

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

October 3, 2000

6:15 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs: T. Lolicata, Lt. Tracy, F. Thomas, Alderman Wihby, Alderman
Levasseur, R. Davis, Alderman O'Neil, Alderman Lopez

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Intown Manchester requesting that a portion of Hanover Street, between Elm and Chestnut Streets, be closed to traffic from Friday, October 13, 2000 at 3 PM until Monday, October 16, 2000 at 10 AM for an Oktoberfest event being hosted by several restaurants on Hanover Street.

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the request. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is that two days.

Chairman Clancy answered it is a weekend.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is it going to impact anybody or get them upset.

Chairman Clancy answered they do this every year.

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

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from the City Clerk requesting the following actions to be taken in conjunction with the October 14, 2000 dedication ceremony for the John Stark Statue:

- a) Closure of Middle Street Parking lot from 6 PM on October 13 (Friday) to 1 PM on October 14 (Saturday).
- b) Closure of Market Street from the alley by the Strange Brew to Elm Street Plaza from 6 AM to 1 PM on October 14.
- c) Closure of Franklin Street from Middle Street to Market Street from 6 AM until 1 PM on October 14.

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

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

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

STOP SIGNS (EMERGENCY ACT)

**On North Acres Rd. at Crestview Circle, swc
Alderman Wihby**

**On Crestview Rd. at Crestview Circle, swc (EMERGENCY ACT)
Alderman Wihby**

**On Pheasant Lane at Bodwell Rd., nec
Alderman Pinard**

**On Long Pond Way at Pheasant Lane, sec
Alderman Pinard**

**On Barrette Rd. at Perimeter Rd.
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**On Cypress St. at Hayward St., sec
Alderman Shea**

**On Page St. at Bridge St., sec (EMERGENCY ACT):
Alderman Pinard**

**On Ashland St. at Concord St., nwc, sec (4-way school zone)
Alderman Sysyn**

**Triangle Plaza driveway at Perimeter Road, NEC
Alderman Vaillancourt**

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

**On Auburn St., north side, from a point 225 feet west of Beech St. to a
point 25 feet westerly
Alderman Clancy**

RESCIND PARKING ½ HOUR (UNLIMITED)

**On Chestnut St., west side, from a point 60 feet south of Webster St. to
a point 50 feet southerly
Alderman Levasseur**

NO PARKING (EMERGENCY ACT)

**On North Bay St., west side, from Bennington Rd. to a point 60 feet
southerly
Alderman Wihby**

**On Varney St., north side, from Precourt St. to a point 120 feet easterly
Alderman Cashin**

NO PARKING ANYTIME

**On Walnut St., west side, from Bridge St. to a point 160 feet north
Alderman Sysyn**

RESCIND TRAFFIC SIGNALS

**Perimeter Rd. and Triangle Plaza
Alderman Vaillancourt**

NEW CROSSWALK

**On Lincoln St., south of Auburn St.
Alderman Clancy**

**Across Perimeter Rd. west of Triangle Driveway
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**On Lowell St. east of Union St.
On Lowell St. west of Union St.
On Union St. north of Lowell St.
On Union St. south of Lowell St.
Alderman Sysyn**

**RESCIND CROSSWALK
On Union St. at Seneca Lane
Alderman Sysyn**

Mr. Lolicata stated the crosswalks concerning Lowell and Union Streets I want taken off. Mr. Hoben spoke with the Highway Department and we are going to get curb cuts next spring so I would like to do these then.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to table the crosswalks on Lowell and Union Streets.

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

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Lt. Tracy of the Manchester Police Department regarding a speed survey conducted in the area of 234 and 249 W. Haven Road.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to receive and file.

Alderman Pariseau stated I would like to ask the Police Department to do a survey on Bosse Avenue between South Beech Street and Brown Avenue.

Lt. Tracy asked is that for speed reasons.

Mr. Lolicata answered there is a petition in here so I am requesting that we have a speed thing done and I think that will take care of most of the complaints.

Alderman Wihby asked is that relatively bad for the City. Is that why is it on the agenda?

Chairman Clancy answered it was just for informational purposes.

Alderman Wihby asked do these usually show up on the agenda.

Lt. Tracy answered no. I don't know why it is on the agenda. Usually if I do one I send it to whichever ward it pertains to.

Alderman Wihby asked was this survey normal.

Lt. Tracy answered this one was pretty good.

Alderman Wihby stated I am here because I never saw these on the agenda before and I thought maybe it was super bad or something.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from the Public Works Director recommending an alternative to a request for the discontinuance of Hampshire Lane between Stark and Mechanic Streets.

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the recommendation from the Public Works Director. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr. Thomas stated this was an alternate proposal to a request from Intown Manchester to discontinue that alley. The purpose of the request was to try a pilot program or a program to address trash. What is being proposed is to place a dumpster in that alleyway. In order for the Highway Department to pick up the garbage is if the truck is faced in a southbound direction opposite to the way the one-way street is now and then slightly back end to dump the dumpster. If that works out, then an enclosure will be built around it to camouflage the surge of trash. As you know, that section of alleyway has recently been done over to improve pedestrian access. If this discontinuance went through, that is pretty much a permanent action. It is very tough to rescind that without a dedication and we felt that by closing the street to through traffic and allowing customer traffic to enter at the Stark Street end to go to the Bean n' Bagel and posting the Mechanic Street side authorized vehicles only, it should cut down on the amount of through traffic through that alleyway. However, it would still allow the alleyway to be open. If somebody needs a delivery like one of the merchants on Elm Street, we will still allow for access to the Bean n' Bagel and it will allow us to come into the alley in a southerly direction to pick up this dumpster. So, we felt that this would be an alternate to discontinuing the alley and if our proposal doesn't work, we can always come back at a later date and discontinue it but I feel that it will work.

Chairman Clancy asked can a fire truck get in the alleyway with the dumpster there.

Mr. Thomas answered the dumpster is going to be on private property outside the right-of-way of the alley. So, yes a fire truck will be able to go through that area.

Chairman Clancy stated so this would be like a pilot program.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the reason I want to keep that alley open and this is my concern, is that the YMCA is right there on Hampshire Lane and a lot of cars pull up and let kids out on Hampshire Lane and it is quite congested on Mechanic Street. The YMCA has cars on both sides double-parked letting kids out. I don't want to close that alleyway because they use that frequently.

Alderman Levasseur stated I have a little bit of a concern with this as Frank and I and Mr. Davis sit on another committee where we are going to change the way the garbage is being picked up down in the alleys where we are going to go with another plan where we have 95 gallon garbage containers. Now I was talking to a couple of the owners over there...

Chairman Clancy interjected 95 or 55 gallons.

Mr. Thomas answered we are looking at the feasibility of using the 95 totes or 65 depending on what will fit on that little sidewalk area. Hopefully it will be the 95-gallon size. As mentioned by Alderman Levasseur, this would be a pilot program that we are going to sponsor to try to solve the trash problem in the alley abutting Elm Street and it would be voluntary on the part of the merchants to buy these containers and hopefully when merchants see that the program is working, they will move forward to purchase them.

Alderman Levasseur stated the problem I see and I have talked to a couple of people over there...if you put a dumpster in there that the City is paying for, then they are not going to buy a garbage can and we are not going to be sticking to what our plan is, which is a better plan to make all the owners buy their garbage cans, have them serial tagged and we go down with the truck and pick up the garbage. If you put a dumpster in there, they are not going to purchase those garbage cans down there and I think that is more of this idea that we want to make all of the alley and all of the owners more responsible that way. I am just saying that we are butting our heads giving them a dumpster and then we are going to be doing another pilot program with the pick-up thing, which I think is a better way to go. I don't know if Mr. Davis agrees with that.

Mr. Thomas replied what you are saying is true, however, I will point out that the intent of placing the dumpster there is to totally camouflage the trash. As mentioned, that has been developed as a really pedestrian walkway now because as you mentioned the YMCA is over there, the Plaza is over there and the parking garage is over in that area and it was modified when Stark Street was done. By putting in one dumpster and ultimately having an enclosure of some kind around that to camouflage it, when you walk down there you are not going to see anything.

Alderman Levasseur responded I haven't seen a dumpster that doesn't leak yet so all of that stuff is going to go all over the ground. Those other containers, when you put the garbage in bags and then in the containers they won't leak. Also, I don't want to block off that street at all for some of the reasons that Alderman Hirschmann has stated that a lot of children get dropped off and picked up there and Federal Express and UPS is having a tough time because we put the arch between the annex building and City Hall building and now they can't go through that thing so it is already really bad for the way they have to go down these alleys and use these alleys to get deliveries done so we are creating more of a problem by doing it that way and I understand that the Bean n' Bagel would like the extra...you know it would make it cleaner but I don't think they should have ever put the brick in that alleyway anyway because it is already getting dirty from dump trucks and other trucks going by there and I think that was a mistake but at the same time I don't want to shut down our alleys and I really believe the idea of using those overhaul bins is going to be the idea that really works over the long run. If you put a dumpster in there, they are not going to buy the garbage cans. I know they are not. I know they are already ticked off about that.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to vote against the discontinuance.

Mr. Thomas stated there is a little confusion. My proposal is counter to the original proposal, which was the discontinuance. What I am proposing is to post the street closed to through traffic. Now the way I look at that is if somebody has to get in there to make a delivery or for an emergency, they can. If somebody has to sneak through to drop off a kid in the alley, that is fine.

Alderman Hirschmann stated we should leave it the way it is.

Chairman Clancy asked what is the motion.

Ms. Thibault answered there was a motion made by Alderman Pariseau and seconded by Alderman Sysyn to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked could we clarify what the recommendation is. As noted in the paragraph at the bottom of the page, “posting the street closed at Mechanic Street and closed to through traffic at Stark Street and the back of the YMCA.” Is that correct? Stark Street would be noted customer parking. So, it sounds like it is closed and closed to through traffic at Stark Street.

Mr. Thomas stated my recommendation is somewhat less than discontinuing the street, which would close it off to all vehicle traffic. The problem here is that the one way is going in the wrong direction in order for us to pick up the dumpster. Now, I think you are looking at first of all, should you be placing a dumpster there. The Alderman over here doesn't feel that that is a good proposal because we have something else on the table, however, if you are looking at resolving the trash problem in that section of alley by the dumpster, then you either have to make the street one way in a southerly direction, which I think will impact the establishments on Stark Street, or do something different such as restricting it.

Chairman Clancy stated my contention is now if we put a dumpster there now they are going to want ones in various different spots of the City. They are going to say they have one over there by the YMCA, why can't we have one here and one there?

Alderman Levasseur stated I used to have a restaurant located right behind where the Bean n' Bagel is and one of the problems is we have been lucky with the snow the last couple of years, but that is a pretty good sized parking lot that he has there and what he usually does is he puts his snow where the dumpster is going to go. He piles it into that side and then they kind of just use that to pile up their snow because they can't dump it into the alleyway, so by putting that dumpster there, that also is going to be a problem. I know they want something done there, but they haven't heard about our other pilot program, which I think is going to the gang buster of all plans because we have seen it work well in other cities and it is also a good place for them to pile their snow up, Frank, when they get the snow out of the parking lot. They can't put it in the street, so it is kind of a nice little cubbyhole because that is where they usually do it. It is going to force people to use these garbage cans.

Mr. Davis stated I would like to make a couple of points. One, the alternative proposal that Frank put forward is one that we would certainly support assuming that it has your support and the support of the property owners. This had been developed kind of from the ground up with the property owners coming up with suggestions. As a matter of fact, there are suggestions to try and come up with a common area solution that did emerge from the property owners themselves. The YMCA was one of those involved in these discussions and they had no problem

with closing the street as long as deliveries could get through. I know that was a concern of Alderman Levasseur and we would certainly share that concern so the alley remains physically open and there are no physical barriers to delivery trucks or emergency vehicles going through there. Their idea for this alley, Mr. Chairman, was really a unique solution because the City had put so much energy into it and put so much into the brickwork to make it a pedestrian lane. They wanted to do something a bit different and the final idea was to have that dumpster for which a piece of property was dedicated by one of the property owners there, have that screened off very much like the one here behind City Hall to create a fenced in enclosure and we were going to help him to do that so aesthetically you wouldn't see the trashcans. I agree with Alderman Levasseur that overall for the downtown that this proposal for the 65 or 95-gallon containers is really going to be the best solution for downtown as a whole. Simply, we were working with those property owners on Hampshire Lane because they felt it was a special place and they were trying to create a special solution. We will certainly work with them to come up with the right solution. This is one that they have suggested as a pilot and I think as a pilot it merits consideration.

Alderman Vaillancourt moved to table the item for further information. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Pariseau and Sysyn duly recorded in opposition and Alderman Clancy voting in favor.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Petition submitted by Laurie Cavanaugh on behalf of residents of Cass Street requesting stop signs be placed at the intersection of Cass and Central Streets in order to cut down on speeding vehicles.

Chairman Clancy stated I called this woman up because this is not too far from my house. I told her that we only put up four-way stop signs in school zones. There are already stop signs on the corner of Cass and Central going east and west. I am not in favor of having four-way stop signs.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Communication from Mike Pelletier relative to the current practice of towing vehicles during declared snow emergencies, along with an additional communication notifying the Committee that he will not be able to attend the meeting and offering several suggestions on how to deal with the situation.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file the item.

Alderman Vaillancourt moved to table the item until Mr. Pelletier can attend the meeting.

Alderman Pariseau stated he sent us his suggestions and they really don't make any sense. You are going to have the Police out blowing sirens?

Alderman Vaillancourt replied that is only one of the suggestions. There are others.

Mr. Thomas stated I am prepared to discuss this issue if you have time.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I would like to say that out of courtesy to the gentleman who brought this forward we should do this at a time when he can be there. It is a simple courtesy. I think he has made an honest effort to do something proper.

Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion to table the item. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Pariseau duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Hirschmann requesting that Lake Avenue from the east side of Elm Street and easterly up to Pine Street be renamed *Raymond Wieczorek Boulevard*.

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the request. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated one of the storeowners on Lake Avenue is not upset but he was concerned because he bought store bags that you put products in and all kinds of stuff with his address on it. He asked that I withdraw this request. I was trying to think of another idea and one of the other ideas I came up with was

that we could go ahead with this but at a later date because I understand that a couple of people have already made offers on his building. Maybe in about 15 months he won't be there anyway. The first idea would be to delay this action until sometime in the future. The second idea was Cedar Street where Michael's Hair Design is on the other side of the civic center there is a little stretch of Cedar Street.

Alderman Pariseau stated I think after 10 years of serving as Mayor he deserves more than the back alley on Cedar Street. Couldn't we just refer to it as Ray Wiczorek Way instead of designating it or eliminating Lake Avenue completely.

Alderman Hirschmann replied you mean put an additional sign up. That is a good idea. Has that ever been done before?

Alderman Vaillancourt stated having lived in cities other than Manchester, major cities throughout the world, I have a recommendation that cities usually wait until a gentleman has died to name a street after him and to wait not only until he has died but a significant number of years after he has died. I am just wondering if we have in the past in Manchester named streets after living figures, such as Emile Beaulieu Way or Bob Shaw Avenue or anything like that. I am wondering if we have a precedent for this and I would like to, before going forward with this, see if there is a precedent.

Chairman Clancy stated I was told today that the Highway Department names the streets, not the Aldermen.

Alderman O'Neil stated being a regular customer of Indian Head Athletics, I have spoken with Mr. York a number of times about this issue. He, in fact, believes there is a cost to him if the street does get changed. He actually has two businesses there, Indian Head Athletics plus Special Tees, a screen printing company, in the basement. He indicated to me his cost to redo all of his stationery and bags is between \$5,000 and \$6,000 minimum. He indicated to me as late as this morning that he was opposed to this.

Alderman Pariseau asked why can't we put a street sign making reference to that section of Lake Avenue also being known as Ray Wiczorek Way instead of identifying it as a street.

Alderman Lopez stated I would like to offer to the Committee that maybe they could take some time and sit back and wait because I think that at the entrance of the civic center there might be a little park or something that could have a plaque on it. With the experience I have of streets, we have a lot of squares that are named after veterans and people don't even know who the veterans are and that is

why we have to put a book together. So 10 years down the road people might say what is Ray Wieczorek Boulevard where you are going to have thousands of people going in and an appropriate plaque or some other thing where you are going to have flowers and trees and everything else would be better.

Alderman Hirschmann stated we talked to Skip Ashooh today about the property outside the civic center. Every square inch of it is being sold for plaques for profit. We can't get his name outside there anywhere because the whole real estate is being sold. If this was disagreeable, what I had as an alternative plan was the biggest project that Ray had on the table and he got passed through was the Hackett Hill Corporate Park. There is already a main road up there that is not named. There is nobody who owns the parcels so we can't offend anybody by naming that Raymond Wieczorek Way.

Alderman Hirschmann moved that the main street at the Hackett Hill Corporate Park be named Raymond Wieczorek Way and that this be referred to the Highway Department for consideration. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I would like to get some research as to whether this has been done in the past.

Alderman Sysyn replied you have a street in the north end named Zenus Avenue. Both Zenus boys are still living.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked was the street named for the boys.

Alderman Sysyn answered yes and they are still alive.

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

TABLED ITEMS

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

11. Traffic Agenda Items:

NO PARKING

On Cass Street, east side, from Central Street to a point 50 feet north
Alderman Clancy

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this item.

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

On Vinton Street, north side, from a point 85 feet east of South Willow Street to a point 25 feet easterly
Alderman Shea

Mr. Lolicata stated the reason it got all mixed up to begin with is because when the Highway Department fixed up their whole area, Steve Tierney had put this in. He requested it because of curb cuts right in front of the place that was there and they wanted a loading zone for that. Basically, there is a curb cut there anyway and that is how that came about.

Alderman Pariseau replied my question was at the time that this first came up, why can't they use the back.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this item.

On Elm Street, west side, from Kidder Street to a point 50 feet northerly
Alderman Levasseur

Alderman Levasseur stated I wasn't at the last meeting when this was brought in, but the problem with this is there is an alleyway that goes behind the big new building at 1228 Elm Street. Hampshire Lane. There are a lot of people going...there are Amoskeag Place houses along that way and there are big trucks that come in there really early in the morning because they have to go through that way in order to do deliveries but the problem is that Federal Express, UPS and all of those big delivery guys have to park their truck there and run all the way to the front because the elevators are in the front. All of those businesses have filled up except for the first floor so when a guy wants to run in with just an envelope or a real quick signature thing, he has to park his truck there, run all the way around and then there is a lot of noise and the tenants get crazy and the Sullivans did such a good job over there with that building that it makes a lot of sense. There are four lanes up there so it is not like you are blocking anything and there is always parking in front of that building so I would request that we put that one loading zone spot there for Federal Express and all of the guys who do the quick deliveries.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to accept the item. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda:

12. Traffic Agenda Items:

RESCIND ONE WAY

Hampshire Lane, from Market Street to Mechanic Street, northbound
Alderman Levasseur

NO THROUGH TRAFFIC (CUSTOMER PARKING ONLY)

Hampshire Lane at Market Street to Mechanic Street
Alderman Levasseur

STREET CLOSED (AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY)

Hampshire Lane at Mechanic Street to Market Street
Alderman Levasseur
(Tabled 9/5/00)

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to receive and file the traffic items.

13. Communication from Intown Manchester regarding recent reports of vehicles with “handicapped” hanging placards or plates parking all day during normal business hours at two-hour metered locations and requesting the City address this issue.
(Tabled 9/5/00 for review and recommendation by Traffic, City Solicitor, City Clerk and ACCESS Manchester.)

This item remained on the table.

14. Petition for reducing speed limit to 15 miles per hour on Kimball Street, in the vicinity of Kelley Falls Housing Development.
(Tabled 9/5/00)

This item remained on the table.

Mr. Thomas stated I have some clarification on the Raymond Wiczorek Way, I don't believe the Highway Department has the right to name streets. We have the right to change the name of a street but normally the naming of a street takes place during the planning and development stage. I would recommend that your action be to submit your recommendation to the Planning Department.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I think we have the authority to do it. I am not going to ask for a recommendation. I want to move it and get it done.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to have the main street at the Hackett Hill development named Raymond Wieczorek Way. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Vaillancourt being duly recorded in opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

Traffic Committee Addendum Items:

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

On Merrill Street, south side, from a point 320 feet east of Jewett Street to a point 30 feet east
Alderman Shea

STOP SIGN:

On Brook Street, at Oak Street, swc
Alderman Gatsas

RESCIND NO PARKING HANDICAP ZONE – HANDICAP PARKING ONLY

On Bennington Street, north side, from a point 65 feet west of N. Bay Street to a point 25 feet west
Alderman Wihby

NO PARKING:

On Bennington Street, south side, from Elm Street to N. Bay Street
Alderman Wihby

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

Fourth Annual Citizens Bank Run for Shelter, October 15, 2000

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the closure of streets as indicated.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee