

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

May 2, 2000
Aldermen Clancy, Sysyn,
Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Hirschmann

6:15 PM
Walter A. Stiles Conf. Room
City Hall (2nd Floor)

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

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

3. Communication from Ronald Fournier, Cruising Downtown, requesting that no parking be allowed in front of the City Hall Complex on Market Street on Saturday, June 24, 2000 from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM for the purpose of locating the "COOL" van sponsored by WQLL Radio in conjunction with an antique and special interest car show.

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

4. Communication from Kim Moore on behalf of Healthsource NH, requesting the closure of Merrimack Street, from Elm to Chestnut Streets, beginning at 12:00 noon on August 10, 2000 in conjunction with the 8th Annual Healthsource Corporate Road Race.

Discussion ensued relative to the closure of the street at Noon, and whether that length of time was required. There was concern for the businesses in the area. The event was scheduled for 6:30 PM. It was noted that the event had occurred for the last 8 or so years. Chairman Clancy suggested a 3PM closure of the street, allowing for a two hour set up before registration.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve closure of the street at 3PM.

5. Communication from Lisa Whitehead advising of the dangerous situation to pedestrians at the intersection of Bridge and Belmont Streets and requesting the use of cones as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued where Alderman Sysyn noted that the cones at that location had been stolen. Mr. Lolicata stated he did not want to see those cones out on the streets of Manchester again. Mr. Lolicata stated he warned everybody about these things. You did it for the store owner. Duval lost his within four days, they put it out where they were suppose to, cars couldn't get around it, the guy on the bottom of the hill, Kanteres, wants to know what do you do about people hitting the sign on purpose. Before somebody hits this sign, hits a person, hits a building, we are liable, I don't want to see them out there again. They are nothing but dangerous. Mr. Lolicata noted that he had already moved it twice down on Chestnut Street, it was in the middle of the lane. That's dangerous, these people are not taking them in and they are not doing their job they are going to cause more problems. One store owner wants it, and 50 more want it, you are going to have 50 calls throughout the city, they are bulky, they are expensive and they are heavy and someone is going to get hurt. I'm against anything in the street because of liability.

Alderman Pariseau asked if they were put in the crosswalks.

Mr. Lolicata responded that they did. People are hitting them. Kids are whacking them on purpose. One stolen, \$37.00 out the window in three days, so they are not going to do any job, it will cause more vandalism and problems. The ones they started on Mammoth Road this year already got whacked. That means a car went over it. You know how wide Mammoth Road is.

Alderman Sysyn noted that they did slow people down, people do hit their brakes when they see them.

Alderman Pariseau noted the condition of Bridge Street, you can't go fast anyhow with all the potholes.

Alderman Hirschmann asked in front of the market, can't that be considered a school zone. It was noted that it was. Alderman Hirschmann asked if it was posted 20 miles per hour. Alderman Sysyn responded no. Alderman Hirschmann stated it should be. Mr. Lolicata stated it was posted with brand new signs, and he was bringing them down lower to cover both schools.

Alderman Hirschmann noted if it was posted then they should be all set. Mr. Lolicata noted that they were still flying down that street according to this lady on the corner and a few other people and they can't even cross.

Mr. Lolicata noted that there was a crossing guard there to help these people and during the daytime there can't be too much pedestrian traffic outside of kids during school hours.

Alderman Sysyn noted that the reason they put one by Academy Fruit was because a kid got clipped there last year.

Mr. Lolicata noted that he had to sign a slip for liability on those three cones. The solution is go with the rules of the road, don't do these things. Why are we doing them. In response to questions, Mr. Lolicata noted as director for this city he was advising of what he thought the city of Manchester should do. He knew the state was sanctioning them, but there is something that has happened already. I told the guy on Franklin Street get the cone out of there, one day all the cars were going on the other side of it because they couldn't get by with all the cars parked there.

Chairman Clancy asked if the police department had received any complaints. Sgt. Winn advised that they had received complaints about Franklin Street.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked if there was a crosswalk there. He noted that he was presuming a light with the crosswalk was out the questions.

Mr. Lolicata concurred stating if you start talking lights you need a study, need warrants, etc.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated there are just some laws that people either have to obey or run the risk of killing somebody and getting picked up for it. I hate to sound like that, but I don't think there is anything you can do.

Alderman Hirschmann noted the middle school in Goffstown was on a main road just like Mammoth Road or Bridge Street. They have a flashing yellow. During school hours it must flash, it must be on a timer, can't we do something cheap like that.

Mr. Lolicata commented that Beech Street was a different situation because it was a main thoroughfare, and it's right after the lights so we have one down there flashing for them. We usually do that in the outskirts. We do it for Brown Avenue, for Weston and one on Mammoth Road. You already have a flashing light up there.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file the communication. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann recorded in opposition.

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

NO PARKING:

On West Brook St., south side, from Elm St. to a point 250 feet westerly
On Brook St., north side, from Elm St. to a point 80 feet easterly
Alderman Levasseur

On Hazelton Ave., west side, from Brown Ave. to Brown Ave.
Alderman Vaillancourt

On Brown Ave., east side, from Queen City Ave. to a point 155 feet northerly
Alderman Pariseau

On Douglas St., south side, from Main St. to Allard St.
Alderman Thibault

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve for discussion. It was noted that a person was present wishing to discuss and item. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion.

Trudy Abood, 85 Weston Drive, Manchester addressed the committee noting she owned property on 1315 and 17 Brown Ave, and 46 Elm Street. It's my understanding that they wanted on the east side of Brown Ave. from the exit of my parking lot into Chalifour Flowers up to Cheney place to have limited parking of one hour. I think my point is, I've been there since 1984, my dad had his business in the same spot since 1960 and there has never been a parking issue prior to this. When the parking issues did arise is when the school did not allow the teachers to park on Cheney Place, starting early in the fall, and then also eliminated their school parking lot, because the kids needed a playground. So consequently the teachers have been forced to park out on the street which they never have had to prior to this situation, so consequently that's left the street parking very tight and I believe that the complaint that exists from the residents is they cannot get in and out of their driveways. Which I agree. There are a lot of cars and we put the teachers there, and last week there was no school, it was fine and when the

teachers are back the parking becomes tight again. I agree that the residents do need some signs that say no parking driveway because some people who do park could care less where they park, and it is not just my employees, from residents to the school teachers whoever parks in that area and other businesses. My question is why does it have to be limited to a one hour parking, who is going to benefit. It won't benefit customers going to area businesses because customers usually park right in their lots in their businesses like they do in mine. I can't understand why a resident would want a one hour parking limit in front of their house because they are certainly going to park there longer than one hour, and I can't understand that if a teacher is going to park there they are not going to abide by a one hour limit. What they have agreed to do, is they have agreed to open up parking from Cheney Place to Queen City Ave. along the school side where the fence is, which will open up parking spaces for the teachers but I'm sure not totally. I can understand that the residents do need to get in and out of their driveways, but I can't understand the time limit on the parking.

In response to question, Mr. Lolicata noted it was under the parking two hours. I went down two weeks ago because the police department, Lt. Tracey, he wanted to get most of those people out of there because it was the teachers and he thought limit the parking would take care of the situation. We thought it would help the businesses at the same time. In the interim, speaking with Trudy, I gave unlimited parking from Queen City to her driveway so they can park. Below the two hour parking we put Baker Court to Cheney Place, that was to move people out of there from parking all day long period. I opened up below where the teachers are to take them all out of that area. What she wants is to rescind the parking w hours in that area, leave it unlimited, as long as the teachers are going down below. Trudy commented that this would eliminate the problem. With regard to the two hours it was noted that there were two tenement buildings where tenants parked on the streets, otherwise the individual homes had long driveways in the area. Ms. Abood again noted that she did not see what the time limit would do to benefit the area, because if you are doing your laundry or are home for the day, you could never park out there if you live there you would have to find some other spot. I think the point is that the residents are complaining they can't get in and out of their driveways which is very true, they are older driveways [narrow] and when someone parks a car right up to the entrance they cannot turn and get out, which I think they deserve that considering that the street is congested, but at least it will help by opening up that northern section in front of the school, but time parking will not eliminate the problem.

Alderman Pariseau noted that he had contacted the Traffic Department after calls from the residents in the area. My first thought was to have resident parking only along Brown Ave. but this was submitted by Tom who thought it was going to work.

Mr. Lolicata suggested they rescind the two hour parking, make it unlimited, the teachers are going down below, and see what happens in one month.

It was noted that the two hour parking noted further in the agenda would be removed.

Chairman Clancy requested a motion.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the no parking requests.

RESCIND NO PARKING-Unlimited:

On Brown Ave., east side, from Cheney Place to Queen City Ave.
Alderman Pariseau

On Hazelton Ave., west side, from a distance of 190 feet in front of
325 Hazelton Ave.
Alderman Vaillancourt

On Douglas St., south side, from Main St. to a point 55 feet east of Second St.
Alderman Thibault

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve rescinding no parking as presented.

PARKING 1 HOUR (8AM-6PM):

On Brook St., north side, from a point 80 feet east of Elm St. to Elm Eastback St.
Alderman Levasseur

On motion of alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve the request.

PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-6PM):

On Brown Ave., east side, from Baker Court to Cheney Place
Alderman Pariseau

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to rescind the request for 2 hour parking on Brown Ave removing such item from the agenda.

On Spruce St., north side, from Hall St. to Massabesic St.
Alderman Clancy

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

RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR:

On West Brook St., south side, from Elm St. to a point 75 feet westerly
On Brook St., north side, from a point 20 feet east of Elm St. to a point 60 feet
easterly
Alderman Levasseur

On Spruce St., north side, from Hall St. to Massabesic St.
Alderman Clancy

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the requests.

RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-6PM):

On Brook St., north side, from a point 80 feet east of Elm St. to Elm Eastback St.
On Temple Court, east side, from Brook St. to Harrison St.
Alderman Levasseur

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

CROSSWALK:

On Elm St., south of Salmon St.
Alderman Levasseur

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve the crosswalk.

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS:

On Elm St., south of Salmon St.

Alderman Levasseur

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve the pedestrian signals.

ELM ST. AND SALMON ST.

Install right green/yellow arrow signals to the eastbound right lane on Salmon St. and southbound right lane on Elm St.

Alderman Levasseur

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the installation of signals.

TABLED ITEM

7. Copy of a communication from Bruce Thomas, Engineering Manager, submitting an analysis to provide angled parking on the southside of Merrimack Street from Elm to Chestnut Streets.
(Tabled 4/4/00)

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

Chairman Clancy noted that the package contained some figures.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file the item. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated there was a mistake by the deputy city engineer, cause when he wrote this letter he didn't tell the fire and police chief that the road was getting widened before these spaces get put in.

Mr. Lolicata noted he understood what they were going to say you widen the road to put the angled parking in, but your angled parking is coming out about 18 to 20 feet.

Alderman Levasseur noted that it had changed since they had talked about it, he had talked to them today.

Mr. Lolicata stated let's put it this way. Police, Fire, Traffic and everybody else is not aware of any type of change.

Alderman Levasseur stated I put this idea together. I went through it with Frank Thomas. Frank and I agreed that it was a good idea. We decided we were going to go through with it. You guys decided to table it until you got further information from police and fire. I called police and fire today, after they recommended not to put it in. I asked Chief Kane did you realize that we were going to go into the park by 20 feet. Chief Kane and Chief Driscoll he had spoken with and they were not aware that they were going into the park and that the street would be the same width. Chief Kane said he was all for angled parking on that street if they go into the park. Mr. Thomas was not in this week, so he had spoken with Mr. Shepherd. Mr. Shepherd asked that the committee approve this and we will go forward with the new plan which is to take part of the park based on whether they can get through, it is owned by Amoskeag and Amoskeag has been very good to us. Alderman Levasseur noted that by going in 20 feet they can create the parking spaces and it will pay for itself and help the businesses and the reval.

Alderman Pariseau noted the only thing the committee had in front of them was the angled parking, nothing about going into the park 20 feet, so until they got something more concrete, get the federal okay to go into the park, I will rescind my motion to receive and file and table it.

Alderman Hirschmann noted that the Merrimack Restaurant was excited about the prospect of adding more spaces.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to re-table the item.

Communication from InTown Manchester relative to problems with use of metered parking in the Pearl Street Lot by permit owners.

Alderman Pariseau suggested the leaseholders be notified that they should not park at the metered spots.

Mr. Lolicata stated they know they are not suppose to park there, they are suppose to park in the ten hours where it says permits only. This was the first we have

heard of this. I wish these people would contact us, and we will handle it right away, immediately. The police will go down and ticket them.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to refer the item to the Traffic Department.

Communication from Michaels School of Hair Design.

Mr. Michael G. Kapos addressed the committee stating he had talked to Joe Kelley last week, and I own Michaels School of Hair Design. I own the building, and we have a lot of problems with parking. Since the last two weeks with no parking on both sides of the streets (Cedar Street east of Elm) and also on Willow Street. I have a lot of older people coming to the school. I also rent the parking space for my staff and students down below to Channel 9. The only thing I need parking space for my clients. And I can't wait in two years and they have some parking spaces, whatever. I am loosing revenue because my customers cannot find parking.

Chairman Clancy asked what they were doing right now. Mr. Kapos responded they don't stay, they can't find parking, they cancel the appointments and never come in.

Alderman Sysyn asked why the committee put no parking there.

It was noted it was changed for construction.

Chairman Clancy suggested he come back at the next meeting. Alderman Sysyn and Alderman Hirschmann noted he had a problem that needed to be addressed now.

Mr. Kapos stated if they came north on Elm Street, if they made Cedar Street one way with some parking with meters, 3 hours, and I can pay for the meters to block the meters if my customers go over there. Between Cedar and Auburn we can put about 50 60 cars there, and block about ten for me 4 out side my place, and six or seven on Willow Street.

Chairman Clancy stated they would look it over, have the Traffic Director look at it and put it on the next agenda for action.

Alderman Sysyn asked what the man would do in the meantime, he had a business.

Mr. Lolicata noted that one way could only be for two years, the parking he had was where the fence was, that's where they want the no parking. He didn't know why the construction was fenced that way, he didn't know if they were putting a drive through there, there would be construction going on and some cars could get damaged. He didn't know why, but there had to be a reason why they did this for the civic center. Part of it looked okay on Willow Street.

It was noted that they could address this issue on May 15.

Alderman Levasseur noted there was a person living on Bay Street, from Chestnut down there was all businesses. She can't park on the street because of the one or two hour zones. He asked how they could address these residents, suggesting that they should look at permits. Discussion ensued where it was noted the police would look into the Bay Street situation.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee