

## COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

**November 10, 1998**  
**PM**

**6:00**

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

**Absent:** Alderman Reiniger

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from the City Clerk on behalf of the Special Building Committee requesting to meet to discuss proposed security guard services for the City Hall complex.

Deputy Clerk Johnson addressed the Committee advising that the City Clerk had requested Deputy Robinson of the Police Department to make recommendations regarding security issues for City Hall. She noted that handouts had been provided.

Deputy Robinson addressed the Committee outlining the suggestions of the handout which were in essence that there be an unarmed security guard posted at City Hall between the hours of 8 AM and 9 PM Monday through Thursday, and Fridays until 6 PM. The Police Department would provide the guard with a hand held unit and training for immediate communication with the Police Department in the event he came upon a problem. The financial costs were anticipated for two guards, based on Library costs, at \$50,000 a year total.

Following brief discussion as to where the money would come from (\$25,000 approximate for six months) since it was not in the budget, on motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to refer the discussion to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and Mr. MacKenzie was requested to work with Finance, and Police for a definitive cost and funding source.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Christopher Blue regarding the deteriorated condition of an abandoned building located at 628 Hanover Street.

Mr. Blue addressed the committee advising of the long standing problem with regard to this property. He noted that the building had been boarded, but the building has been vandalized and is accessible. There was no boarding up on some of the windows and doors at present. Within his discussion, Mr. Blue suggested that the driveway entrance to the parking area, which could not be seen from the road, be blocked off somehow to prevent vandals, etc. from driving up onto the property.

Mr. LaFrenniere addressed the Committee advising that the Building Department was familiar with the property and had worked on it for some time. The property's former owners had declared bankruptcy and the bank that holds the original loan is under FDIC receivership. These situations added complexity to the situation. He noted that the bankruptcy issue was recently resolved and the property was released. Mr. LaFrenniere noted that with the issue resolved there is again an owner, FDIC, to contact and hopefully work with. He noted that the FDIC properties had added complexities to other property issues in the City in the past few years.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to refer the communication to the Building Department with the intent that the Building, Tax, Solicitors and any other departments necessary sit together and determine the best means of action to resolve the problem.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Barry Brensinger, Lavalley/Brensinger PA, on behalf of the Millyard Committee requesting to make a formal presentation with respect to the recently completed Amoskeag Industries Parking Study.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that Mr. Brensinger had spoken with her today and requested a special meeting be scheduled sometime in January when they could provide a full presentation to the Committee. In the interim, Mr. Brensinger had indicated a desire for the City go forward with the Commercial Street angled parking engineering study.

Discussion ensued where Mr. Taylor explained that the engineers study was different from the Amoskeag Study and was still needed for Commercial Street. He asked that Bedford Street also be done, though it was thought that this would not require an engineering study, but could be done by the Traffic Department.

Mr. Lolicata noted the necessity of a study for the Commercial Street area to ensure that what they set up does not need to be redone at a later date.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to request Mr. Lolicata to proceed with issuing an RFP for the Commercial Street study and reporting the cost to the Finance Committee of the Board; and further to move forward with Bedford Street angled parking and to have the Clerk schedule a special meeting in January for a presentation of the study.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Robert Comeau requesting a flashing signal at the intersection of Amherst and Pine Streets.

Mr. Lolicata advised that he was somewhat surprised at the request for this location, knowing there were other areas of priority in the city.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to refer the communication to the Traffic Director.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Roger LaChapelle regarding right turns on red at intersections.

Lt. Tessier stated that they were familiar with the Webster Street right turn, and after having stationed a man up there, determined there was a problem. In further review however, they found no collisions at the intersection resulting from the situation. It was determined by Police to have the route officer pay special attention to the turning at this intersection.

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

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Communication from Francoise Elise Spradling relative to the pilfering of recyclable aluminum cans which occurs at all hours of the night.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the Solicitor's office had provided a draft ordinance if the Committee wished to pursue the matter. The ordinance had been drafted initially for the Highway Department, in response to recycling issues, and never submitted because Highway had decided they wanted to address some other issues at the same time which were still being researched.

Discussion ensued where members noted that they did not wish to pass the ordinance on in its present form, but agreed that trucks should not be pulling up with people pilfering through the trash for recyclables. Members did not want to hurt the street person depending on this as a means of survival, however.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to table this item and to refer the draft ordinance to the Highway and Solicitor's office for a rewrite which could address the members' concerns.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Results of Traffic Committee Survey conducted by the City Clerk's Office relative to vehicle utilization by City departments located in the City Hall complex.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. MacKenzie utilized a map of the City Hall complex which reflected what the Committee had passed for on and off site parking the previous year. The mapping reflected one on-site space for each department head occupying the complex, two on-street parking areas for the mayor's office, three aldermanic spaces on Stark Street in front of the Insurance Exchange, a loading zone requested by neighboring businesses, handicap parking on the Market Street side of the complex, and additional public metered parking (one hour) near the entrance to the complex.

Following brief review of the plan by members, on motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adopt the plan as submitted.

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

**CROSSWALK:**

**Mammoth Road and Bridge Street, across Bridge Street east of Mammoth Road**

**Across Mammoth Road north of Bridge Street  
Highway Sidewalk Project**

**PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS:**

**Across Mammoth Road, north of Bridge Street**

**Across Bridge Street, east of Mammoth Road  
Highway Sidewalk Project**

**RESCIND NO PARKING (UNLIMITED PARKING):**

**On Jane Street, east side, from East High Street to a point 50 feet south  
Alderman Sysyn**

**RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR (UNLIMITED PARKING):**

**On Maple Street, east side, from Laurel South Back Street to Laurel Street  
Alderman Clancy**

**NO PARKING:**

**On Taylor Street, east side, from Valley Street to a point 125 feet southerly  
Alderman Shea**

**On Coolidge Avenue, east side, from Bremer Street to a point 120 feet south  
Alderman Thibault**

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

**On Dunbarton Road, from Front Street to Straw Road  
Alderman Hirschmann**

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to approve the Traffic Agenda as submitted.

Alderman Hirschmann questioned if the Committee was going to address the issue of passes requested by the Assessors and was advised that the action of the Committee, following the survey report from the City Clerk, was to adopt the plan submitted by Mr. MacKenzie. It was noted that no passes were going to be issued under that plan.

**TABLED ITEM**

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

11. Communication from B. Tessier suggesting traffic lights, yellow caution lights, or 4-way stop signs be installed at the intersection of Union and Merrimack Streets.  
(Tabled 8/11/98)

In response to questions, Mr. Lolicata advised that they were looking into upgrading 25 intersections in the City and were prioritizing them. This intersection could be included.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to receive and file the communication with the understanding that Traffic would review this intersection with other priorities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Lolicata -- Re: Rescinding One Way Street -- Coolidge Avenue

Mr. Lolicata advised that for public safety he wished to have the One Way on Coolidge Ave recently done, rescinded. He noted problems in the area after having spent three separate occasions there. Police concurred that there was a problem. Mr. Lolicata felt they were endangering the public if it were not rescinded.

Alderman Hirschmann noted that Alderman Thibault had worked hard on this issue and felt they should give it a little more time. Mr. Lolicata responded that he had spoken with Alderman Thibault who had agreed that it was okay to rescind the one way given the current situation.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to rescind the one way south regulation for Coolidge Ave.

Mr. Lolicata Re: Snow dumping

Mr. Lolicata noted that he had recently been informed that Highway was now going to dump snow out by the Airport rather than at the Singer Park location and he wanted to continue to dump the snow, at least for this year, at this location. He questioned city ownership of the property and his rights to dump there. Mr. Tierney of the Highway Department advised that the Singer Park people had indicated a problem with the trucks breaking the fencing and tearing up the roadway, so Highway had elected to dump on Airport property this year.

Following brief discussion, Mr. Lolicata was instructed to contact Mr. Ramsey and see if something could be worked out for the Traffic Department for this year. If Mr. Lolicata could not resolve the issue, Alderman Cashin asked him to contact him directly indicating he would work with him and Mr. Ramsey.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee