

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

February 2, 1999

6:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Alderman Clancy, Pinard, Cashin, and Hirschmann, Alderman Reiniger (late)

Messrs: T. Lolicata, J. Taylor, D. Varkas, R. Davis

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Klock suggesting that signage indicating “No U-Turns” be posted throughout Elm Street.

Mr. Lolicata stated I have had no calls for this at all. I imagine it is happening though because of parking. I have no spot to do these. I can't do these at an intersection, they would never see them.

Alderman Clancy asked where do you have to put them.

Mr. Lolicata answered we would have to put them up at each intersection and you would have to ordinance it. We used to have them years ago, but now with all the stuff you have the only thing I probably could do is on the mast arms. That is about it.

Alderman Pinard stated I think years ago there were “no u-turn” signs.

Mr. Lolicata stated if there is an ordinance, I can put them on the mast arms at those intersections and I think that should cover you. That is the best I can do. This is the first I have seen of this.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to table this item until Alderman Reiniger can provide input as it is in his ward.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Daniel O'Neil, President of the St. Patrick's Day

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Parade Committee requesting parking bans and/or street closures (as outlined herein) for Sunday, March 7, 1999.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to approve this request, and to approve the painting of four shamrocks on Elm Street.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from the City Clerk requesting closure of a portion of Market Street from Franklin Street to City Hall Plaza on March 6 & 7, 1999 in conjunction with the grand re-opening ceremonies of the City Hall complex.

Alderman Cashin asked this isn't going to interfere with the St. Patrick's Day Parade is it.

Chairman Clancy answered no. It is part of it though. We are going to be able to give the people tours of City Hall.

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

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Walter Stiles and the City Clerk requesting issuance of parking decals to the volunteers who are currently manning the information center at the City Hall complex.

Alderman Hirshmann stated I think they should park in the parking garage and the Clerk should validate his ticket. They want everyone to park in the parking garage. That is the whole concept of City Hall. If he wants to hang out at City Hall, he should park in the parking garage.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied it is not for Walter. I just want to clarify that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated well whoever this volunteer is and if they want to hang out here...

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded they have about 10 different volunteers that are coming in. Most of them are over 70 years old. That is why they are asking for this.

Alderman Hirshmann replied well the garage is a nice, safe place for them.

Alderman Cashin asked what do volunteers do.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered for instance the former director of the Historic Association...they man the information booth downstairs. They come in and volunteer for half a day usually. The fellow that was there today was 80 years old. Yesterday we had a couple in there and they worked as a couple.

Chairman Clancy asked do they all drive cars.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered as far as I know. We don't go and pick them up. They were looking to have a couple of parking decals to keep in the office and whoever is going to be covering would get one.

Alderman Cashin asked where do they want to park. In the parking lot over here?

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered maybe that is another option to talk to McQuades and see if they can park there. I don't know what the solution is, but I know that is what was asked for.

Alderman Cashin stated I would like to help them but even the Aldermen gave up their spaces. I notice that the department heads are still parking by the West Wing.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to validate the parking garage tickets for these people.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Debra DiGregorio, Mass General Hospital/Harvard Medical School requesting the use of Arms Park Parking Lot for a fair to raise funds for the Angel Fund from March 29-April 4, 1999.

Mr. Lolicata stated I received a letter from Paul Devechio down at Harvard and Boston General Hospital and he would like to bring something up to Manchester. He has the backing of Channel 9 and a few other big sponsors to put on a fair for one week down here at Arms Park. By doing so, half the proceeds go to the Lou Gehrig Disease Fund which they call the Angel Fund. The person who will be running it will be Fiesta. They are probably one of the tops in the country. They do Topsfield and the rest of them. Mr. Flynn also sent a letter to me and I told him to write a letter to the Traffic Committee. I think if this happens I would go through no problem just like Riverfest in having them park free in the Millyard if you want to do it that way. The only other ones right now who have it for close to

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a week are Riverfest and, of course, all of the people who have leases park in the Millyard for free for that week. This would be on the same plateau, more or less.

Chairman Clancy stated all of the people who work in the Millyard now use Arms Park. What are you going to do, throw them out of there? Where are we going to put those people?

Mr. Lolicata stated Arms Park is not going to change. It is paid for, there are so many cars in there and they are all dispersed down in the Millyard.

Chairman Clancy asked well why can't we put these people, you know, I am not trying to throw anybody out of town but why can't we put these people down around Singer Park.

Mr. Lolicata answered they will not allow them down on South Commercial. They tried down there and the Singer Park Foundation wouldn't allow it because of the soccer season.

Alderman Hirschmann stated soccer, there is snow on the ground.

Mr. Lolicata stated well Pappy's is going down there in April and that is the only one they allowed down there. On top of that, I talked to Tom Arnold, I have no power over that whatsoever. It is all Singer funded. These gentlemen have approached them, they have talked to them and they were turned down. They would like to be close to Channel 9 who is going to help sponsor it. That is why they asked for Arms Park.

Alderman Cashin stated the question before us is are we going to let them use Arms Park, not Singer Park.

Chairman Clancy replied I don't want to throw anybody out of town and yet these people who are parking down there week after week, where are you going to put them.

Mr. Lolicata stated the same place we do for Riverfest.

Chairman Clancy replied but Riverfest is on the weekend. This is going to be a whole week.

Mr. Lolicata stated Riverfest is all week.

Chairman Clancy asked Mr. Taylor for his comments.

Mr. Taylor answered if Mr. Lolicata says we have spaces to put them fine, but that is my concern. If we throw people out of there for a whole week with the property situation being what it is in the Millyard, that is my concern.

Chairman Clancy stated people are moving out of the Millyard now because there is no place to park. You saw that, right?

Mr. Lolicata replied I am not questioning it, I am just bringing it forward.

Chairman Clancy responded I am not arguing with you, I am just trying to tell you.

Mr. Lolicata stated I am saying the only thing I will be doing is taking those leases from Arms Park and asking them to park anywhere in the Millyard for free like Riverfest. That is all I am going to do.

Chairman Clancy asked how many spaces are down there in Arms Park.

Mr. Lolicata answered about 460 spaces.

Chairman Clancy asked and those are all taken every day right.

Mr. Lolicata answered most of them, sure. You are not obliged to do it.

Chairman Clancy stated this is a nice thing to do.

Alderman Hirschmann asked can we offer them Saturday and Sunday and see if they accept that.

Mr. Lolicata answered I have spoken with them about that and they need the whole week. It takes about a day and a half just to set it up and then they would run the fair for three days.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is it a carnival with rides and all that.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes, the whole nine yards. If that doesn't go forward, the only thing I could do is ask Ron Ludwig if Parks & Recreation can help out with some other spot.

Chairman Clancy asked how about JFK.

Mr. Lolicata answered anywhere, but the idea is they want Arms Park.

Chairman Clancy stated well we have plenty of time. Ask them if they would like some other spot here in town. Maybe the JFK parking lot or McIntyre.

Alderman Cashin stated you let Riverfest do it, why should you stop these people. It is no more inconvenient than having Riverfest or anything else. We ought to think about setting up a policy of how you want to control Arms Park and we don't have one. I don't know how you can stop these people from doing it.

Alderman Reiniger stated I know we have one of the major building owners here. You have had problems with Riverfest, right?

Mr. Varkas, representing Dean Kamen, stated it is inconvenient during Riverfest but that is a truly valuable event for the City. Not to say that this might not be a valuable event, but Riverfest has a history behind it. People know to expect that is coming and basically they live with it for a week but the event itself is only a few days. The setting-up and taking down takes a week. If it were a weekend situation, you are not displacing the people who park there but if you are looking at a week, you will be displacing, in our case, 150 people. At best, they get to park in the parking garage on the other side of Canal Street. It is not an ideal situation.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are they going to fill out an application and tell us how many police the need, etc.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes, Fiesta will take care of all that stuff.

Alderman Hirschmann stated a week to the business community...Riverfest, you know, we don't do this every week of the year. We do it once a year. Alderman Cashin said we don't have a policy and he is right.

Mr. Davis stated I would like to know more about the nature of the event. That is the part that I missed since I was late coming in.

Chairman Clancy read the request again and noted we are discussing whether we want to allow them to use Arms Park for a week or not. It is a fundraiser. Does anybody know for what?

Mr. Lolicata replied for Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Alderman Pinard stated I agree with Alderman Cashin. We should start writing some policies because Riverfest has been with us a long time. If you add this one here, then you are going to have another one and another one.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated not to throw anymore fire on the water, but there were carnivals that used to be held at Arms Park. They were fund-raisers for the various football associations, etc. We no longer allow them in Arms Park. They have been going to other locations. Some of them worked it out with the Singer group, but I had spoken with Jay when I saw this letter and noted it to him because I know there is a concern for parking in the Millyard and I know that a week to the businesses down there was going to be somewhat of a problem for them. You are right, there is no policy that has been established by the Board for the use of Arms Park and I think that this is perhaps the first of many types of events that are going to request in the future. We can issue carnival licenses all day long at the Clerk's Office and put them through the wringer making sure there is adequate police and all of that, but the use of Arms Park, I think, is something that does need to be looked at and probably should be looked at by people working on your planning and your downtown and your Millyard and perhaps it is something that should be referred to the CIP Committee or somebody to look at. You have displaced other groups and said you have to go elsewhere so I just thought for the record you should be aware of that. You do have local fund-raisers that have used that park in the past and when they call the Clerk's Office they are usually told to try and find another location.

Mr. Davis stated in absence of a policy on the use of Arms Park, we would certainly favor those kinds of uses that favor the off-peak, that is the weekends and evenings, and don't impede the normal use of Arms Park or parking during the day. The perception is, as Mr. Varkas stated, that Riverfest is a community festival.

Chairman Clancy stated as far as I am concerned, it takes maybe a day or a day and a half to set-up a carnival so if we are going to do this, I think we should start right. In other words, the only thing that is going to go on at Arms Park would be the Riverfest. Other than that, everybody can see if they can find some other place in town, especially since we are having parking problems right now. We have a shortage of places to park for people who are working in the Millyard itself. I don't want to throw anybody out of town but we have other locations in town that they could use. Maybe McIntyre Ski Area or the coliseum.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I was just going to recommend the JFK Coliseum.

Chairman Clancy replied well they can get a hold of Ron Ludwig. Both of those places are run by Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Taylor stated another thought is the parking lot adjacent to Singer Park still is a City lot. If the event can fit on the parking lot itself, that might work. Secondly, if they have some kind of close affiliation with Channel 9, they have a couple of hundred spaces around the building. Why couldn't they use some of those as well?

Chairman Clancy replied that makes good sense. They could use the impound lot and some of the spaces at Channel 9. Why don't we give them that feedback?

Mr. Lolicata stated as an afterthought, Jay, I mentioned South Commercial which I talked to Tom Clark about. Singer has the lease on that and they have full authority for liability.

Chairman Clancy asked for what.

Mr. Lolicata answered for the impound lot, for the South Commercial Street parking lot.

Chairman Clancy stated we override them.

Mr. Taylor stated Singer may have liability, but this outfit, whoever it is, is going to have to furnish whomever with a certificate of insurance naming whoever has the liability, naming them as the insured and if they can provide a suitable certificate of insurance I think that issue probably goes away. I wouldn't want them in there...even if the City was doing it, we wouldn't want them in there without a certificate of insurance.

Mr. Lolicata stated Singer is not allowing it because of their schedule anyway. I can get back to you.

Alderman Cashin asked if it is weekends, Mr. Varkas, it is okay. You guys don't have a problem?

Mr. Varkas answered yea. One of the other events was they had a Classic Car Rally down there. It was during a weekend. There was not a lot of set-up or a lot of take down and it worked fine.

Alderman Cashin moved to send Mass General Hospital/Harvard Medical School a letter telling them that if they want to have their event on Saturday and Sunday, they can use Arms Park and to have Jay Taylor and Tom Lolicata coordinate the parking. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Clancy stated now that we are talking about Arms Park and the parking down there, why don't we set some rules about use of the park.

Deputy Clerk Johnson suggested asking some of the staff to come back to the Committee with recommendations.

Chairman Clancy asked Rich Davis and Jay Taylor to work on writing up some guidelines for the use of Arms Park and bring them to the next meeting.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

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

STOP SIGNS:

**On Estate Drive at Smyth Road, SEC
Alderman Klock**

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to accept this item on the traffic agenda.

NO PARKING:

**On Lincoln Street, west side, from the B & M Railroad Right-of-Way to a point 25 feet south of Harvard Street
Alderman Shea**

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to accept this item on the traffic agenda.

RESCIND NO PARKING:

**On Lincoln Street, west side, from Harvard Street northerly to the B & M Railroad Right-of-Way
Alderman Shea**

Alderman Hirschmann asked, Tom, do you know what he is doing here.

Mr. Lolicata answered I am rescinding the old ordinance and I am extending it another 30 feet. That is all that it is.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to accept this item on the traffic agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Reiniger stated I have a question for Mr. Lolicata. I just had a constituent call about the temporary light at Brook and Canal and I guess there are no pedestrian lights. Are there any plans for pedestrian lights?

Mr. Lolicata replied from my understanding they are doing downtown improvement north of Bridge. We talked to Mr. George to go one more block if he wanted to make the lights permanent and bring them in. This is a temporary thing right now.

Alderman Reiniger stated this is confusing to some of the pedestrians.

Alderman Hirschmann stated for the bridge closure it is fine, but permanently it is ridiculous. There are no accidents there.

Mr. Lolicata replied there have been an awful lot and five years ago a study was performed.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I would like to see it brought up again just like mine you had to study. Study this one again.

Mr. Lolicata stated back when Al Burke was on, Steve Hershaw performed a study and it was warranted. That is what I am trying to say to you. It has already been done. This thing has been warranted for a long time.

Chairman Clancy asked where did the money come from for these lights.

Mr. Lolicata answered these are temporary lights from the Highway Department and New England Signals is the contractor. They are up their temporarily right now.

Alderman Cashin asked who would fund the lights.

Mr. Lolicata answered this is temporary now.

Alderman Cashin asked who is paying for it. Where did they come from?

Mr. Lolicata answered if you are going to go with the new lights, if this goes through, either we pay for it using downtown improvement money that the Highway Department is going to be doing north of Bridge Street, they are supposed to stop at Langdon, if they go one more block they might put in a full set

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of lights. They are looking at plans right now to include it for another block to do

the north part of Elm Street. That is where the money will come from if they are permanent and if Highway does it. Right now, these are temporary and that is all there is until such time as this goes through.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated there are some contractors that need to come in and do some work over the next two weeks and a request was given to request permission to get two parking meter bags for those contractors because they don't want them parking on the site. They want them parking on the street somewhere.

Chairman Clancy asked who is going to be doing contractor work. City departments or Harvey.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered Harvey Construction has contractors coming on site to do some work and they need two parking meter bags but we didn't want to arrange it without permission.

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

Alderman Cashin stated parking out here by the annex. Who is parking out there?

Chairman Clancy replied department heads.

Alderman Cashin stated I am getting all kinds of complaints that there are not enough spaces for people coming in to pay their taxes, etc. I thought we pretty much agreed that we were going to put them in the garage and validate their cards.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the employees are receiving validated parking. There was a parking plan presented and approved by the Traffic Committee and the Board for the site.

Alderman Cashin stated and the Aldermen gave up their three parking spaces.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied on the street, yes.

Alderman Cashin responded and we said at the same time that we expected the department heads to move to the garage.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that I was not aware of.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to remove department assigned spaces on the City Hall Complex site and open those spaces to the public for "One Hour Parking for City Business Only" and that city vehicles no longer park on the City streets near City Hall (Market, on site, Stark, etc.) but instead are required to park in the Canal Street garage. Also, the City Clerk was asked to send a memo to all department heads regarding this issue.

Alderman Pinard asked are the police going to monitor it.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that is a one-way street coming the other way under the connector. We need to get some signs up there because you are going to have people going both ways on that one-way street and you will have a nightmare.

Mr. Lolicata asked now that piece is still considered a one-way. It hasn't been cut-off or anything?

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered no. It is still a street and it is still a one-way street. It was supposed to be set-up that way because of emergency access. It is supposed to be one-way going this way and most people drive through the other way because the natural tendency would be that way.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am rarely here during the day but one of the things I witnessed was this short-time space right here and City vehicles parked there. I think that sends a very bad message. Everybody should get in the parking garage. That is my personal opinion.

Alderman Pinard asked weren't they parking in this parking lot.

Chairman Clancy answered yes, they were at one time.

Alderman Pinard asked is that a possibility because you know you are going to have the Assessors on our back.

Alderman Hirschmann answered well we gave it to McQuades. Thirty-four spaces we gave them.

Alderman Pinard asked how many spaces do we need for the department heads.

Chairman Clancy answered they can park in the garage. Does anybody have any problem with that?

Alderman Reiniger asked what is the best way to enforce this.

Alderman Cashin answered well I would hope that the Board of Aldermen will vote unanimously to approve this and they will get the message.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated can I ask for just one thing on this and maybe I am speaking out of turn but as a female who is working here until 10 PM sometimes, I have no problem seeing you put public parking along this way but I would ask that you place it from 8 AM to 5 PM so that people who are working here at night can park on-site without a problem.

Members concurred that it was not the intent to prohibit the evening parking.

Chairman Clancy asked Mr. Lolicata to make some signs that say "One Hour Parking" during those hours.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee