have an officer here and an officer there and it started adding up. Now it is one person from their side and one person from our side who

can authorize. We feel that they are making a very good, conscious effort of catching up.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to approve the request from Fred Harris regarding Riverfest, item (d) (parking) to be approved for on street or in parking garages as determined by the Traffic Director.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are you going to notify any of these people, like the restaurant or the college.

Deputy Chief Robinson answered my understanding is that the Riverfest people have dialogue with all of these people because when we had our meetings we talked about that and they are trying to work out problems with these people.

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

STOP SIGNS

**On Rosemont Ave. at S. Elm Street, nec
On S. Elm St. at Rosedale Ave., nwc, sec
Alderman Pariseau**

**On Talbot Street at Melrose Street, nwc
Alderman Pinard**

**On Whittemore Street at Putnam Street, sec
Alderman Thibault**

YIELD SIGNS

**On South Willow Street ramp at Huse Road, sec, swc
Alderman Rivard**

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

**On Walnut Street, east side, from a point 30 feet south of Lowell Street to a point 35 feet southerly
Alderman Sysyn**

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

**On Walnut Street, east side, from Lowell Street to a point 45 feet southerly
Alderman Sysyn**

NO PARKING

On Alsace Street, east side, from a point 455 feet north of Bremer Street to a point 25 feet northerly

Alderman Hirschmann

On Mechanic Street, south side, from a point 55 feet west of Hampshire Lane to a point 20 feet westerly

Alderman Reiniger

On McQuesten Street, north side, from Second Street to Hill Street

Alderman Cashin

On South Main Street, west side, from Winter Street to Varney Street

Alderman Cashin

On Essex Street, east side, from Monitor Street to the dead end

Alderman Thibault

On Putnam Street, north and south sides, from Dubuque Street to Dubuque East back Street

Alderman Thibault

PARKING 1 HOUR 8AM-6PM

On Winter Street, south side, from South Main Street to a point 65 feet westerly

Alderman Cashin

RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR

On South Main Street, west side, from Winter Street to the Piscataquog River

Alderman Cashin

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

On Bennington Road, south side, from a point 175 feet east of Elm Street to a point 30 feet easterly

Alderman Wihby

RESCIND HANDICAP PARKING ONLY

On Bennington road, south side, from a point 175 feet east of Elm Street to a point 30 feet easterly

Alderman Wihby

HANDICAP PARKING ONLY

On Bennington Road, north side, from a point 65 feet west of North Bay Street to a point 25 feet westerly

Alderman Wihby

RESCIND PARKING 10 MINUTES (8AM-6PM)

On Mechanic Street, south side, from a point 55 feet west of Hampshire Lane to a point 20 feet westerly

Alderman Reiniger

RESCIND NO PARKING

On Alsace Street, east side, from a point 455 feet north of Bremer Street to a point 85 feet northerly

Alderman Hirschmann

On McQuesten Street, north side, from Second Street to a point 65 feet easterly

Alderman Cashin

On Winter Street, south side, from South Main Street to a point 65 feet westerly

Alderman Cashin

RESCIND PARKING 1/4 HOUR 8PM-2AM

On McQuesten Street, north side, from a point 65 feet east of Second Street to Hill Street

Alderman Cashin

RESCIND NO PARKING (UNLIMITED PARKING)

On Salmon Street, north side, from Bay Eastback Street to Chestnut Street

Alderman Reiniger

RESCIND NO PARKING (8AM-NOON MON-SAT) UNLIMITED PARKING

On Coolidge Avenue, west side, from a point 195 feet south of Cartier Street to a point 120 feet southerly

Alderman Thibault

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to approve all Traffic Department Agenda items.

TABLED ITEM

Communication from Lloyd Basinow requesting that the Board declare 1,255 units of public housing within the City limits to be “Drug Free Zones”.

(Tabled 3/3/98 pending report from the Police Department.)

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to remove the item from the table.

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

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee