

AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

April 12, 2005
Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta,
Smith, Forest, O'Neil

5:30 PM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)

1. Chairman Sysyn calls the meeting to order.
2. The Clerk calls the roll.
3. Communication from Linda Cavanaugh, President of LMC Automotive Transportation, Inc., requesting a change in towing charges.
(*Note: referred by the Committee on Administration/Information Systems on March 22, 2005.*)
Ladies and Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?
4. Chairman Sysyn advises that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

STOP SIGNS:

On Oakland Avenue at Cushing Avenue
Alderman Osborne

NO PARKING:

On Clarke Street, north and south sides, from Walnut Street to the dead end
Alderman Roy

On Beech Street, west side, from Myrtle Street to a point 100 feet north
Alderman Gatsas

TRAFFIC SIGNALS (EMERGENCY ACT):

Commercial Street and Granite Street - -
install exclusive pedestrian phase
install audible pedestrian signals
Alderman Guinta

Ladies and Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

TABLED ITEMS

A motion is in order to remove any of the following items from the table for discussion.

5. Communication from Alderman O'Neil relative to installation of traffic signs in residential neighborhoods.
(Note: referred to Planning, Police and Traffic Departments on 02/08/2005 for further review and possibility of implementation of a city-wide policy and tabled 03/14/2005.)

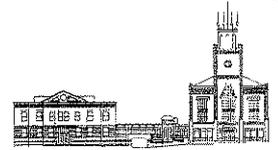
6. Discussion relative to Enhanced State 911 System.
(Originally tabled 02/08/2005 and retabled 03/14/2005 pending further information from the Fire Department.)

7. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Office of the City Clerk



3

Leo R. Bernier
City Clerk

Carol A. Johnson
Deputy City Clerk

Paula L-Kang
Deputy Clerk
Administrative Services

Matthew Normand
Deputy Clerk
Licensing & Facilities

Patricia Piecuch
Deputy Clerk
Financial Administration

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Committee on Traffic/Public Safety

From: Lisa Thibault, City Clerk's Office *Liwa*

Date: March 23, 2005

Subject: Towing

Please be advised that at a meeting of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems, held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, it was voted to refer the attached correspondence to the Traffic Committee and the Traffic Division of the Police Department for review and recommendation back to the Committee on Administration.

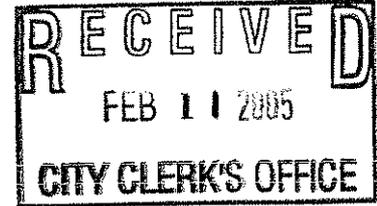
Attachment

pc: Lt. Valenti, Traffic

3
LMC Automotive Transportation, Inc.
1030 Candia Road
Manchester, NH 03109

January 27, 2005

Office of City Clerk
Business Licensing & Enforcement Division
One City Hall Plaza
Manchester, NH 03101



Attention: Mathew Normand, Deputy Clerk
Reference: Section 70.40 Towing revision, change of ordinance

Dear Mathew:

Thank you for my Fax of January 20th, 2005. I am sorry I was unable to respond sooner, however, the past two storms took up a considerable amount of my time. With that having been said it just wanted you to know that I have done some research on tow rates throughout the Manchester, N.H. area. I hope this will provide you with an average tow cost and other cost factors that go hand in hand with the towing industry.

First, I would like to touch upon several issues. As I am sure you are aware, unfortunately, there are no state regulations that hold towing companies accountable for their rates or actions. Having been in the towing industry for more than thirty years, I am familiar with the actions of both the customer and facilities providing towing services. I understand that towing an abandoned/illegally parked vehicle is not the same as a police tow or a customer requested tow. What I do understand is the cost of operations and the liability affiliated with services provided. I think the first and most important part of this process is to establish a fair and reasonable rate that is acceptable for both parties. Once we have established that, we need to clarify operational procedures. In your fax you mentioned the release of personal belongs. This is certainly an issue that needs to be addressed. Once personal belongings have been released the towing facility can be almost certain that the individual will never return to make good for services rendered. The towing facility is then faced with an abandoned motor vehicle. In order for the towing facility to legally dispose of said vehicle, the company must send forms DSMV505 and TDMV71 to the State of New Hampshire Motor Vehicle Department. Upon receipt of owner information, the company must notify the last legal owner, in writing, that the tow facility is in possession of their vehicle. If said vehicle is valued at more than \$100.00 the vehicle must be stored for thirty days, then put up for public auction before disposal. Should the owner not redeem this vehicle, the facility then is faced with disposing of said vehicle

I do believe items such as medications, eyeglasses, house keys and car seats are acceptable items that should be released regardless of the circumstances. The individual redeeming these items would have to sign for their removal and provide the facility with a photo identification (license) prior to release. The reason for this is the towing facility is faced with liability as to who legally owns these items. Because an article is located in a vehicle does not necessarily mean the items belong to the individual that owns the vehicle. The State of NH Motor Vehicle Department has not yet been able to clarify the legality on personal belongings. Gate fees are another concern. I do not consider it unreasonable to charge a gate fee if a person wants to pick up a vehicle after hours. This fee should be fair and reasonable. Personally, I advise the individual to pick their vehicle up during regular working hours to save them the additional cost. The majority of people are reasonable and receptive to this. I have spoken with numerous colleagues regarding a rate increase and we all agree that it is time to address the matter. I realize that some companies are over charging will probably continue to do so. Those of us, who consider ourselves professionals, will continue to work at keeping our industry professional. With that being said I would like to propose a rate of \$110.00 for illegally parked/abandoned vehicles.

Without naming the individual towing companies contacted; these are the quotes I received over the phone. Certainly, the same quotes are available to the public.

Goffstown Facilities:

Facility #1:	Towing:	\$95.00	Storage: \$40.00	Gate fee: \$30.00
Facility #2:	Towing:	\$85.00 & mileage	Storage: \$40.00	Gate fee: None
	Accident:	\$125.00	will not tow illegally/abandoned vehicles.	

Bedford Facility:

Facility #1:	Towing:	\$85.00	Storage: \$35.00	Gate fee: \$35.00
	Accident:	\$95.00	will not tow illegally/abandoned vehicles.	

Manchester:	Towing:	\$40.00 to \$95.00	Storage: \$30.00 to \$40.00	Gate fee: \$25.00 to \$35.00
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Cost factors:

It would be difficult to do a breakdown on cost of an individual tow. However, operational expenses consist of the following: (keeping in mind that each company has different equipment and operational expenses.) This would almost be impossible to quote.

Equipment:

Average piece of equipment, whether carrier or wrecker, starts at a minimum of \$65,000.00. If we are looking at a good piece of equipment. (this does not include lock out tools or equipment needed for towing operation)

Insurance coverage for equipment: Based on your insurance history and drivers records

Work Mans Comp. Insurance: Based on past history

Place of Operation, phones, and equipment: Varies according to location, size of facility and type of operation.

Employees: Based on qualification of driver and driving record as to pay scale.

Registrations: Based on piece of equipment and value of that equipment.

I have attempted to answer your questions to the best of my ability. Keeping in mind, no two business are run the same, it is almost impossible give cost factors.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me upon receipt of this fax. Also, would you like to have other towing facilities present at the meeting?

Respectfully,

Linda M. Cavanaugh
President

Cc: File

5



CITY OF MANCHESTER Board of Aldermen

2/18/05 - traffic, police
Planning to create policy
for sign placement in
the city.

3/14/05 - Tabled

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Traffic/Public Safety

From: Alderman O'Neil *Ray*

Date: February 2, 2005

Re: Installation of Traffic Signs in Residential Neighborhoods

It has been brought to my attention that traffic signs are being installed in residential neighborhoods for non-safety related issues

I respectfully request discussion of a policy being put into effect regarding this matter.

Alderman O'Neil stated my suggestion would be whatever we can do to keep moving it would be better.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 8 of the agenda:

8. Communication from Alderman O'Neil relative to installation of traffic signs in residential neighborhoods.

Alderman O'Neil stated I became aware recently of an installation in a residential section of the City of "No Parking" signs in front of a house. There are three signs up...I really didn't pay a lot of attention to it, but a neighbor of this house did and he said to me and it was a comment that really stuck with me...if I wanted to live in a neighborhood with all kinds of signs I'd live downtown...and he said take a look around and I did and there were no other traffic signs around and I tell you they stick out like an eyesore, to be honest with you. I think we need to have a policy that this Board has to adopt...I was talking to Bob MacKenzie about this...we used to be called the Tree City, I think, Bob. We're now the "Sign" City. Every place you drive we have traffic signs...to be honest...

Chairman Sysyn stated you ought to come down Lowell Street near my house.

Alderman O'Neil stated to be honest with you it's ridiculous and I know as a ward Alderman that we all...I was a ward Alderman, we all try to respond to our constituents needs and to be honest with you we probably don't think as thoroughly about some of these situations as we should and it's not a major expense to the City, but I think and would move that we ask the Traffic Director to work with the Planning Director, maybe Police want to be involved but unless there's a safety issue, I think we really have to question putting up some of these traffic signs. I've noticed in my neighborhood now we now have signs that people say "No Parking/Driveway". Well, you can't park in front of a driveway...Sgt. Fournier am I correct, I don't know if that's City ordinance or State law to park in front of a driveway, is that ordinance or State law.

Clerk Normand replied State law.

Alderman O'Neil asked why do we have to put up signs...

Chairman Sysyn interjected because people don't observe.

Alderman O'Neil stated well, if they don't observe then they should call the Police Department and they should be tagged or put up signs to don't park in front of a fire hydrant, State law says you can't park...I don't know what is it 15 feet from the side of a fire hydrant.

Mr. Lolicata asked can I respond to that?

Alderman O'Neil stated give me my 30 seconds of fame here...I'm just saying that it's getting out-of-control the amount of signs we're putting up.

Chairman Sysyn stated there was one you called me on in my ward, I believe.

Alderman O'Neil stated there's a whole other issue about whether Aldermen are actually requesting some of these things, that's a whole other issue.

Chairman Sysyn stated I called Tom on that and he was supposed to rescind it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I thought we passed a motion that the department was not going to take any action on signage, bring it forward. I'll be honest with you. We go through the Consent Agenda, I trust that everything has been cleared with the Alderman when I see an Alderman's name there. I now have some doubts that that in fact has happened. But, I generally think we need to take a look at...we're ruining some of these great neighborhoods in Manchester with signs for no reason. There was no reason that there's "No Parking" in front of this house. It's not a safety concern, we sometimes try to clear an intersection although you can't park under State law within so many feet of a Stop Sign...I don't know why we have to put up all of the signs up all over the place but there has to be some merit behind a sign going up in the City. Certainly for safety issues you won't hear an argument from me but I hate that we're becoming the City of signs.

Chairman Sysyn stated you would like this referred to...

Alderman O'Neil replied I would like it referred to Traffic, Police and Planning to come up with some kind of policy and I would hope the entire Board would give some support to that. I don't know how other Aldermen feel, I've spoken to you about it, Madame Chair, and you agree in some ways that we're starting to ruin some of our great neighborhoods in this City with signs.

Chairman Sysyn stated we had a problem on Beacon Street, I had to have the Building Department, the Police Department...

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Mr. Lolicata stated they don't go up unless they're recalled or asked for and I agree with you that this is State law...people still don't obey it and the instance I am going to bring up now is every person tells me...a cop told me to put a sign up or they won't get a ticket, that's the first response I get.

Alderman O'Neil stated well that's an issue for Sgt. Fournier to address.

Mr. Lolicata stated if I had my way I'd take them all out also. I agree with you. Can I ask you in reference to where these signs are that you are specifically talking about.

Alderman O'Neil stated that really triggered this whole thing for me. They're at Beacon Street by Manchester.

Chairman Sysyn stated it's the one at 435...

Mr. Lolicata stated that is the one I called you on when that girl requested those in the front of her house...she's on the top of a hill, Manchester Street dead ends right in front of her house...

Chairman Sysyn interjected the whole neighborhood is up in arms now.

Mr. Lolicata stated she's on top of the hill and she couldn't see coming out of there when people are parked there, she almost got clipped, she's pregnant, she can't even move...

Alderman O'Neil stated I can get clipped coming out of my own driveway...you have to look.

Mr. Lolicata stated I understand that but you have got to see the situation that she was in and...

Alderman Shea stated I know the neighborhood very, very well I grew up there. I don't think there's no safety issue there. We all have to be cautious coming out of our driveways.

Chairman Sysyn stated that was the one I had called you on and you said you would rescind it.

Mr. Lolicata stated I'm going up there and it will be rescinded...that's on your next agenda anyway, so that will be done.

Alderman Forest stated let me plead guilty to a couple of those signs because I know I've asked Tom about it because some people have asked me, in my ward, mainly near a school and one is near a business and the reason I did it is because people were coming to work, people coming parking the schools were blocking their driveways, they weren't in their driveway but Sgt. Fournier may correct me if I'm wrong but I know that some of the ordinances have different measurements like I recall parking in front of a stop sign depending on where you looked was either 6 feet, 15 feet or 20 feet and I don't know if that has changed and I believe the same thing with a driveway...you're not supposed to park within 6 feet of a driveway but that may be 10 or 15 feet too and that's the main reason why I had some of these signs put up because people can't get out of their driveway and I'm sure that Central High the cars are parked right up to these people's driveways. So, that's why I plead guilty to doing some of these. I sort of agree with Alderman O'Neil that we're doing a lot, I saw one at a house...a "Loading Zone" the other day, I don't know how that got there.

Chairman Sysyn stated I have one that we're talking about putting a "Loading Zone" because there's a girl in a wheelchair and the bus can't drive up to her house to pick her up because everybody's parked there, so you need...

Alderman O'Neil interjected that's a different situation. Some of these things we need to address if, in my opinion if they are issues we need to let the Police Department know of these issues. I know Sgt. Fournier was a patrol supervisor, I know that the patrol supervisors get on the route guys about making sure they address these issues...I came across Belmont Street last week and I think that at every intersection...I'm exaggerating a little bit between Webster and Bridge but there's a stop sign and I don't believe there were high accidents at those corners. I know Tom over the years has taken strong opposition to the number of stop signs we've installed. It was to appease maybe some speed issues. Well, you don't use stop signs to handle a speed issue. You get a police officer up there, they write some tickets and you don't have any problems. I just think that we need to address signs in general and refer it to the three departments to look at...I don't know if Highway wants in on this...I think Police, Traffic and Planning are satisfactory.

Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Forest stated I would just like to add something to it if possible maybe we can add the fact...I don't know if they're still there, it's been a while since I've seen some of the City ordinances and the State laws but maybe with Sgt. Fournier and Tom and all maybe you can look at the difference in the 6 to 15 to 20 to make

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sure that all of the ordinances that we have have the same distance...I know I've had trouble with it sometimes whether I tagged a car or didn't tag a car because the ordinance had three different measurements on it.

Mr. Lolicata stated I can do whatever you want just by the book. I have it memorized, they're done correctly.

Alderman Forest stated I used to, I don't anymore.

Mr. Lolicata stated I have to go by the book it's the law.

Alderman Forest stated but a police officer...if there's three different measurements there it's kind of difficult when you get to court to tell the judge that I tagged a vehicle because it was 6 feet from the stop sign when the City ordinance said 20 and then there was another ordinance that said it was 15...you have to come up with some consensus as to what it is and what it should be.

Mr. Lolicata stated State law...30 feet.

Alderman Forest stated okay now you're saying 30.

Mr. Lolicata stated it's always been 30.

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

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 9 of the agenda:

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

NO PARKING:

On Summer Street, north and south sides, from Elm Street to Willow Street

On Green Street, north and south sides, from Elm Street to Willow Street

On Grove Street, north and south sides, from Elm Street to Willow Street

On W. Auburn Street, south side, from Driveway of Rockwell Automation

Company to a point 75 feet west

(Removal of Meters #119CC and #120CC)

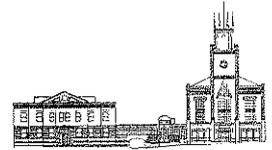
Alderman Guinta

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CITY OF MANCHESTER

Office of the City Clerk



Leo R. Bernier
City Clerk

Carol A. Johnson
Deputy City Clerk

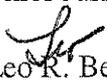
Paula L-Kang
Deputy Clerk
Administrative Services

Matthew Normand
Deputy Clerk
Licensing & Facilities

Patricia Piecuch
Deputy Clerk
Financial Administration

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Jaskolka, Tom Lolicata & Bob MacKenzie

From: 
Leo R. Bernier
City Clerk

Date: February 14, 2005

Re: Traffic Signs in Residential Neighborhoods

At a meeting of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety held on February 8, 2005, a discussion was held relative to the above-referenced at which time it was voted to refer the matter to you for review and possibility of implementation of a city-wide policy.

Upon completion of such review, please forward your findings to the Committee in care of the City Clerk's Office.

5

LeBlond-Kang, Paula

From: Mayor
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2005 2:32 PM
To: LeBlond-Kang, Paula
Subject: FW: (no subject)

Paula-

The following email was sent to the mayor's general email address. It is addressed to the Aldermen as well, so I thought you might need a copy.

It is unsigned but I recognize the email address (he sends them to us often) and it is from Bob Iller (boy, his last name looks strange when you type it out - it is spelled "capital i ller"), who resides at 816 Elm St.

Not sure if this needs to be seen by the Traffic Committee or not.

Thanks!

Tina

Tina Kelly
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Mayor
One City Hall Plaza
Manchester, NH 03101
603-624-6500
603-624-6576 fax
www.ManchesterNH.gov

From: Dadlovesoccer@aol.com [mailto:Dadlovesoccer@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 5:11 PM
To: highway@ci.manchester.nh.us.; Mayor; writeus@theunionleader.com
Subject: (no subject)

Mayor Baines of Manchester and the alderman

this partition is to get the signs that alderman Ed Osborne and the Traffic commissioner had moved from the fence to the curb ,to be move back so that the snow can be removed from the side walk so that the handicap peoples can be pick up bye the handicap vans.

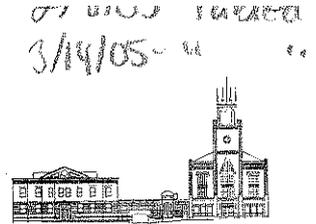
with the signs near the fence the snow can be completely removed in front of 372 beech St Manchester N. H.

6



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Office of the City Clerk



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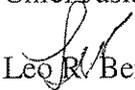
Paula L-Kang
Deputy Clerk
Administrative Services

Matthew Normand
Deputy Clerk
Licensing & Facilities

Patricia Piecuch
Deputy Clerk
Financial Administration

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Kane
Chief Jaskolka

From: 
Leo R. Bernier
City Clerk

Date: January 28, 2005

Re: Enhanced State 911 System

Please be advised that in action taken by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a meeting held on January 25, 2005, it was voted to request you to look into procedures being followed regarding the above-referenced and report back to the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety in care of this office.

Enclosed is a copy of excerpts of minutes regarding this matter.

Enclosure

maybe come back with an alternative. They did what we asked and now we did what we said we wouldn't.

Alderman O'Neil asked have all of the Board members informed the Clerk if they may or may not be away the month of March, I know it's going to be high vacation especially for our retired members.

Mayor Baines stated if there are things going on please notify the Clerk by the next meeting.

18. NEW BUSINESS

DRAFT

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if the clerk has passed out this communication to the members but I'll make this quick...I'll read it because it's short..."safety services being dispatched to emergency situations via the enhanced 911 system that currently exists in the state. Recently, I was approached by a gentleman who informed me of a situation involving a medical emergency in Manchester and I personally experienced delays last year in a response to a serious accident on I-93. I'm asking the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to request that Fire Chief Joe Kane and Police Chief John Jaskolka look into procedures being followed and report back at a later date." It might be appropriate that they report back to the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety and I'll move on that motion.

Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.