

## COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

**February 2, 2000**

**6:15 PM**

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

**Present:** Aldermen Clancy, Sysyn, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Hirschmann

**Messrs:** T. Lolicata, K. Dillon, J. Hoben, Depty Chief Duffey,

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Levasseur requesting that Manchester Street be added to the free parking zone for Downtown residents and requesting that the area located in front of Citizens Bank, at 875 Elm Street, be looked at to possibly add two/three-parking spots with meters.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to study the request. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion for discussion.

Alderman Sysyn asked isn't the front of Citizen's Bank a bus stop.

Alderman Hirschmann answered there is probably room for five buses to line up in that space. At the most, there is one to two buses at the northern end from say Hanover Street to Citizens Bank. You could actually fit two or three parking spaces there.

Alderman Sysyn asked diagonal.

Alderman Hirschmann answered I would say diagonally. I would say regular parking. There were some spots there before that were taken away.

Mr. Lolicata stated I went over the other day and measured it and it is all bus. They need that area to get in and straighten out because of the handicapped. Buses are 38' long. If there are two there at the same time you are talking over 70'. You might have enough space for two cars, but they need that just to get in there and get squared because of the handicapped. I talked to them. I personally would not

recommend it. I was talking with the MTA and the measurements and the reasons why from the MTA. They have to be square to pick up these people and even if there are two buses there, they need those first two space you are talking about just to get in. That is why I got the MTA involved. To be it sounds legitimate.

Alderman Pariseau stated the recommendation of Mr. Lolicata is not to allow the extra spaces in front of Citizen's Bank, but how about the free parking zone for residents. Would that be referred to study? I suspect that the resident sticker program would be in order there. If we refer it to study, whom would it go to? The Traffic Department?

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied the Traffic Division of the Police Department or both. Ordinance violations are the ones who are issuing those permits at this point so you may want to have the Traffic Division involved. That is an ordinance as well, but we can deal with that as an ordinance if the Committee wants to do that. We can certainly have that put together.

Alderman Hirschmann asked didn't we just give the MTA another spot to have a hub. Didn't we just give them some spaces on Elm Street?

Chairman Clancy answered Stanton Park.

Alderman Hirschmann asked didn't they want a main hub so the buses could come and go there.

Chairman Clancy answered the reason we gave that to them is because we had the people on Merrimack Street upset because they didn't have enough parking.

Alderman Hirschmann stated my question is that maybe Citizen's Bank isn't going to be their hub anymore. In the past, it was there.

Alderman Levasseur stated first of all, I have been down at that location for four years across the street. There were three spots there originally before they redid downtown. There were three loading zones. I am not asking for loading zones. I am saying if we put three parking meters there and we add three additional parking spots and they give us money to pay for the meters themselves, plus if you look at the spot from Ted Herbert's to City Hall, that is also where three buses put in. He has three loading spots there and if you watch that spot all day long, there is never more than one or two buses going there. I am just trying to add three parking spots for people to get in an out and there used to be three parking spots there before. Even if you only put two that is fine. I am not asking for loading zones where everybody gets it for free. I am asking to put meters in there and get some

extra revenue so that it will pay for itself. I am looking at the distance between what the building is from Ted Herberts to City Hall and it looks pretty much to be the same and he has three or four loading zone spots.

Mr. Lolicata replied one side is loading and the other side is bus stop. There is a difference.

Alderman Levasseur responded right, but we have no parking spots right in this spot and I have never once seen more than two buses at one shot and there is still plenty of room, but if you are the professional at it and you did a measurement, that is fine. It looks similar to me because of the distance and I thought that because of the distance we could get three more parking spots.

Mr. Lolicata stated you are correct in the distance, but you are not correct in the maneuvering to get in there to go alongside the curbing. That is the part I am looking at for the handicapped. They are all handicapped accessible now so when you have two buses in there they have to take that room that you are talking about, one or two spots, to maneuver the bus to go alongside the curb.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the only other suggestion I want to give you because you are looking at downtown residential parking is you may want to include either MEDO or Intown Manchester who cover the downtown area. That is just a suggestion.

Chairman Clancy stated probably Intown.

Alderman Sysyn asked how far does resident parking go up now.

Chairman Clancy referred her to the map included in the agenda package.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to deny the request to add two/three parking spots with meters in front of Citizens Bank, 875 Elm Street.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to refer the free parking zone for Downtown residents request to the Traffic Department, the Traffic Division of the Police Department and Intown Manchester. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from the Airport Director wishing to brief the Committee on the progress to date of the Airport Entrance Roadway prior to proceeding with a more detailed engineering design.

Mr. Dillon stated I just want to quickly orient you to the chart in front of you. This is the Airport entrance over here. What you see here on the table is different from what is in front of you. This is the plan that we showed you last June in the Traffic Committee. Subsequent to that we went to the community. The community did not like this plan at all. There were major impacts to the residents in this area. As a result, we went back and re-engineered it and this is what we have come up with and this is what is in front of you. To re-orient you, this is the existing Airport entrance. What you see is that we have widened the roadway quite a bit. The flow will actually come onto the Airport from Brown Avenue this way and circle around into the terminal area. It does quite a bit for the Airport flow. This flow here makes a continuous traffic flow on the Airport. We are not going to be prone to back-ups like we are today at the intersection. It does quite a bit for the folks who live in the Cascade Circle area. It also provides bypass capability that we don't have today to get to the south.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked what do you mean by by-pass.

Mr. Dillon answered today what happens is there are two lanes at different times that turn into the Airport. This provides a separate lane just to by-pass.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied excellent idea. I proposed that two years ago.

Mr. Dillon stated we are going in three phases. This will be the first phase. If we get the approvals from Londonderry that we hope to get within the next couple of months, we will start this in September. We will progress to Phase II immediately following Phase I. We hope to have these two phases completed by the end of 2001. This third phase, the blue phase, will only occur once the State access road comes in. We are hoping to get State funding for this entire section. This will cost us roughly \$7.1 million. We met with the community back in November. We had very good support from the community. We met with Londonderry. They are not clear on the actual process we have to follow yet to get the approvals, but they are working on that and hopefully by the end of the month they will get us that.

Alderman Pariseau asked have you spoken with the people at the Executive Health Club and the Highlander.

Mr. Dillon answered yes, we have. We have support from the Highlander. The Executive Health Club has expressed a number of concerns, mostly related to the parking in front of this building. We have agreed to work with both of them in terms of the engineering phase to make sure their concerns are met and I am committed that we will give him the same number of parking spaces he has today if not more and we will give him a better parking situation and take away some of the grade issues that are there. He does express some concerns though and continues to try to push to pick up the ownership of the lot, but the Airport is not willing to give that up.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked could you give us any assurances that you have given to him in writing please.

Mr. Dillon answered I have a copy of a letter that he sent, along with my response. Copies were passed out.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked has he responded to your response.

Mr. Dillon answered verbally he has agreed that we need to sit down and talk about this.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked would you get us his written response.

Chairman Clancy asked who is this anyway, Peter Morgan.

Mr. Dillon answered no, Michael Benton. I am not sure that he is going to respond to that letter. As I said, we have been willing to have our engineering staff work with him to come to a satisfactory agreement.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated you mentioned State funding. I assume you met State and Federal funding.

Mr. Dillon replied correct.

Chairman Clancy asked could you help us out.

Alderman Vaillancourt answered the Federal government will hopefully help us out at least 80%/20%.

Mr. Dillon stated the State already, through Federal funding and State funds, has this piece. What we are working with is getting them to try to pay for a lot of this that is not Airport work.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked when is this area in here, when is the work in here supposed to begin.

Mr. Dillon answered probably April of 2001.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so we will have plenty of updates on how the traffic control will be regulated here while this is actually under construction prior to that.

Mr. Dillon answered absolutely.

Chairman Clancy asked is it out to bid now, Kevin.

Mr. Dillon answered yes. We have to still work with Londonderry though.

Alderman Hirschmann asked in that green area, is that the St. Francis building right there.

Mr. Dillon answered yes. This roadway actually comes through the St. Francis area.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked you have heard nothing new on the access road I assume during the last two or three months from the State.

Mr. Dillon answered no.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Jon Erdahl, Director of Operations at WGIR requesting the use of Arms Park and the Notre Dame Bridge on Sunday, May 28, 2000 for their 9th Annual Memorial Day Weekend fireworks display (rain date of May 29, 2000).

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve this request subject to approval of Police, Fire, Highway, Risk, Traffic and the City Clerk.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Intown Manchester requesting the use of Hanover Street on Thursday, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3 and 17 from 6-9 PM for Hanover Happenings, a weekly street festival featuring live theater, dance and music.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked is this something that is automatically done every year.

Chairman Clancy answered the last few years to my knowledge.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I noticed on one of the correspondences that the time this was supposed to be blocked off was as of 3 PM. It doesn't begin until 6 PM. Is that correct? Is it necessary to block it off that early in the day?

Chairman Clancy replied evidently they have to set-up.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked they need three hours to set-up.

Alderman Pariseau stated they need the time to set-up, but you also have to give the people who are parking there the opportunity to leave. You put the 3 PM curfew that their car must be moved from Hanover Street and the people may get there at 3:30 PM, 3:45 PM or 4 PM.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I could just advise the Committee that typically you do close down the street a couple of hours in advance of when an event is going to happen. Not only for set-up, but also so if somebody is parked there you can get out of the area and you don't have anybody else coming into the area. It is a problem for parades and just about anything else that goes on in the downtown area.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied well I understand a couple of hours, but we are looking at three hours and this is a prime parking location. For example, people going to the library park there, right?

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded, no it is Hanover Street. It is a one-block section of Hanover between Chestnut Street and Elm Street. Parking for the library is right across the street and they usually park right on Pine Street, which is one block up.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I know that several times I was going through there...maybe the street was blocked off that you take to get to the library.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded you are thinking of the Farmer's Market on Thursday evenings.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the request subject to approval of Police, Fire, Highway, Risk, Traffic, and City Clerk.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Charles Gordon, Cruising Downtown, requesting various street closures including Elm Street and related areas for an event to be held on June 24, 2000. Additional request is made for use of Arms Park on the day of the event.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the request subject to approval of Police, Fire, Highway, Parks, Risk, Traffic, and City Clerk.

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

**HARTNETT PARKING LOT - STOP SIGN**

**On Hartnett Lot exit at Chestnut St. – nec**

**HARTNETT PARKING LOT -CROSSWALKS**

**Across Hartnett Lot entrance east of Chestnut Street**

**Across Hartnett Lot entrance north of Concord Street**

**Across east end of Hartnett Lot from center stairs to center island**

**HARTNETT PARKING LOT - HANDICAP PARKING**

**In the Hartnett Parking Lot**

**Northeast corner – 3 spaces (1 being van accessible)**

**Southeast corner – 2 spaces**

**Southwest corner – 2 spaces**

**Northwest corner – 1 space**

**Alderman Gatsas**

**NO PARKING ANYTIME**

**On Dixwell Street, north side, from Brown Ave. to a point 80 feet westerly**

**Alderman Vaillancourt**

**On Auburn Street, north side, from Canton Street to a point 60 feet east**

**Alderman Clancy**

**RESCIND STOP SIGN**

**On Bridge Street, at Candia Rd. swc**

**Alderman Pinard**

**STOP SIGNS**

**On S. Taylor Street at Jobin Dr. nwc  
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**On S. Porter Street, at S. Porter Street nwc  
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**On Pasture Drive at Donald Street, sec  
Alderman Cashin**

**STOP SIGN – 4-WAY (SCHOOL ZONE)**

**On Smyth Rd. at Belmont St., nec swc  
Aldermen Clancy, Gatsas**

**PARKING FOR POLICE BUSINESS ONLY**

**On Cedar Street, south side, from Union Street to a point 70 feet  
easterly  
Police Department**

**RESCIND 1/2 HOUR PARKING (UNLIMITED)**

**On Maple Street, east side, from Monadnock Lane to Manchester  
Street  
Alderman Sysyn**

**NO PARKING ANYTIME (EMERGENCY)**

**On Linden Street, west side, from Bridge St. to Arlington St.  
Alderman Sysyn**

**RESCIND NO PARKING HANDICAP ZONE**

**On Prout Ave., east side, from a point 40 feet north of the Dead End to  
a point 40 feet northerly (unlimited parking)  
Alderman Shea**

**FLASHING BEACON**

**On Milford Street at Summerside Ave.  
Alderman Cashin**

Alderman Hirschmann stated I have a question on the flashing beacon. I might need a few of those. How many of those can we put up?

Mr. Lolicata replied you can give me your request and we will have to go through the warrants.

Alderman Hirschmann asked how long does that take.

Mr. Lolicata answered it depends on how many you give me.

Alderman Hirschmann asked how long ago did you do this one.

Mr. Lolicata answered a few months ago, maybe.

Alderman Hirschmann stated so I could have a few by June if I give them to you now.

Mr. Lolicata replied not necessarily, but if you give me some money I will give you all of them you want.

Alderman Hirschmann asked how much does this one cost.

Mr. Lolicata answered about \$3,000.

**NO RIGHT TURN ON RED DURING SCHOOL HOURS**  
**On Hanover Street, at Page Street, eastbound**  
**Alderman Pinard**

**U TURN PERMITTED**  
**On Amoskeag Street, eastbound, at Fletcher Street**  
**Traffic Department**

Alderman Hirschmann asked who wants this.

Mr. Lolicata answered the reason we did that is the gentleman up there at the station who owns the company and he is correct because I have gone through Highway, Police and everything, we originally had one there. It was taken down during the bridge construction. Nobody knew anything about it. I am putting it in as an ordinance. This goes way back.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to accept the traffic agenda.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Implementation of the Elm Street Traffic Signal Coordination Study Aldermen Reiniger, Levasseur**

Mr. Lolicata stated Jim is going to appraise you of this. We had certain studies performed in Manchester. Traffic engineers have done Granite Street, Forrester, Carter and Canal Street. Bridge Street has just been completed. The other thing we were waiting for for quite awhile was Elm Street itself. We have the monitors.

Mr. Hoben stated this was back after they redid Elm Street we lost some lanes on Elm Street so this is going to offer relief for the traffic signals. It won't effect the pedestrian signal timing at all.

Chairman Clancy asked when do you plan on putting it into effect.

Mr. Hoben answered within the month.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the implementation of the Elm Street Traffic Signal Coordination Study.

Deputy Clerk Johnson requested that Item 9 be removed from the table.

## **TABLED ITEMS**

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda.

9. Communication from Yvonne Calimeri advising the Board of her support relative to a proposed new leash ordinance.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that marked as Item #10 of the attachment to your agenda is a revised ordinance that was done up by the City Solicitor's Office and it was represented to Bills on Second Reading this evening that everybody is apparently happy with this revised format. We ask that you would report to Bills on Second Reading your recommendation that this revised ordinance be considered.

Alderman Pariseau moved to recommend approval of the ordinance. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked there is no length of the leash in here. It doesn't refer to any length?

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered the Police Department is here and they can answer any questions.

Deputy Chief Duffey stated this is actually...there have been several attempts at drafting this ordinance to satisfy the needs of everyone. There are a number of communications in here, including a communication by Ms. Fisher. We found that this would be the best way to approach it in that it seems to satisfy everybody's needs. Basically, an animal in a public way would have to be restrained. It seems like everybody is relatively pleased with this solution. We haven't heard any problems with it. I thought it had already passed.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked is Alderman Wihby agreeable to this.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered yes.

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

Alderman Vaillancourt asked when does this go into effect.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered it has to go back to Bills on Second Reading and then to the Board.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to remove Item 10 from the agenda.

10. Communication from Thomas Lynch expressing his concerns for the lack of a "walk light" at the intersection of South Willow Street and Weston Road.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file this item. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Hirschmann and Vaillancourt being duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Hirschmann stated Mr. Lynch is a Living Skills Instructor at Memorial and he is pointing out a public safety issue and he wrote you a letter and you are all ignoring it.

Chairman Clancy replied well we have tried to get a hold of him three times.

Alderman Hirschmann stated well he wrote you a letter, what do you want.

Mr. Lolicata replied I responded to Mr. Rist and supposedly he had received the message. I would be glad to speak to the gentleman and explain the whole thing to him.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I received a call from a constituent today who is concerned that people are parking on sidewalks. He said that he has talked to the Police who haven't given him any satisfaction. He especially mentioned the Central/Beech Street intersection. Do we allow people to park on sidewalks?

Chairman Clancy replied no, we don't.

Alderman Pariseau stated like everything else, you have to catch them.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked could we have the Police look into this.

Chairman Clancy answered we will call them and have them look at it.

Alderman Pariseau stated that is throughout the City.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked do the Police tag people for this.

Chairman Clancy answered yes.

Alderman Pariseau stated the snow plowing activity that is ongoing...people clear their driveways and leave it right on the sidewalk. The other day, Monday morning I guess on my way to work at 6:20 AM the guy at the glass place on Queen City Avenue was taking the snow from his parking lot and pushing it across to Bakersville School. This is not good, especially with there not being sufficient parking there. I would like the Highway Department to get a hold of the guy.

Mr. Thomas stated we have a problem with that across the City. In addition, cars are parked with their bumpers out into the street right-of-way blocking sidewalk plowing. That is a problem, too.

Chairman Clancy stated maybe we could bring it up at the Board meeting tonight that when people are shoveling their houses they are not to throw the snow on the sidewalk.

Alderman Pariseau replied they are plowing the snow into the sidewalk. Where I live, the guy next door plows his mother's driveway right on the sidewalk so the sidewalk plow guy has to go through eight feet of snow.

Chairman Clancy asked, Mr. Thomas, how can we address that.

Mr. Thomas answered it is difficult. As the Alderman mentioned, we have tried to take people to court over this and fine them, etc., but unless we can actually catch them doing it and get the Police out at that time, it is hard to do anything.

Chairman Clancy stated one thing we should say is people shouldn't be parking on the sidewalks because that is where people are supposed to walk, especially the handicapped.

Alderman Pariseau stated it is the same thing with the snowplowing. If it is there, the kids have to go out onto Calef Road.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee