

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

October 21, 2003

5:00 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta, Osborne, Garrity, Forest

Messrs: S. Tierney, T. Lolicata, Deputy Chief Albin, Lt. Valenti

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Winter Parking Policy Proposal.

Alderman Guinta moved the item for discussion. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Steve Tierney stated on Page 3 Frank's recommendation is that the public be better informed of the use of public parking lots for residential parking after 8 PM, that a long-term budget for a Citywide snow emergency warning light system be developed and submitted for the budget process, and that the area generally bounded by Pleasant Street to the south, Mechanic Street to the north, Canal and Franklin Streets be exempt from the odd/even winter parking regulations. We would like to have this area so posted.

Alderman Sysyn stated his suggestion is that they would not do the odd/even parking in that area. There would be parking on both sides of the street year round?

Mr. Tierney answered that is Frank's recommendation. Yes.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated let me clarify. You are keeping the snow emergency parking portion of the traffic ordinance though correct?

Mr. Tierney answered yes.

Alderman Osborne asked what is the reason for just that area only.

Mr. Tierney answered the streets in that area are a little bit wider than the average street. I believe they are 48'.

Alderman Osborne asked that is the only reason.

Mr. Tierney answered well no.

Alderman Guinta stated the primary reason for enacting this in the downtown area is it mostly affects the people downtown because of the growth we have had in the downtown area. We are talking about five or six streets. The idea here was to do some sort of pilot program to see if it works. There have been several meetings with Highway, with Traffic, with Police and the recommendation coming forward from Frank Thomas is in a very narrow area of downtown that would be for this winter to see how it works. It is largely in response to the residents in that area looking for some sort of parking relief during the winter.

Chairman Sysyn stated I would like to make a comment on that. I have streets in my ward that have a lot of apartment houses and they have to observe the odd/even parking. Last winter they had to bring their garbage down two blocks away from their house because Highway could not get through their street because of all the snow we had.

Alderman Garrity asked Chief Albin are you all set with this.

Deputy Chief Albin answered in response to your question, Alderman Garrity, we are comfortable with that in this specific area. During deliberations with the Highway Department it was felt that those streets were an adequate width to have parking on both sides and plenty of room to get a fire truck down them.

Alderman Garrity stated I realize this is going to be a pilot program. If we get into the end of January and February and the snow is so bad that it is just not working can we cancel it at that time?

Mr. Tierney answered yes.

Alderman Garrity stated so it is a pilot program and if this works next year are we going to look at other areas of the City also.

Mr. Tierney responded I hope not. There are some relatively new subdivisions that are 36' wide but still if you get people parking on these streets it is going to be tough to plow them and open them up that is why we want to try it in a pilot area and if it works we want to keep it in that area.

Alderman Garrity stated I certainly don't have a problem doing a pilot program in this area with the understanding that if it is going to work downtown and on these six streets I think it is important that we look at the other areas of the City and see if it works. Is the Highway Department not in favor of that?

Mr. Tierney responded I can't speak for Frank but I am not in favor of that.

Chairman Sysyn stated and you said that the streets in that area are 36' wide and then you said in some of the developments they are 36' but you don't want this to happen there. What is the difference?

Mr. Tierney responded the difference is if we have to start towing vehicles from the outskirts it will probably be a two or three night operation in order to get those streets opened up. Down here it is centralized and close to the tow area so if we have to get some vehicles down here hopefully we can get them. Now we don't get into the area until 5 AM.

Chairman Sysyn replied I think the other areas might think that is discrimination. This is going to cost money also. You would have to expand your budget at the Highway Department?

Mr. Tierney responded the Traffic Department would have to put up the signs and we would still have to get some final figures to find out what these flashing lights would cost.

Chairman Sysyn asked whose budget would that be in, Traffic.

Mr. Tierney answered I believe it would have to be programmed through the CIP office.

Alderman Forest stated you mentioned or someone mentioned about if the pilot program doesn't work...let's say in January we find out that it is not working and we cancel it how would we go about notifying all of these people that all of the sudden halfway through the winter we are canceling this. How would we do that?

Mr. Tierney replied right now we have it on the Internet and everything but I guess we would get a hold of Ms. Potvin and have her get a hold of her group. She serves as the main spokesperson and hopefully she can get the word out to all of the people.

Alderman Osborne stated you mentioned, Steve, something about the new areas where the streets are only 36' wide. When they put these projects in don't they

have enough parking or aren't they supposed to have enough parking for these apartments in the first place?

Mr. Tierney answered yes they do but they still like to park on the City streets.

Alderman Osborne asked if they have enough parking in there and you have a street 36' wide what is wrong with putting parking just on one side period and having no parking...if the street is that small to begin with I think probably you need just one side parking period.

Mr. Tierney asked are you talking about a single-family residential development or a multi-family.

Alderman Osborne answered whatever. Everybody is supposed to have their own parking. Any new construction is supposed to have their own parking.

Mr. Tierney replied in the multi-family developments a lot of the developers or the people who maintain the grounds put their people out in the street so they can clean the parking lot.

Alderman Osborne responded well we have to clean our streets too. Anyway...

Mr. Tierney interjected we get the phone calls the next day.

Alderman Osborne stated I am not in favor of a pilot program in a small area like that. I will tell you that right now because my ward needs parking desperately and if we are going to do something I think we are going to do it as a whole or we shouldn't do it at all. That is the way I feel about it.

Alderman Garrity asked Lt. Valenti could you come forward please. How does the Police Department feel about this?

Lt. Valenti answered the Police Department is on board with Mr. Thomas' recommendations. I think the concern is that other people in the City may feel discriminated against in regards to parking if we only have a pilot program. I just want to voice that concern to the Committee. The other concern, which was already brought up is the fact that if we do make a determination at some point that it is not working how is it cancelled.

Alderman Garrity stated I certainly don't have a problem with the pilot program but I think there needs to be a stipulation in it that we explore other areas of the City next year if this works. What is the procedure if we find that it is not working mid-winter? Are we just going to contact Ms. Potvin?

Mr. Tierney responded that is the intent right now.

Alderman Garrity asked would it go in the newspaper and things like that.

Mr. Tierney answered that is correct.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you would have to change the ordinance again because this is going to require an ordinance change.

Alderman Garrity asked, Carol, is there...I probably already know what the answer is going to be but is there such a thing as a temporary ordinance or something that we can do.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered you could do it as a sunset legislation of sorts. I would not recommend that. I would suggest that you either do it or not do it and if, in fact, you find that you have problems then you can always pass something else that will meet that requirement.

Alderman Osborne stated I had no problem with the orange light situation and things like that. In fact, I brought it to Tom Lolicata last year. I thought of that myself – putting these lights in different intersections but that would be city side. It wouldn't just be for a certain section. The expense is quite large and that is why it didn't happen. I think it is a tough situation here. I would like to see more parking that is for sure. I am not against that. I just want to make my point clear here.

Alderman Forest stated I have a question for Carol. Is there anything that we can put in this ordinance to give us the leeway to cancel it if we have to so it is in writing?

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded you could place it as “unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen” and then the Board of Mayor and Aldermen would have the option of stating we are ordering that the odd/even not be exempted from that area. That would give you the provision. We could put that wording in so that you could do it immediate but we would still follow it up with an ordinance change to clarify everything.

Alderman Forest stated the reason I asked for that is that I know Alderman Pariseau did something with the speed bumps in the south end that were supposed to be temporary.

Chairman Sysyn stated because other people didn't know about what we were doing at the last Traffic Committee meeting there is a lady here from Ward 4 and I think she would like to speak to this.

Ms. Kathy Philbert, 717 Laurel Street, Manchester stated:

I am going to keep this very brief. I am going to make just one comment. I did attend the last committee meeting and I asked a question. Number one was if you call this a pilot program that applies to me does it have an opportunity to be done citywide. Fire, Police and Highway all said emphatically no. The lady that was there from the West Side asked does that mean that there is no opportunity for the West Side library that is so congested to have parking on both sides. The emphatic answer was no. It needs to be understood clearly that this is not in fact a pilot program to be used in other areas of the City to solve the parking problem. My neighbors have all rented spaces for generations at the garages. If this Committee agrees on this pilot program understand that it is not a true pilot program.

Chairman Sysyn stated I believe Steve Tierney just confirmed that when he said that this wouldn't be done in the rest of the City, which I don't think is fair.

Alderman Guinta stated I want to reiterate for everyone in the room that it is the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that will determine an ordinance change. I respect the input and we always ask for the input of Highway and Traffic and Police and Fire but those entities are not the entities that will set policy. The Aldermen will set policy. So if this pilot program does work and let's be fair about it until we implement a pilot we don't know if it will work. Let's assume that it works. I can guarantee you that we will be sitting down next year to look at ways to allow other people the same option for parking that downtown people have. I will make that promise because this has been an issue for downtown residents for a number of years. I live downtown. I have lived in two different places and it is a big problem. I have talked to a number of people who not only live downtown but who also live throughout the City who would like some parking reviewed. If this does work and there are options that we can insure for other parts of the City then it will happen and it is going to be the Aldermen who set that policy and we will certainly have input from Fire and Police and Traffic and Highway but the bottom line is we will be the ones to make that decision. I wasn't able to attend the last meeting. I have since talked to Frank Thomas who at this point is objecting to a citywide expansion because of the pilot program and the need for it but he is not necessarily saying I am opposed to it in the future. I have talked to him since that last meeting and I am sorry that I wasn't able to attend that last meeting because I think further clarification was necessary. I think people came out of that meeting with different expectations than were set at the beginning or the onset of this movement to try to create new parking opportunities. I can tell you that the people

downtown who are going to benefit from this are certainly going to monitor it and be part of the future process. I will be. This Committee will be and I can tell you that other Aldermen in this City if this does work will be fighting for the same thing for their residents. I appreciate your comments and I invite you to continue to meet with us to further expand on some of your concerns.

Alderman Osborne asked, Steve, what is the problem with calling more snow emergencies rather than waiting until you get 3" or whatever you put the plows out at. I know the streets are narrow and if this program works you are talking what 55' or 60' streets? How wide are the streets in the area you are talking about?

Mr. Tierney answered there is one that is 48' and the others range from 35' to 40' on Stark Street with the diagonal parking.

Alderman Osborne asked so if this pilot program did work it doesn't mean that the rest of the City is going to get it because the streets are still too small. How do you go about that? Just because this pilot program works doesn't mean the rest of the City is going to get it afterwards does it? Some of the streets you can't because it is too narrow.

Mr. Tierney answered there are a lot of streets that don't get plowed now because you have people parking on opposite sides of the street. They are not parking opposite each other but they are on opposite sides of the street and the plows can't get down. It is definitely going to be a problem.

Alderman Osborne stated that is why I mentioned calling more snow emergencies. I live in Ward 5 and that is really the center of the City. There are a lot of apartment buildings there and a lot of people have four, five or six cars. It is not one car anymore like it used to be or no car. The streets don't stretch and we don't have skyhooks either. We have to put the cars somewhere.

Mr. Tierney responded we call snow emergencies based on the forecast. Sometimes the forecasts don't pan out and we have to plow even though there is only an inch or two. Sometimes the storm goes out to sea. It is like a crapshoot.

Alderman Osborne replied it is that way now too isn't it.

Mr. Tierney responded exactly. We will be calling more snow emergencies if this goes into effect. The only thing is the people who aren't affected by it are going to think we are a bunch of idiots because we are calling a snow emergency so we can get the cars downtown off the streets.

Alderman Osborne stated then they will have to call the weathermen idiots too. It is a catch 22.

Alderman Forest stated I have one comment. I know when you call a snow emergency what happens is you also close down the parking lots. There are people who when you call a snow emergency they don't have a place to park to start with and then you close down the parking lots. Is there any way with this program...I don't know which parking lot would be available. I assume it would be the Canal Street lot.

Mr. Tierney responded the garages are available. I believe they have the Center of NH garage and the Canal Street garage. Tom has those exact locations.

Alderman Forest stated I know that Tom doesn't have them all. Parks & Recreation has one or two I believe. I think that is the problem. I don't find it as much in my ward because most of the places I have in my ward have parking lots but the downtown area and Ward 4 and 5 a lot of these people that you are asking to get off the street because of a snow emergency can't go in the parking lots either because they close those also. I realize that is a problem and we are going to have to come up with a solution for that also. Maybe not tonight.

Chairman Sysyn stated I also use the parking garages if it is going to snow heavy. I leave my car there overnight so I don't have to clean off snow in the morning. It is better than being towed and I have a driveway.

Alderman Osborne stated I have lived in Ward 5 all of my life. I watch these snowstorms and I know that right now we are having a hard time with the odd/even because 9/10 of the cars don't move from one side to the other and the plow has to go around them. It seems to make more of a mess than if you went the other way. To me I don't see an advantage to it at all except for emergency vehicles but like I said if we can have more snow emergencies they seem to get off the streets. When you have a snow emergency I don't see hardly any cars on the streets. It is just barren where the other way there are always cars on the other side or on the wrong side. We can keep the snow plowed to the curbs and clean it up and the next day it becomes parking on both sides again anyway. It is just a matter of time for you to do the plowing. I think calling more snow emergencies is the answer for these people and for Ward 3 and all of the wards. That is my way of thinking.

Mr. Tierney responded we will be calling more snow emergencies but even when there are snow emergencies called that is when we are towing vehicles and we still get 350 cars and we don't get into the outskirts.

Alderman Osborne asked how many cars do you have to tow right now with the odd/even parking.

Mr. Tierney answered we only tow when there are snow emergencies.

Alderman Osborne asked so when you have a snow emergency how many cars do you tow.

Mr. Tierney answered around 350.

Alderman Osborne stated I don't find them in my ward. Where are they?

Mr. Tierney answered you have them up in the Hackett Hill Road area and Colonial Village and Pine Street and Maple Street. All the one way streets are loaded with vehicles.

Alderman Osborne stated well in my ward I look for this. I am very conscientious with this stuff and I find it really clean. I am not saying there are no cars but it is minimal. I vote for more snow emergencies.

Alderman Guinta stated a good amount of time and effort has gone into this report by a number of people. First of all, we are talking about a proposal brought forward by the residents of Ward 3. This is what they have been asking for for years. This goes back to when I was living on West Merrimack Street. I had the same request and the Aldermen at the time tried to advance the issue and it was met with great opposition. We have an opportunity to address the concerns of constituents, of people who reside downtown. That is what we are trying to do on a pilot basis. There has been a lot of time put in from department heads to come up with a proposal that is reasonable. It has flexibility. It will call for more snow emergencies. It does have a provision that allows us to rescind this if it doesn't work. It essentially puts the onus on the residents to adhere to the new rules and these are rules that they are requesting. I would hope that this Committee would at least entertain and support the motion for this winter. That is all we are asking. I have a list here of close to 100 people who have signed a petition. This Committee asked the NEOP group to find people. Well they found people. They got over 100 people and this was only in two or three weeks time that they were able to find...you know after they are going to work at the end of the day. I happen to know that they were going out at the end of the day looking for people to try to support this. They have done their due diligence. I think at the very least we should respect the amount of work they put into this and support it for a short period of time. With that I would like to move the motion and I would also like it understood that there is a great possibility that if this works it could be expanded into other needed areas in the City if it is necessary.

Alderman Guinta moved to approve the recommendations presented by the Highway Department. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Osborne asked why can't we... Alderman Guinta just said that we are going to have more snow emergencies called so why can't we go citywide with this. If we are going to have more snow emergencies why are we picking on just one spot? Again in my ward I have a lot of constituents there. I have lived there for 63 years. We all have a problem. Every Alderman has a problem with parking. There is no doubt about it. I know if we just do a small section like this...nothing against the people in that area but it is never going to happen citywide because they are going to have other excuses like the streets are too narrow, etc. I think the best thing is to have the pilot program citywide. We can try it for one year and if it doesn't work and you have to call more snow emergencies...it used to be that way years ago. There is no doubt about it. This is the way I look at it.

Alderman Guinta stated I understand that concern. This was a difficult undertaking because considering who should be part of the pilot program was a difficult decision to make but ultimately because of the size of the streets downtown and proximity for Highway and it is also their recommendation that we start with this area and see how it goes. So, I will tell you that this is not necessarily going to stop with this area. If it fails it fails and then it will stop but if it is successful I can guarantee you Alderman Osborne that you will be using this example a year from now to be fighting for it in your ward. I will tell you I will support you on it because it makes sense. Also, constituents are the people who are asking for it.

Alderman Osborne asked why don't we do it citywide now. Why wait? If you are going to call more snow emergencies you are getting all the cars you can off the street. I am sure if you are calling snow emergencies the way you are talking about there are still going to be cars out there that don't adhere to it.

Chairman Sysyn stated keep in mind that if this goes through Highway and other departments better start looking at the rest of the City. It is not fair to do just one area.

Alderman Guinta stated I think that the City does understand and does expect to look at other areas. I am sorry that it was reported tonight that the City is opposed to it because I don't feel that is the case. I have talked to Frank Thomas specifically about it. I don't know if he is telling me something different than he is telling you but if this works this Committee will be looking to expand and that responsibility rests with this Committee. We are the policymaking Committee and

the full Board is the policymaking Board. With all due respect to some of the comments that were made it is the 14 people here that will make that decision, not a department head or an assistant department head. It is going to be this Committee and this Board.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Osborne being duly recorded in opposition.

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

STOP SIGN

On Old Hackett Hill Rd. at last community apartment driveway, nwc
(Emergency Act)

Alderman Forest

On Goffe St. at W. Hancock St., nwc, swc

Alderman Smith

On Highland Park Ave. at Oakland Ave., sec, nwc

Aldermen Osborne, Shea

RESCIND YIELD SIGN

On Goffe St. at W. Hancock St., nwc (#146)

NO PARKING

On Karatzas Ave., east and west side, from LaGrange Ave. to Old
Wellington Rd.

Alderman Pinard

On Harrison St., north side, from Elm East Back St. to Elm St.

Alderman Gatsas

On Sinclair Ave., both sides, from Candia Rd. to the dead end (Emergency
Act)

Alderman Pinard

On Norris St., west side, from Somerville St. to a point 70 feet northerly

Alderman Shea

On Winter St., south side, from Granite St. to a point 60 feet easterly

Alderman Smith

On Lincoln St., west side, from Lake Ave. to Lake Ave. Southback St.

Alderman Osborne

On Union St., west side, from Concord St. to a point 70 feet south

Alderman Guinta

On Union St., west side, from a point 130 feet south of Concord St. to
Amherst St.

Alderman Guinta

On Blodget St., north side, from Oak St. to Maple St.
Alderman Gatsas

RESCIND NO PARKING

On Norris St., both sides, from Somerville St. to a point 70 feet north
(#8365)
Alderman Shea

RESCIND NO PARKING 1 HOUR

On Union St., west side, from Concord St. to a point 50 feet north of
Hanover St. (#6238)
Alderman Guinta
On Kelley St., south side, from Montgomery St. to Dubuque St. (#7151)
Alderman Thibault

PARKING 1 HOUR (SEVEN DAYS)

On Union St., west side, from Amherst St. to a point 50 feet north of
Hanover St.
Alderman Guinta

PARKING 1 HOUR

On Union St., west side, from a point 70 feet south of Concord St. to a
point 60 feet southerly
Alderman Guinta
On Kelley St., south side, from Montgomery East Back St. to Dubuque St.
Alderman Thibault

CROSSWALK

On Russell St., south side, at Carnegie St.
Alderman Gatsas
On Union St., north side, at Whitford St.
Alderman Wihby

NO PARKING BUS STOP DURING SCHOOL HOURS

On North St., north side, from Russell St. to Oak St.
Alderman Gatsas

Ladies and Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted
to approve the traffic agenda.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Discussion regarding changes to East High Street and Lowell Street in the vicinity of McDonough School during school hours.

Mr. Tom Lolicata stated I don't if you remember about a year ago you allowed East High Street to be closed and Lowell Street during the school year up at McDonough School. What they are asking for this year is that in the morning when kids are dropped off and in the afternoon when they get picked up that the street be a one-way for about 15 minutes. The school will take care of putting the hoses out so that it will be safer. In other words, East High will go one way and Lowell will come up and go the other way. This way only the kids will be picked up. They don't need it closed all year like they did last year. It is a matter of 15 or 20 minutes in the morning and the same in the afternoon. They will put out the portables and the "Do Not Enter" signs.

Chairman Sysyn asked so that is only when the kids are coming in and going out.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes drop off and pick up only.

Chairman Sysyn asked and Lowell Street will be heading...

Mr. Lolicata interjected Lowell will be heading westerly and East High will be heading easterly. McDonough School probably has the highest amount of pedestrians. I think this is well worth it.

Chairman Sysyn asked will they have a crew out there monitoring this.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes. They will take care of the whole thing.

Chairman Sysyn asked have they checked with the neighbors.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is the same as last year. I think the only other neighbor is the one up on the corner.

Chairman Sysyn responded that is the Goley's. They were all right with closing it off for a playground but I don't know...

Mr. Lolicata replied they were all set with the whole road being closed for the day so I don't think that 15 or 20 minutes in the morning and afternoon is going to matter.

Chairman Sysyn asked what about the other side of East High Street.

Mr. Lolicata answered the same thing.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked can I just clarify. East High Street would be a one-way going east and Lowell Street is a one-way going west for a 15 minute duration at opening and closing of the school.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked so you are not closing the street off. You are making them a one-way.

Mr. Lolicata answered that is correct. It will be blocked off at the other end.

Chairman Sysyn asked do I need a motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered yes.

Alderman Garrity moved to make East High Street a one-way going easterly and Lowell Street a one-way going westerly at the opening and closing of McDonough School.

Chairman Sysyn asked do you have certain times.

Mr. Lolicata answered I would imagine they will have it out before...what time do they start 7:30 AM or 7:45 AM.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we will set it up for the opening and closing of the school.

Alderman DeVries stated I just want to address because when the road has been closed off previously for the playground it is happening to the west of the driveway that is being impacted so they are not being disrupted from gaining entry or egress into the neighborhood no matter which way they come. What we are doing here today is without a doubt going to impact them so I would hope that this Committee would have explained their action before it becomes formal. That somebody from Traffic or Police would have a conversation with them to make sure that they are aware of the impact and how it might...I understand it is only for 10 minutes of the day but you are also...if that is when they are going to work or coming home it is more of an inconvenience. It is just one home but I would hope...the prior action did not impact them because it started to the west of their driveway so they could go in either direction.

Mr. Lolicata responded I believe they can do the same thing again.

Alderman DeVries asked it is going to be one-way so if they were coming in during school hours in the afternoon would they have to circumvent the neighborhood in order to get to the road to come up.

Mr. Lolicata answered the only one affected would be the one on Lowell Street.

Alderman DeVries responded that is the one I am referencing. I am hoping that someone will approach them and clarify the intent.

Chairman Sysyn stated I think if the principal goes over and talks to her that will be fine.

Alderman DeVries stated if you treat it the same way you did the playground then you have avoided that issue.

Alderman Garrity stated I don't see what the big deal is. It is for the safety of the school children.

Alderman Forest stated the only question I have is who made the request for this.

Mr. Lolicata answered the school principal.

Alderman Forest stated and it is for the safety of the children in that area and it is only going to be for 15 or 20 minutes twice a day instead of all day long every day. I think we should leave the decision of talking to these people to the principal.

Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion to make East High Street a one-way going easterly and Lowell Street a one-way going westerly at the opening and closing of McDonough School.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Guinta stated I have two quick issues. I have a request for two different areas in Ward 3. The neighborhood in which I live between Hollis and Kidder Streets. Those residents have requested and I know that I talked to you, Tom, and I am not necessarily asking you the question but they would like to expand the area in which they can have residential permit parking down to Bedford Street in that lot, which is dramatically under utilized. My question is how do I do that? I

also received a request from the residents at 55 River Road who would like to do the same thing. They would like to create some permit parking.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated as I understand it you are looking to expand a district but if you are talking about the Bedford lot I am not sure if the Bedford lot is something that is already rented out so I will defer to Tom.

Mr. Lolicata stated there is permit parking in the Bedford lot.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded permit parking that is already being issued for the Bedford lot. Are they talking about Bedford Street?

Alderman Guinta stated they would like to utilize Bedford Street for permit parking. I don't ever really see any cars there. I might see two or three.

Mr. Lolicata responded up in that area usually you are right. In that area north of Spring Street. If I remember correctly there are meters there.

Alderman Guinta stated there are.

Mr. Lolicata asked so they are looking for an expansion of one block for residential parking.

Alderman Guinta answered that is right.

Mr. Lolicata stated I think that can be done on a temporary basis until such time as it fills up. That is the only answer I can give you right now.

Alderman Guinta stated the primary concern is with the Brady-Sullivan building being close to full and the Mass School of Pharmacy has moved in on Elm Street, the parking during the day and evening depending on shifts is being utilized by employees and when people come home from work...everyone gets one personal spot in front of their home and usually there is enough space on Hollis or Kidder for everyone to park but now it is becoming exceedingly difficult to find.

Mr. Lolicata responded after 5 PM in the Millyard they can go in the parking lot and park. Nobody is stopping them.

Alderman Guinta asked after 5 PM.

Mr. Lolicata answered that is correct.

Alderman Guinta stated but I thought the meters go until 8 PM.

Mr. Lolicata responded the meters go until 8 PM but the parking lots that don't have meters, they can park there after 5 PM.

Alderman Guinta stated the issue though is if they come home from work...if someone leaves their car there until 11 AM the next day...I mean there are various types of people who live there. There are professionals. There are retired people. There is an array of people. Not everybody gets up at 6 AM or 7 AM to go to work. Really what I would be looking for is to at least extend it to...and I will make that suggestion but I would assume that they have to get out of there by 8 AM?

Mr. Lolicata responded Monday through Friday they are protected from 8 PM until 8 AM. The parking lots are protected from 5 PM until 8 AM. That is where the permits are like in the Bedford lot.

Alderman Guinta asked if we extended it to at least Bedford Street they would be able to use that.

Mr. Lolicata answered they would be protected.

Alderman Guinta asked how do we do that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered the best way to do it would be to have Tom go and identify the areas because it is an ordinance change and he would have to give us the specifics on...that is the problem we are running into with the area in Ward 5 that was already approved by the Board. We still can't submit the ordinance change because we don't have the verbiage from Tom's office so we really need to get that first. At the next Traffic Committee meeting he could come back with that information and we could go from there.

Alderman Guinta stated the other area at 55 River Road, which I believe is a...I think that is the building with the red roof on it that overlooks the Merrimack. They have parking underneath, there is like a private parking deck underneath the building but they only have one spot per unit. Most of the people have two cars. I don't know what they do now but I started receiving phone calls asking if there was some way we could identify permit parking for them. I don't know where we could do that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I would suggest that Alderman Guinta give the information to Tom and he could follow-up with those people.

Alderman Guinta stated I have one more item.

Alderman Forest stated I have an item that kind of goes along with these. I am probably going to get shot down on this one but when I called you today Tom about that school zone several of the neighbors there approached me about residential parking because of the school. During the day people come home and they only have room for one car in their driveway. They can't park along Youville Street because of the school. Is there any way as a Committee here that we could issue some resident parking permits for these people so they don't get tickets for the one hour zone that is in front of their house?

Mr. Lolicata responded that is what I was trying to allude to. The other parking permits that you are referring to I have nothing to do with. It is Ordinance Violations. That is the area you should be looking at right now.

Alderman Forest asked but who would I...I know I am leaning away from what Alderman Guinta wanted but who would I see in order to implement it for two and a half blocks of residents in front of the school.

Mr. Lolicata stated you can see Carol about setting up an ordinance for that area because you have three or four of them by ordinance. That is handled by Ordinance Violations.

Alderman Guinta stated I wanted to try to see if we could pass something tonight. Myself and Alderman Osborne received a request from Ward 3. On the corner of Auburn and Union...are you familiar with that area or would you need to go and take a look? They would like two-hour parking on the southwest corner.

Alderman Osborne stated where the beauty salon is.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded it needs to be reviewed because we need to tie it into the ordinance tables. Tom needs to come up with the numbers to redo it.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee