

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

June 2, 1998

6:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs: Lt. Tessier, J. Maher, T. Lolicata

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Darrell Ross, American Red Cross, requesting the closure of North and Elm Streets and Webster and Elm Streets in conjunction with their "*Frightmare of Elm Street III*" on Saturday, October 17, 1998 from approximately 5:30 to 9:30 PM.

Alderman Cashin asked if the Police Department had any problems with this.

Lt. Tessier answered no.

Alderman Cashin moved to approve the request, subject to review by the Police, Fire and Traffic Departments. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from the General Manager of the Black Brimmer requesting the closure of Lowell Street from Elm to Kosciuszko Streets and including the alley behind Duffy's Tavern on Saturday, June 27, 1998 from 12:00 to 8:00 PM in conjunction with their "Block Party/Outdoor Concert".

Alderman Pinard moved to approve the request, subject to review by the Police, Fire and Traffic Departments. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Request of NH Pride for closure of streets for parade to be held
June 20, 1998, under the supervision of the Police Department.

Lt. Tessier stated they have gone through our permit process and are here to finish up on it. They have met all our requirements and they are hiring police officers thinking it will be approved. We have no problem with it.

Alderman Hirschmann asked wouldn't it be more appropriate if this was held on a Sunday. You are going to impact a lot of businesses on Elm Street aren't you?

Lt. Tessier replied no more than we have for any other parade. We hold them at night, we hold them on weekdays, we hold them on holidays.

Alderman Hirschmann stated but Saturday is a normal business day. St. Patrick's was on a Sunday. On Elm Street you have McQuades and all kinds of businesses downtown. Wouldn't this be better served on a Sunday?

Lt. Tessier replied that is not what they requested and we are able to manage it on a Saturday and they have approached us and we have sufficient manpower to handle it.

Alderman Hirschmann asked what about all of the businesses downtown.

Lt. Tessier answered I don't know that it will interfere with them. It is not a very large event. I guess from our perspective we don't have a problem with it being done on a Saturday.

Chairman Clancy asked I see it is between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. here on the letter they sent to us.

Alderman Pinard stated my question is how long is the parade going to be.

Lt. Tessier replied my understanding is they are going to be going right down to Concord Street to Elm, left on Elm and stop at the park across from the Center of NH. I don't expect that it will be too lengthy. No longer than any other parade.

Alderman Cashin asked as long as they meet from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. It says starting time 12 p.m. and finishing at 4 p.m.

Lt. Tessier answered actually I think there was an amendment to that from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chairman Clancy stated I see on Page 5 here 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Lt. Tessier replied we met with them yesterday morning. Their only concern is that we have had parades that have started later than they were supposed to. They just don't want to fall outside the permit area. We expect that it will be over in a very quick period of time. They are not even going the full normal route that we use for other parades. They are going to start at the park across from the Library, go down Concord Street to Elm, take a left on Elm and go down to the park across from the Holiday Inn, Veteran's Park and then they have another event. They are dispersing from there and going up to McIntyre Ski Area for some other type of event.

Alderman Hirschmann asked on general principle, are we allowing anybody who lives anywhere in the state or the country to have a parade in our town. Are there any requirements or ordinances saying that they should be from the City or anything?

Chairman Clancy answered I don't think so. Do you think we should give that long a period of time though, truthfully, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.?

Lt. Tessier replied it is very consistent with parameters that have been set up with other parades. It is not that it is going to take that long.

Alderman Cashin asked it is my understanding that if it gets over faster you just reopen the streets.

Lt. Tessier answered we usually keep the street blocked for two blocks after the parade goes by and then we open it up.

Alderman Cashin asked so it could be half an hour or it could be 45 minutes.

Lt. Tessier answered correct.

Alderman Cashin stated I think what they are worrying about is if they don't start off on time they want to be sure they have enough time to walk down the street. I understand that this is controversial, but this is America and these people have a right.

Alderman Cashin moved to approve the request. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from OGBE Communications requesting the closure of Central Street, between Elm and Chestnut Streets on Tuesday, August 25, 1998 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in conjunction with Healthsource for Seniors 1998 Senior Celebration at Veteran's Park.

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

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from members of the Merrimack River Mills LLC, requesting that public parking spaces be made available to them at the Waumbec Commercial Center.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I see a lot of empty spaces in the street that aren't being used on that street. It just seems to me that people want free parking, they don't want to pay.

Alderman Cashin stated I don't think he is asking for free parking.

Alderman Hirschmann asked what is he asking for.

Alderman Cashin answered they are not asking for free parking, they are asking for parking at a fair price like you did for Dean Kamen and the rest of the people down there.

Mr. Lolicata stated lets go back to the Millyard area and what we all know is going on here. First of all we have an ordinance and we are up to our full capacity right now as far as on street parking, the Millyard and the lots. We also have spaces for UNH to come in. We all know that.

Chairman Clancy asked how many spaces.

Mr. Lolicata answered there are almost 300 spaces. Here is the important part, there has already been one meeting. Elm Street, Middle Street and they are looking into doing two things right now. I don't know when it is going to take

effect but they are going to put Bedford Street back the way it was before and try to get angle parking there to double those spaces and the second one is the bigger one, Commercial Street itself doing the same thing on both sides of the street which will double all those 100+ spaces down there. This is in the very near future. Since our meeting, I have heard nothing. That is between Jay Taylor, Bob MacKenzie, myself and anybody who comes to that meeting to try and get this moving. From there, I don't have anything to say to you except that those spaces are all taken.

Chairman Clancy asked as far as you are concerned what is the hold up.

Mr. Lolicata answered the hold up right now is that I can wait to put so many on street but how many they are looking for I don't know. There are a few on street leases. I don't know what the number is. I just can't go 50, 60 or 100 or anything like that. I just can't do it.

Alderman Cashin asked they are asking for 75 spaces.

Chairman Clancy asked how much could you actually give them.

Mr. Lolicata answered offhand I can't tell you. I wouldn't go over 30 just to play it safe because I have to realize what is coming in down there.

Chairman Clancy asked but as soon as you turn around the parking to angled parking do you think you can pick up some more spaces.

Mr. Lolicata answered sure you would double your spaces.

Chairman Clancy asked then why don't you do that.

Mr. Lolicata answered right now they can't go into doing that right now because they are thinking of overlaying it and possibly putting it back to angled parking but I don't know if it going to be this fall or earlier. We have not met since that last meeting. Amoskeag Industries, CLB, Planning, myself and a few others are trying to get something accomplished down there. All this has happened in the last eight months. It has grown that quick. The City, as a matter of fact, is at a standstill. This is the quickest route.

Chairman Clancy asked so you can give them 30 spaces right now. That is the lowest and as soon as we turn it around from diagonal parking, you could probably squeeze a few more in.

Mr. Lolicata answered if we go diagonal and that is up to the City, we can allow 70, 80 or 100 spaces. We don't know.

Mr. Maher stated I wasn't at that last parking meeting. I was in San Francisco. Arthur Sullivan was there and Shane Brady who are the owners of the building. Referring back to the letter that they wrote to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, historically the Millyard, back from the early 80's had a formula if you remember correctly that a property owner would be entitled to one parking space per 1,500 square feet inclusive of whatever available private parking they have on the site. The Waumbec Building is 420,000 square feet and it happens to have 144 parking spaces on site. As of this moment in time, 280,000 square feet of that building is occupied. They have been quite successful and they have also been very conscious of the parking crunch in the Millyard. They have tenants such as Manchester Paintball, 15,000 square feet and no more than 50 people allowed in at one point in time versus lets say a restaurant like Jillians which is 11,000 square feet and has a capacity in excess of 600. So I think their request is rather fair and under that current formula, under that historic formula, they are entitled to 140 parking spaces offsite. There are smaller buildings in the Millyard that have far in excess of the ones with 1,500. Some of them are even one parking space per 400 or 500 hundred as you well know. So what they have requested of the City is to have committed public parking adjacent to their building which leaves the street basically because we all know that the Seal Lot is spoken for, up to the total as of right now of 75 parking spaces in increments of 25-30-40 to start which I think is a pretty fair request for two investors who took a building that had basically been abandoned.

Mr. Lolicata replied the request is understood. We understand the whole situation. Our problem isn't the spaces right now. What you have is an influx in the last eight months that has been unheard of so we can't publish to the whole world, to everybody so the plan right now is for the City to get something done the easiest and most economical way. That is why we have Amoskeag Industries. Something has to be started because it is here. The whole Millyard is now saturated. It is here. Everybody is looking for it. Now I can't say that I can give you 70 spaces because something has already been done between Jay Taylor, the City and UNH so I am not going to upset my balance right now. I have very few that I can give to you or anyone else at this moment until such time that restraints are put back into the position where we can double our spaces. The City is looking forward to doing something right away.

Mr. Maher stated I know but I am also talking about private owners that pay taxes to the City that have a building six times the size of the University Center and have a requirement of less than 1/4 of the parking that the University Center is requesting which I think is a pretty fair request. So whatever this Committee could do to expedite the diagonal parking on Commercial Street, for instance, that would definitely be a help for the entire area.

Mr. Lolicata replied and Bedford Street.

Mr. Maher responded Bedford Street isn't as convenient for the Waumbec Building obviously. If it could be done all at once, that would take care of your problems in that entire area. Both the Waumbec Building and 300 Bedford Street.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated just for the Committee's information, I had a conversation with Bob MacKenzie the other day about parking in the Millyard and he advised me that they were talking about the diagonal parking on Commercial Street, but they were also working with the Mill owners in terms of which way the one-way on Bedford should go and they were working out some details on curb cuts and those kinds of things so I don't think that Bedford Street is ready to be dealt with but if you wanted to approve the Commercial Street to go diagonal parking on one side subject to approval of Traffic and that Committee we could probably do that this evening and then we can work out with the Committee and get it on the Board's agenda for the next meeting in July at this point.

Alderman Cashin stated I agree with the City Clerk. I think she makes a lot of sense. Why can't you do it Tom? Why can't you do diagonal parking on Commercial Street right now? Do you just need a motion from this Committee recommending it to the full Board?

Mr. Lolicata replied well CLD and the rest of these people also want to overlay the place before they do it.

Alderman Cashin stated okay lets say you are going to overlay it. Lets say whatever they want to do. So we paint it, we put the lines in and then they come in and overlay it or whatever they want to do. That is not going to stop anything is it?

Mr. Lolicata responded no but it will take a little time to see which way we are going to go with it. Northbound, southbound, up Spring Street or something so that we have a safety, but yes it can be done.

Alderman Cashin asked how long would it take to get this done.

Mr. Lolicata answered quite awhile. There is a lot of work involved but you can start the ball rolling as far as I am concerned.

Chairman Clancy asked is there money in your budget. Would this be an expensive item?

Mr. Lolicata stated it is not in the budget, I am sorry.

Alderman Cashin stated when you say quite awhile what are we talking about. A month?

Mr. Lolicata replied at least because I have to take men off the job. Right now is the paving season. I have to pave. I have guys on nights. To tell the truth, a good five or six weeks probably if I kept three or four men down there just doing that alone because every line has to be scraped out and then measured and painted. It took four days just for that short section on Bedford Street which we were lucky because there was no traffic one way.

Chairman Clancy asked was that done in nighttime or daytime.

Mr. Lolicata answered it was done in the daytime.

Alderman Cashin asked could you come back and let us know how long it would take to do this. Jim Maher has a legitimate gripe here. They are paying a sizable amount of taxes down here and other people...

Chairman Clancy interjected well they are all paying taxes down there or I hope they are.

Alderman Cashin stated yes but a lot of people in the Millyard have done okay. Now if we have an opportunity here where we can help the situation by quite frankly just putting in diagonal parking, it seems to me that that is the way we ought to go and I think we ought to expedite it as fast as we can in order to solve the problem or at least solve part of the problem that we have down there and in the meantime if you can come up with 30 spaces to help relieve their problem I would suggest that we do that.

Alderman Cashin moved to give the Waumbec Building 30 permitted parking spaces. Alderman Reiniger duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Clancy asked Mr. Lolicata to get it going as quick as possible. I don't want you coming back next month and say well we are working on it.

Mr. Lolicata asked which direction do you want it, what section do you want. There are other people like Jay Taylor who are in on this.

Chairman Clancy asked him to get a hold of Jay Taylor and do Commercial Street. One street at a time and then we will see how it comes out.

Alderman Hirschmann asked all the angled parking you are putting in is going to have no meters.

Chairman Clancy answered yes we are going to have meters. We are not taking out the meters.

Mr. Lolicata stated where am I going to find 120 meters to install right away.

Alderman Cashin stated lets stop trying to reason why we can't do it and lets get it done. If we all cooperate, it can be done. Now you sit down with the Planning Department tomorrow. You set up a schedule and you meet with them and you talk to them and you work it out and boom that is it. Lets put it to bed.

Mr. Lolicata stated these are the people who have planning this right along and other things and I am waiting for their direction to get this thing starting.

Alderman Cashin replied I don't want to do that. It seems to me that everybody is waiting for everybody and nothing is getting done and I am not blaming you. Don't misunderstand me. I apologize.

Chairman Clancy stated so you have to buy approximately 120 new meters.

Mr. Lolicata replied you are going to need close to that. I am going to say at least 120.

Chairman Clancy asked what does each meter cost.

Mr. Lolicata answered \$299 a piece.

Chairman Clancy stated \$300 times 12 was \$36,000 when I went to school. Is that how much it is going to cost? Plus you get the additional revenue. That will be a wash and pay for itself in due time.

Mr. Lolicata replied I agree with you 100%.

Alderman Cashin stated then lets do it. What do you need? Do you need us to make a motion to direct you to sit down with Planning and others?

Chairman Clancy called for a vote. Alderman Hirschmann being duly recorded as abstaining, the motion carried.

Alderman Reiniger moved to direct the Traffic Director to do angled parking on the east side of Commercial Street with 10 hour meters as soon as possible.

Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Pinard asked is there a reason why we can't get a private painter to help him in a situation like this.

Chairman Clancy answered it will probably cost too much money.

Alderman Reiniger stated I agree with Alderman Cashin. They have these studies going on and they have been delayed in getting back to us and I think angled parking is the most obvious short-term recommendation. They are going to say that and they are going to talk about garages and that is not going to happen for a long time or who knows when so I think we should move right away and not wait for the study.

Chairman Clancy stated so you are probably going to next extra revenue or monies and when it is time to do it come before the Board and we will take care of that.

Alderman Hirschmann asked if we are going to do this, why wouldn't we do the west side because that is the side that all the buildings are on. We don't want all these people crossing the street to get to their building.

Chairman Clancy answered Tom Lolicata just said he would rather do the east side.

Mr. Lolicata replied the east side has all the 10 hour meters. The west side has 2 hours.

Alderman Hirschmann responded but the buildings are on the west side. All of the people will have to cross the street.

Mr. Lolicata replied and that is why the west side has the 2 hour meters so that people going down there for business are closer to it.

Chairman Clancy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

DISCUSSION:

Making Coolidge Ave. a One Way street, southbound from Bremer St. to Kelley St.

Alderman Thibault

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to accept this item of the Traffic agenda.

**No Parking During Fireworks @ Amoskeag Interchange
Police Department**

Lt. Tessier stated for years this has always been a problem for us. In recent history it has become an extreme hazard. We actually had several accidents on the Interchange and down onto the Interstate at the last fireworks. The Memorial Day fireworks is growing to a point now where there are people coming from Massachusetts, setting up barbecues and spending the day there. What we want to do is block it off. I talked to Tom about portable signs and then maybe getting some rope from Highway or some fashion to keep that...also working with State Police to keep that grassy area down on the Interstate clear and starting the detail early in the day.

Chairman Clancy suggested that something be put in the newspaper before the fireworks.

STOP SIGN:

On Lake Shore Road at Island Pond Road, NWC

Alderman Pinard

RESCIND NO PARKING:

On Lincoln Street, both sides, from Valley Street to the North property line of the Manchester Water Works

Chairman Clancy

NO PARKING:

On Lincoln Street, east side, from Valley Street to a point 160 feet southerly

Chairman Clancy

**On Lincoln Street, west side, from Valley Street to a point 160 feet southerly
Chairman Clancy**

**On Spruce Street, north side, from Barry Avenue to a point 40 feet easterly
Alderman Reiniger**

**On Bridge Street, south side, from Ash Street to Maple Street
Alderman Sysyn**

**On River Road, north side, from the I-93 overpass to Union Street
Alderman Wihby**

NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS:

**On Vinton Street, north side, from South Jewett Street to South Cypress St.
Alderman Shea**

**On Brunelle Avenue, north side, from South Jewett St. to South Cypress St.
Alderman Shea**

PARKING 15 MINUTES (8AM-6PM):

**On Spruce Street, north side, from a point 40 feet east of Barry Avenue to a
point 55 feet easterly
Alderman Reiniger**

PARKING 1 HOUR (8AM-6PM):

**On Lincoln Street, east side, from a point 160 feet south of Valley Street to a
point 90 feet southerly
Chairman Clancy**

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

NEW BUSINESS

Request from the Manchester Urban Ministry to hold a Block Party at Victory Park on Sunday, June 14 from 12 Noon to 3:00 PM with a rain date of June 21, 1998.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded Alderman Pinard, it was voted to approve this request.

Request from Saint Anne's Parish to close the alley between Merrimack and Laurel Streets and Union and Beech Streets for the purpose of a parish Block Party on Saturday, June 27, 1998.

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

Request from the Police Department requesting motorcycle parking spaces on Elm Street in different areas. The suggestion is to refer it to the Traffic Division of the Police Department to look at and report back at the next meeting.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to have the Traffic Division of Police Department review this request and report back to the Committee with a plan at the next meeting.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee

A phone poll of the Traffic Committee was conducted on June 5, 1998 regarding the NH Christian Coalition's request to hold a "Traditional Family Values Rally" on Saturday, June 20, 1998 in Arms Park, Manchester. Aldermen Clancy, Reiniger, Pinard and Hirschmann voted yea and Aldermen Cashin did not vote. Therefore, the motion poll was approved.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee