

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC

September 26, 2006

6:00 PM

Chairman Osborne called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Osborne, O'Neil, Shea, Roy, Long

Messrs.: P. Borek, B. Gamache, D. Walsh, C. Binnette, T. Arnold,
Deputy Chief Simmons, J. Hamel, W. Stewart, L. Feliciano,
J. Hoben

Tape started:

Request for parking permits in the Middle Street Parking Lot as follows:

- a) Bernard Gamache (18 spaces); and
- b) Rachel Elfata of Pink Sapphire (1 space)

Chairman Osborne stated I am just trying to get a clear picture of the whole thing. I would hate to let 18 spaces go and they are gone and then the rest of them are saying well we put in such and such and they had a moratorium and somebody else comes in behind us and gets them. Just to be fair like Alderman O'Neil was talking about.

Alderman Long asked Paul did I hear you say that we could satisfy both the list and this request of 18 or is it 17.

Mr. Borek answered I believe there are 16, 17 or 18 spaces available that haven't been leased from those that are listed as leasable spaces. I would have to check to get the exact number.

Alderman Long stated I understand that we did hire a Parking Manager and it is going to be their responsibility, however, in the interim I think that Mr. Gamache was very fair in extending whatever criteria we want to put on... whatever condition we want to put on giving them these spaces. I, too, want to be fair but I

would suspect that he is at the top of the list. It would be nice to know what the list is. That is what I am waiting for.

Alderman Shea stated I, too, recall someone coming in here asking for spaces and we said that we weren't granting them spaces. I can't think of who they were at the time and I think they wanted five spaces. My judgement leads me to believe that if Mr. Gamache is able to get the necessary spaces and we are not excluding prior people who are on the list then certainly we should grant them to him. I believe in all of our dealings with people in the City we have tried to be as fair as we can be and certainly we don't want to undo that but if there are 68 spaces and there are available spaces for him to have either...I have 18 but whether it is 17 that he wants then that is fine if, in fact, we also allow the other people who have been on the list to get whatever their particular needs are. That means if there are less than 17 we would grant him whatever we can in that regard. That is my thinking Mr. Chairman.

Alderman O'Neil stated I was one of the people that pushed for the moratorium a year or so ago or maybe longer. We implemented the moratorium based on two things – the need to get a parking study implemented...it is done and we have the report and out of that parking study one of the first recommendations was to hire a Parking Manager and my understanding is that person will be on board in two or three weeks. Mr. Borek is that correct?

Mr. Borek answered October 16.

Alderman O'Neil moved to lift the moratorium. I do agree we need to be fair on this. My recollection is that the other requests that have come in have been limited – two or three or something like that and if it means we have to take to meet all of this a few of the metered spaces I am fine with that. Something that I became aware of in walking in with Mr. Gamache if he can't address parking he is going to lose the opportunity to lease out X number of square feet there and he has actually lost deals before over this parking issue. I move to lift the moratorium and grant...there seems to be...is there 17 or 18 spaces? 18 spaces for Mr. Gamache and also for Ms. Elfata of Pink Sapphire 1 space and that we include those other ones, which I believe is a limited number and that we ask the Parking Manager as soon as he or she is on board that that be one of their first assignments that they start looking at where we are with some of these lots.

Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked could I just clarify on these permits are they 24 hours a day permits.

Chairman Osborne asked is it a year or 24 hours...I don't know. What is the request?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded the only reason I ask is because that lot is used for public hearings. If the signage is up people can't park there. That is the bottom line.

Chairman Osborne asked again how many spaces do we have left. He is talking 18 and we are talking another one for Pink Sapphire. How many do we have left?

Mr. Borek answered I don't have that exact number but I can get that. I believe it is just under 20.

Chairman Osborne asked Alderman O'Neil how can we talk about the others that did request spaces there if there are only 18 or 19 and we are going to be taking them all.

Alderman O'Neil answered my recommendation would be there are still some metered spaces and if we only need to address 2, 3, 4 or 5 we take some of those metered spaces.

Mr. Gamache stated I would like to clarify that last request. Day parking would be fine. I wouldn't need the spaces 24 hours.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked so until like 6 PM.

Mr. Gamache answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated just a clarification...my understanding and Mayor Baines just came up and mentioned it was his understanding from his time here that these are one-year agreements, which I would think would be important to Mr. Gamache or anybody else. They have to have some length of time with them.

Chairman Osborne asked Mr. Gamache could you come up to the microphone again. Just a simple question in being a landlord myself over the years. So you have tenants who are requesting, because of the parking situation, it kind of scared them off is that what you are saying?

Mr. Gamache answered yes. Over at 20 Market Street we have 21 spaces on the side parking lot. The building is a 35,000 square foot building so with that alone you know there are not enough spaces for that. We had a tenant, a law firm, that wanted to move there. They were willing to pay the \$90 that the garages now charge but they couldn't afford to pay the full \$90 times all of the employees that

they had. So when they took that cost and added it to the rental cost then it made it too expensive to do the deal.

Chairman Osborne responded but them knowing the situation here, it is only a year or whatever they decide on, would this mean that much more to them seeing that it might only last that period of time.

Mr. Gamache replied in the lease agreement we would definitely not guarantee parking. It is a tool to try to lease the space.

Alderman Roy stated just a question so that I fully understand Alderman O'Neil's motion. It would be that we add the 18 spots for Mr. Gamache and the young lady from Pink Sapphire to the list, fill from the beginning of the list as much as we can even taking some metered spots to round out and complete the permitted parking correct.

Alderman O'Neil responded yes.

Alderman Roy asked and the permit would just match any other permit that we have issued for that lot as has already been said. Okay, just so I am clear on what that is.

Alderman O'Neil asked this will get reported to the full Board correct next week.

Chairman Osborne answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated so we have five days or five business days to clean up any of these things or get clarification on some of this. Hopefully that does happen between now and the full Board meeting next Tuesday night if we missed something or misinterpreted something.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated we also will need from the Traffic Department whatever meter numbers we are deleting because that will have to go on the report as well. We will put report if available since we won't have all of the information to print.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote on the motion to lift the moratorium on permit parking in the Middle Street Lot, grant 18 spaces to Mr. Bernard Gamache, grant 1 space to Ms. Rachel Elfata of Pink Sapphire and grant the previous requests that are on the list. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Roy stated can I ask Mr. Gamache one last question. Just looking back, our May 15 agenda from 2006 you requested 15 parking spaces. Would that...if

we do the list of 15 and now your 18 would the first 15 be nullified? Would you be looking for 18 total?

Mr. Gamache responded I am looking for 18 and I have been on the list for awhile. I would eliminate the 15 and make it 18.

Alderman Roy replied I would suggest keeping the 15 and adding 3 at the end. You were back in May request 15 and there were a couple of small ones and twos before you.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Discussion relating to prohibiting trapping of animals in the City.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated there were some handouts on this.

Chairman Osborne called Dennis Walsh from the Manchester Police Department forward. Is Mr. Provencher here? I called you here this evening to get a little input on this situation. I know some states have are against trapping. Anyway, I am not going to be the judge here or the jury. We are just here for informational purposes to get some sort of an idea if we could or would put some sort of ordinance together here. Just a few questions that I might have and the rest of the Committee here. Mr. Provencher is not here so we will have to just take it the way it is I guess. Let me start out with Ms. Binette. Do you want to say something?

Cindy Binette stated I am nowhere near as eloquent and I know my convictions here might not be as strong as people following me but I have prepared a statement if you would all be kind enough to listen. My name is Cindy Binette and my family and I own a home on 226 Laurel Street in the Center City of Manchester. I want to thank my Alderman, Ed Osborne, for inviting me to present this appeal to the Committee in hopes of establishing restrictions on trapping City wildlife. I know that in other states trapping and relocating are prohibited by law and my hope is that Manchester will follow suit either through the passage of a new City ordinance or the issuing of permits to establish the necessity of trapping and eliminate its abuse. What began as an emotional issue here on Laurel Street has evolved into much more now that we, as neighbors, have joined together to research and confront the issue of trapping.

Chairman Osborne replied let me stop you there. You have a petition of all of the neighbors in that area correct?

Ms. Binette responded yes. We organized a petition and everyone who abuts the property at 237 Laurel Street has signed in protest to trapping. For two years we

have all witnessed the abuse by the owner of 237 Laurel Street by his placing baited traps out in May until late September in hopes of eliminating squirrels from trespassing on his property. There are no words to describe what it is like to witness or to hear an animal in the trap sometimes for days trying to escape. I could go on and on and on about the emotional impact this has had on us and our children but I think the facts regarding trapping speak for themselves. There are very serious issues associated with trapping and relocating, especially now, and they need to be addressed. You all have the fact sheet from Massachusetts and I gave you a copy of the instructions that come along with the Haveahart Trap so starting with the trap in bold print it states not to leave the trap unattended with children around. That in itself should prevent the traps from being placed in yards in residential neighborhoods. The traps on Laurel Street are always unattended with children around. They are on rental property that houses families with children and other children as guests and they are a few feet from the sidewalk and across the street from Enright Park. I have pictures of the layout that I can send you also. Do you really think that you can tell a child witnessing this quickly enough not to let the suffering animal out? If you refer to the reasons listed on the Massachusetts law you will be surprised that Manchester isn't following suit. In the trapping and relocation of one animal, be it a squirrel, skunk or any wild animal, you are possibly spreading disease, you are inflicting hardship on the animal by releasing it in an established territory and you are unfairly and selfishly transferring your problem elsewhere and to someone else. I witnessed 17 squirrels captured in two weeks and supposedly relocated elsewhere, maybe even at your house. Also, with no guidelines as to even a trapping season, all mother squirrels who are captured and their innocent litters left to die and maybe that was at your house too. This is only one tragic case. How many others are there? Without restrictions who can say. Hopefully this evening will be the start to making Manchester a safer place for children, for residents and a place where we can enjoy City wildlife protect it and respect it. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Osborne asked Dennis what is your feeling on this. I know you have been out there for quite awhile trapping everything from deer to cats and dogs. In fact I went with you for a deer. I remember that it got shot and was in somebody's yard. How do you feel about not only squirrels but trapping anything else? Do you think this is humane or do you think this is...

Officer Dennis Walsh answered I understand her concerns and I appreciate her concerns. The reasons that she is giving that Massachusetts has used to outlaw trapping are valid. We make this point with people when they talk about trapping animals. Our biggest concern is the spread of disease, namely rabies. However, there are not any laws in NH that prohibit this. In fact, in speaking with Fish & Game today...I happened to have been in Concord all day with Fish & Game and the Lieutenant up there will be forwarding some information to us, which says that

these laws or lack of laws, however you want to look at it, are regulated by the NH Constitution. The NH Constitution says that the state and Fish & Game will regulate the dealings with wildlife within NH. The towns and cities cannot on their own make laws that would be in opposition to what Fish & Game has already established. So for Manchester to try to create an ordinance that says that we cannot trap animals within the City, that would not be allowed by state law.

Chairman Osborne replied we can't do it and I understand that but what if we were to just keep a policing on it or some kind of a permit situation so we know who is trapping and who isn't.

Officer Walsh responded I don't know the legalities of that but I would suspect that any regulation or any attempt at regulation on that could be in conflict with what has already been established by the state. In talking with him today that is what I get.

Chairman Osborne replied well I guess we will be getting some information from him and we can go from there. We can't make a decision here anyway but just to get some information.

Alderman Shea stated I guess what I am suggesting is that Ms. Binette take the concerns that she has to the appropriate legislative body, which I believe in this instance as he directed would be the state legislature area. Probably work through one of the legislators in your ward after the election of course and then from there present the appeal that you have made to us to them and then from there the City of Manchester, as well as other communities, would have a grasp as far as what to do about the situation at hand. That would be my personal advice or thoughts or comments. You expressed yourself very well and I am sure going through your speech again and again you will be that much better before the state legislature but thank you for appearing before us. You did a good job.

Alderman O'Neil asked Dennis you referenced the state constitution. Do you know is it a constitutional issue, a state law issue or an administrative rule of Fish & Game issue? Do you happen to have that information handy or do you still need some clarification on that? The only reason I ask is because I have heard people reference state law on various things and sometimes it turns out that it is an administrative rule of the respective agency that has jurisdiction and usually those administrative rules are adopted by the Legislature. They, for the most part, have the same legal impact as a law but they are not necessarily laws so it might be good if we can get specific information from Fish & Game on what is their jurisdiction. I will say...I don't have great experience with this but I can think of two friends that did trap...in both cases I think it was skunks and I know they worked hand in hand at the time with either Officer Walsh or Officer Dydo in

doing that. If I recall in both cases the people did rent a trap from a local rental company and I think they consulted with one of the Manchester Animal Control Officers and when that animal was caught the Animal Control Officer on duty was contacted and I think...not I think but I know in both cases the animal was taken to a suitable area of the City and released. I can remember in at least one case that Officer Dydo got sprayed by the skunk in performing that service. Dennis do you have any comment about that? Has that been a practice? Is that the norm in the City of Manchester that people work with the Police Department in trying to address some of these issues and then when an animal is captured they contact the Police Department and either an Animal Control Officer or I know sometimes a police officer on duty if there is not an animal control officer on duty might play a roll in that?

Officer Walsh replied to answer the first thing you brought up he did specifically mention the NH Constitution so he is forwarding information on that and when I have it I will pass it on. The second one, we do not trap and relocate nuisance wildlife. We do not offer a service to the general public where we will relocate wildlife. We cannot do it.

Alderman O'Neil responded I can tell you that happened. It may have been some time ago and maybe there are new procedures in the Police Department but that did happen in this City for many years.

Officer Walsh replied at one time it was a policy and traps were provided by the Police Department and animal control officers relocated wildlife. The problem today is the City has grown and the problems have increased and the workload has increased greatly. Summer is overwhelming with the workload. We do not have the manpower or the resources in terms of traps to do that so when the public calls we tell them that relocating is not the most advisable idea for many reasons and we run through the reasons. We tell them that it is not illegal and you can do it and we refer them to a private rental agency if they want to get a trap and do it. They can do that at a very reasonable rate. We service safety issues. We trap for any safety concerns. Nuisance wildlife is not a safety concern. The City is full of nuisance wildlife. We have many, many calls daily through the summer months with people requesting us to go out and trap nuisance wildlife. We would tie somebody up for a full day doing nothing but that in the summer. Sick and injured animals we service. So sick, injured and safety issues we will always do.

Chairman Osborne asked why are we having more squirrels than usual. I have heard that from a few people. They say there are more squirrels around and more skunks.

Officer Walsh answered squirrels and chipmunks have increased in numbers.

Chairman Osborne asked do you think it is because people are feeding them.

Officer Walsh answered this is happening statewide. Last year Fish & Game increased the length of squirrel season, which typically opens October 1. Gray squirrels are a game animal in the state of NH. It is tightly regulated by Fish & Game and they set September 1 as the opening day of squirrel season. They added a month and increased the daily bag limit because there are so many squirrels in the state. The numbers have exploded. There have been good mass crops for one so if the food source is there the animals will be there.

Chairman Osborne replied I don't know what to say here. I have to side with the squirrels. I think this is all nuts.

Alderman Roy stated I have to abstain from any decision making on this but I would ask the Animal Control Officer to forward to us in writing what he just said regarding the City not being able to add restrictions because I know through deer season there are certain towns, especially on the seacoast, that have shotgun laws and I don't know if that has been approved by the state or if that is by local ordinance but I did have some concerns outside of the squirrel issue just about what our local powers are and would look to get some type of information either from you or the Solicitor's Office as far as what our powers of authority are here and what action we can take.

Officer Walsh responded that information is forthcoming.

Alderman O'Neil asked Dennis if resources were not an issue is trap and release a humane way to treat this situation.

Officer Walsh answered humane versus what other option – euthanizing animals. Yes, it is more humane. Advisable – no. It is pointless sometimes.

Alderman O'Neil replied because they come right back right.

Officer Walsh responded right and if they don't some others will. That population is out there and when an opening presents itself the animals will be there so if the numbers move from one area and make room for others, they are going to come right in.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know we touched on this a little bit but it expands beyond squirrels and is consistent with skunks and possums and raccoons.

Officer Walsh replied yes. The City actually has a very large population of skunks and possums. Some people do trap squirrels. What we look for there is whatever they do they are outside of the area of animal cruelty. We make sure it is done humanely. Raccoon are in the City and we have a fair number of fox in the City. They peaked a couple of years ago and then they got sick. Nature will do that and nature took the numbers down.

Alderman O'Neil asked didn't we hire somebody at one point for fox.

Officer Walsh answered two years ago the City was going to make an attempt at removing excessive fox from City property. The trapper went to work on it and then it was brought to a conclusion and I don't think he took any animals out of there.

Alderman O'Neil asked is this a situation where in this case it is a squirrel or squirrels trapped and then apparently if I am understanding Ms. Binette's concern there they are left in the trap for some period of time. That is in no violation of state law at all to the best of your knowledge?

Officer Walsh answered no. Depending on how he treats the animals or what he subjects them to when they are in the trap, that may or may not constitute cruelty. Cruelty is defined as unnecessary pain, suffering and discomfort by state law. A trapper, a licensed fur trapper in the State of NH is required to check his traps every 24 hours.

Chairman Osborne asked so they have a 24-hour period to check traps without being...

Officer Walsh interjected a fur trapper is only required to check every 24 hours.

Chairman Osborne asked so in this case here where he leaves it there all day long screaming and the neighbors are upset over it and tired of listening to the squirrels screaming and bleeding and whatever it might be this is okay.

Officer Walsh answered if a squirrel were in a trap Sir bleeding we would be there to do something about that because now you are getting into unnecessary pain and suffering.

Chairman Osborne replied that is a tough situation I know. Just to wrap it up what did Fish & Game have to say? What is there idea of getting rid of some of the squirrels and skunks and possums and so on? What are they going to do about it or what are they doing about it? We are going to have so many of them here we won't be able to get out of our driveway from the way it sounds.

Officer Walsh responded nuisance wildlife Fish & Game really does not deal with either. Again, it is a manpower issue with them and it is what is necessary and what is required by law. The fact that a human element moves into an area that at one time was an animal world...you know we clear and we build developments and the animals don't leave. They stay and they adapt. They adapt very well so what happens is the human element needs to learn to live with them. Safety issues Fish & Game will deal with as we do and sick and injured Fish & Game will deal with.

Alderman Long stated Ms. Binette you were very articulate. I understood completely what you were talking about. I still feel there is a safety issue with respect to the children. That is the bottom line. Am I understanding that the statutes or the administrative law or whatever it is is the same for the suburbs as it is for the inner City? My concern is that curiosity is going to draw a child to that cage. Bites happen. Having an animal sitting in the cage in a public spot like that in an apartment building just doesn't make sense to me. It would appear that as soon as there is an animal in the trap you would want to take care of the trap right away and not leave it there. So with respect to the City I think we have a responsibility to protect any bystander that is going to be going up to that trap if any animal is being left in a trap where it is at its wit's end and it becomes a danger to anybody who may go up to the trap or what have you. What I am hearing is that we really can't do anything.

Chairman Osborne responded it really becomes a civil matter. It is like trying to stop bank robbers. The City can't do everything. I am with you though on the safety end of it. That is what I worry about a lot because I know kids like animals and they are apt to go up to the cage and stick their fingers in there and like you say maybe the animal has rabies or something. I don't know but it is a tough situation; a tough call.

Ms. Binette stated the traps are placed outside and he goes off to work or wherever it is he goes so he has no idea when an animal is even trapped so when he finally comes back to check the trap be it that day, the next day or two days later he immediately takes the trap and removes the animal and immediately puts another one out. He has multiple traps so there is never not a trap in this yard and the trap...if any of you know the neighborhood Enright Park and the surrounding neighborhood just has children everywhere. The park is full of children and there are children playing and it is just very tragic. It is a situation that seems like it should be controlled somehow because it is just an abnormal situation and a very dangerous situation. It doesn't fall under well if you trap an animal and you go trapping in the woods for fur you can leave it for 24 hours. That is a different

situation. This is the inner City loaded with children. There should be some other way to govern it.

Chairman Osborne asked so from the City Solicitor there is not much we can do is that right Mr. Arnold.

Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, answered I would quite frankly need to follow-up on the state law. If we are preempted we are preempted but there may be some ability to regulate but quite frankly I would have to do more research before I could give you any kind of good opinion on that.

Alderman Shea stated I was just going to mention that I grew up at 192 Laurel Street so I am very familiar. It is not suburbs. How many houses from Maple? Is it four houses from Maple?

Chairman Osborne responded three houses down from Lincoln Street on the south side.

Ms. Binette replied my house abuts Enright Park.

Alderman Shea asked and that house we are talking about is across the street set in the back.

Ms. Binette answered he owns a three tenement and a cottage.

Officer Walsh stated I will say that I have talked to this guy about the length of time the animal is in the trap and he has assured me that when he gets home from work in the afternoon he takes care of the trap. I don't know of any traps sitting there for two or three days.

Chairman Osborne asked and how far has this fellow gotten in all of this time a couple of years doing that. I would think it would be quite tiresome.

Officer Walsh answered he is quite persistent.

Alderman O'Neil stated just a final comment. Any one of the situations theoretically the Constitution could be changed although highly unlikely for this issue but certainly state law or an administrative rule could be changed including enabling legislation that might allow a community like Manchester to adopt ordinances of their own but I think until we hear from Officer Walsh and get all of the information back from Fish & Game it is kind of a mute point right now. No matter what happens, the Legislature won't even start addressing it until January. I think all we can ask is that Officer Walsh or Officer Bogler, the Animal Control

Officers, try to monitor as best they can the squirrels if they are the animals trapped in this particular location and make sure they are treated fairly and are not in a cruel situation. I don't know what else we can do at this moment.

Chairman Osborne asked Dennis will you bring all of the information back to us from Fish & Game and so on and anything you can pile up for us. I would appreciate that.

Officer Walsh answered he said it would be forthcoming. I will call him in the morning and see what he can get to us and I will get it to us as quickly as I can.

Alderman Shea moved to table. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion. Chairman Osborne called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Roy abstaining.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Report from Police Department administration and Human Resources relative to review of pay and benefits in comparison to other NH and New England areas, and what is attracting certified officers to other areas.

Alderman O'Neil asked did we ever get a report.

Chairman Osborne answered yes I have something. It was a report to Alderman Roy.

Deputy Chief Gary Simmons stated it is my understanding that you also have correspondence from the HR Director as well. We did discuss that we had discussion with her and that was the correspondence that basically reacted to the suggestions of Alderman Roy and we addressed that one in particular. It was my understanding that there may have been another correspondence from the HR Director. No? There wasn't?

Alderman O'Neil responded I will be honest. I did read the report but I thought you were specifically addressing Alderman Roy. I didn't know if there were some other...it was very generic with the report and Alderman Roy's on this issue.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied it was and I can tell you why that was. The City obviously is a member of the Municipal Association, which covers all of the New England area. As a result they participate in questionnaires and surveys and analysis relative to a number of issues that occur in every city including salaries. I believe the last one done was in 2005 in which at that time it indicated that the salaries of Manchester police, starting salaries, were compatible to other New

England areas. Obviously that was the last one and the reason we were somewhat general is that the new one is due out in October or this coming month.

Alderman O'Neil responded the only reason I thought there was something else coming is all it says is one line "the most recent survey reflects that our pay scale is comparable to other New England communities." I thought they were going to give us some actual documentation.

Deputy Chief Simmons stated we can provide you with more documentation in October. Again what we did is analyze the 2005 numbers. We also took it upon ourselves to contact various agencies within New Hampshire and broke those down relative to starting salaries, three year salary and compared that to our current salaries as well as what we pay an officer at various steps. We also included benefits and incentives and we felt at that point that we were very compatible as well. I didn't provide that in the document only because the municipal survey is probably going to say the same thing in October.

Alderman Shea asked to your knowledge has pay been a factor in people not wanting to be a police officer and if it has is it 5% of people or 10%. What kind of a role does that play?

Deputy Chief Simmons answered I can't actually say that. Do I think that there are people out there who say for a \$40,000 a year starting salary I don't want to be out there working nights, weekends and holidays and getting involved with what could happen? There is no doubt there is that thought process out there. Our percentage of people who apply for police work...probably we lose most of ours based on a number of issues that occur in the background check. Most of those people are applying because they want to be police officers and because our salary is compatible and in some instances better we don't feel that it is an issue at this point.

Alderman Shea asked why do people want to be police officers in your opinion.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered Alderman Osborne kind of said it...it is kind of in your blood. I am not saying that I was born to a policeman or anybody else on that job is but it is a demanding job. It is a service job. It is like asking why does somebody want to be a nurse? It is a service job. Why does somebody want to be an Alderman for \$4,000 a year? Because it is in your nature to do the position you are doing.

Alderman Shea asked do you find that people from the same family become police officers. Like if a father is a police officer a son might aspire to be?

Deputy Chief Simmons answered yes we do see that. If not as police officers, another service industry like fire or something along those lines.

Alderman O'Neil asked does it happen that the father is a police officer and the son is a firefighter.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered it does because the son is a little smarter than the father.

Alderman Roy stated I appreciate the time that the department took to put together the response and I am glad to see a lot of the things that have been done over the past four months were things we are on the same page about. One thing that does catch my eye that was done in Boston is the gun buy back program. Do you think there would be a way to facilitate that here in the City?

Deputy Chief Simmons responded yes. As we indicated in our analysis and certainly it was a collaborative effort not only of the Boston Police Department but various non-denominational agencies as well as private industry but they certainly feel in talking to them that it was somewhat of a success. Like anything there are positives and negatives but we certainly would be willing to look into that a little further.

Alderman Roy stated I would definitely like to see the support of this Board...I do believe the more guns that are off the street the better and the ones that usually turn in guns are usually the ones that own them illegally so I would like to see that followed up on. The other thing I would like to just...you mentioned that you would follow-up with Information Systems. If we could explore just a better use of technology. The more time that we can have the officers on the street and doing their job and not writing reports...

Deputy Chief Simmons interjected we have addressed the issue of on-line reporting for various minor incidents in the past. As you know we are currently implementing a new computer system. It is my understanding that it will be much more user friendly to adapt to an on-line reporting system for various reports.

Alderman Roy stated I do appreciate your support of adding the Solid Waste Compliance Officer and the high-density zoning and other issues that we have in the inner city.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied part of that as you know is we reinstated the NET team. They have hit well over 14 areas already and since that initial contact with them several officers have gone back on a regular basis to make sure the problem is corrected.

Alderman Roy asked as far as the nationwide search for bilingual officers, I do appreciate you doing that as an ongoing effort and I, for one, would definitely support as we have discussed in the past possibly offering you more advertising dollars or letting you advertise in conjunction with our MEDO department in order to reach out across the country.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered we will be doing that. We will be adding a bilingual to the next application process. As I indicated previously, in our last budget we did ask for additional advertising dollars because we would like to advertise more towards that in the Massachusetts area, which branches out towards other areas. The price for advertising in those areas is considerably higher than it is here.

Alderman Roy stated it was very nice to learn that we already do offer an incentive to bilingual officers of one salary grade.

Chairman Osborne asked are we tying in numbers 4 and 8 on the agenda. Okay, let's do that.

Continuing discussions relative to crime prevention recommendations.

Alderman Shea stated in reading the Police Commission's monthly meeting minutes, there are presently nine officer vacancies to fill. Now are we nine officers short? Have we added any new policemen? Where do we stand?

Deputy Chief Simmons replied we are now 11 short. In the past two months we have lost six officers to retirement. We are down 11. We are currently in the process of doing background checks...

Alderman Shea interjected asked you are 11 short of what number.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied 215. That doesn't include the additional 10 officers that you voted on last week. From the 215 number that was approved for our previous complement before the 10 additional officers, we are 11 down from that 215. We are at 204 right now.

Alderman Shea asked when are new officers coming aboard.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered we have officers in the academy that will be done sometime in the beginning of December. By mid-December they should be on the street on their own. We are currently doing background investigations. We have, I believe, 12 individuals in the background process right now.

Alderman Shea asked so in December if no one else leaves you will have 214 is that correct.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied barring anybody failing the background process we should be able to hire at least 10 or 11 so hopefully we will be at 214 or 215.

Alderman Shea asked how about the guys that are now there going in December.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered the officers that are at the academy right now, they will be on the street with an FTO and completing the FTO program by mid-December.

Alderman Shea asked how many then will be on the police force.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered they are part of that complement. They are just at the academy right now.

Alderman Shea asked so in other words you are not short 11, you are short 21 until those 10 come on board. So you don't have 204 actually working, you have 194.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered correct.

Alderman Shea asked so when those 10 come on board you will go up to 204 in December and then in December you hope that out of certain people that will be taking the test you will get another 11.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered they have taken the test. We hope to have...the hiring date is November 27. We hope to put on 11 at that time.

Alderman Shea asked but they won't be working until like March.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered correct. They would go to the January academy.

Alderman Shea asked and by that time you could have a few more retirements is that correct.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered yes we could.

Alderman Shea stated thanks for keeping me up-to-date. It is kind of hard to keep track.

Deputy Chief Simmons responded it is hard for us to keep track. We thought we would be a full complement not too long ago and people just retire.

Alderman Long stated we spoke briefly prior to the meeting but my main concern was the implementation of the overtime to cover the areas that needed to be covered and you said that has been implemented.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied yes with the approval of the Committee and the full Board we have utilized some of those overtime dollars for various operations. While I am at that I know that one of the questions that has come up several times is the traffic officer that had been approved to go into the Traffic Division, one of the four additional to our complement. That officer on the 15th of October is going to a motorcycle school to be police certified and he is being assigned to that Traffic Division.

Alderman Long stated I have one more question. The certified officers...getting certified officers. We had spoken earlier and you said that there aren't many that come forward that are already certified.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied similar to the new applicants we are getting it is kind of cyclical. Sometimes we will get three or four certified officers that show an interest in one given cycle period. We actually will take applications on an ongoing basis so if an officer submits an application or expresses an interest to us who is currently certified and employed, we will look at that individual right away. In particular in a case like this where we have so many openings. We get officers from various locales or other states that decide they have an interest in it and we look at them right away. There are others that after awhile feel comfortable in their agency and stay where they are. I think we get more from smaller agencies because we offer the opportunity to do various...have various positions within the department. There are various opportunities from canine officer to detective to juvenile to a promotion so we do have a lot of opportunity available and I think that keeps a lot of officers from smaller agencies interested.

Alderman Long stated my concern is still the complement. We are down.

Deputy Chief Simmons responded I would agree with that. I know we were close to being at that new mark and then we had six officers leave.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a couple of comments. Number one, I know that HR in the survey that has been conducted says we are being competitive but if we are continuously down 10 or 12 officers to me if I am in business that is telling me that I am not competitive salary wise. I think it is something we need to look at. We are continuously down. We have a great retirement system for our police

officers but we are not attracting people and money talks. I know it is a trend but if I am looking at this from a business standpoint it is nice to say that we are competitive with Nashua and Concord but I am not an elected official in Nashua or Concord and my concern is here and what we can do here to keep that complement and I am certainly willing to consider that if that is going to make us more competitive. That is just a comment. Secondly, I was pleased to hear Deputy Chief Simmons say to Alderman Long that they have been using some overtime money to get additional people out at various times. At some point could you give us an update of what that might be? You are probably not in a position to do that tonight. I just encourage that they continue to do what they have to do to deal with the issues and we will have to work at the end of the year to make sure the budget is intact. I appreciate their efforts. They have tried a lot of different things to address the concerns going on in the City and they need some money to do some of them. They have my full support to do that.

Deputy Chief Simmons asked if I could just address that a little bit further, as you know we just completed a big Operation Street Sweeper drug initiative with various agencies from the NH Drug Task Force to the Attorney General's Task Force as well as us and the State Police. That was a five-month initiative in which we have had 61 arrests. We anticipate another 40 probably by the end of the year hopefully as a result of that. Over \$130,000 in U.S. currency was obtained. Various drugs, including 8 lbs. Of cocaine, 2.5 lbs. Of crack...all of this is a positive not only to combat the drug initiative in the City but individuals that are involved in this type of an operation that are addicted to this type of stuff are out there committing theft and other crimes. It is going to have a positive effect on those numbers as well. The high intensity, high visibility program that was initiated that has been going on for the last month and a half has been very successful. We have had over 53 arrests, numerous summonses and City ordinance violations as well. We are feeling very positive in regards to those types of operations. They have been very successful.

Alderman Shea stated I wanted to go back with you on the 14 areas that you mentioned that the group that has been established including different departments...I don't know what the name of it is.

Deputy Chief Simmons replied the NET team.

Alderman Shea asked where are the areas primarily located.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered actually they are all over. They are areas that we get complaints from various individuals. We go out on a regular basis and patrol certain areas and look for violations. As you know it is actually being run out of the City Clerk's Office with Matt Normand. We have been working with

Building, Highway, Fire and Health. We will target certain areas in which an officer on the street may have seen violations or feel that it is something that needs to be looked at. So it has been various areas in the City.

Alderman Shea stated I want to say that Sgt. Kincaid is doing a great job in that regard. I know there are areas in my ward. One of the, and I am not sure...I am going to bring it up later but my thinking runs along the line that we definitely, definitely need some support for Glenn Gagne, the Compliance Officer. There is no question in my mind that a City of this size can operate with one person who is asked to do the job that maybe three people can't do. I know out of the corner of my eye I can see Alderman Osborne nodding his head because we are the ones that have been impacted primarily with the fact that people are violating ordinances to the degree that he is having almost a heart attack trying to handle all of these things in addition to working with that particular group as well. So basically at the end of this meeting I am going to recommend that the Board support an additional person in that regard but working in that area do you find that my logic is correct in saying that we do need an additional person? I want to compliment Alderman Roy. He did a tremendous job and one of the things is he complimented on the fact that you mentioned a Compliance Officer but I want to stress this idea. This is a necessity for a City of this size with the amount of problems that we are now experiencing.

Deputy Chief Simmons responded I guess what I would say, Alderman, is we are firm believers in the NET team and taking that type of action. Matt Normand has been basically running the operation with all of these various agencies and we have discussed the broken window theory and quality of life issues. To clean up neighborhoods and clean up violations it adds a little pride to that area and when you add a little pride to that area you start seeing that cleanliness spread out into the general area. That brings a positive to that neighborhood. It is definitely a must. I can't speak for the Building Department as to what they have but I do know that sometimes they are taxed with resources for this team. They have been very, very responsive to our needs. I know they have taken an aggressive stance in sending out correspondence to various people that were in violation but I would like them to speak to their needs.

Alderman O'Neil stated just to follow-up on Alderman Shea's comment, in the little research that I have done there is actually a position that exists in the Building Department and through a number of promotions the bottom one never got filled. I think maybe it would be appropriate later, Alderman Shea, to encourage the Mayor to allow that position to be filled. I think we have to find some money. I am not sure the Building Department has the funds but it was there and you may recall that we did have a concentrated Enforcement Officer. Paul Houghton was in that position for a number of years. In my discussions with Mr.

LaFreniere, the position actually exists. We just have to ask the Mayor to fill it and find some additional funds.

Chairman Osborne asked what would you like to do with these two items.

Alderman O'Neil moved to receive and file Items 4 and 8. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated just a clarification. At our last meeting, Deputy, Alderman O'Neil had made a motion and I seconded it I believe at the Committee level to increase the complement by 10 officers over the next two years. At the last full Board meeting I asked to amend that to increase it by 10 officers and leaving it to the discretion of the Chief and the Mayor to work out the budget constraints and things. So your complement, as far as I am concerned and I believe the full Board is concerned, is 225. So forget the 215 number. It has taken me three years to get us to a number that I think is respectable. I still believe 225 is too low but it is a step in the right direction. So unless anyone on this Committee or the full Board disagrees with me, your number is 225 and work towards that. Again, we will help you with your budget and problems as they come up at the end of the year.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote on the motion to receive and file. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Mrs. Jyl Hamel regarding the lack of parking availability in the vicinity of Central High School.

Jyl Hamel, 154 Fleming Street stated:

I want to thank you for this opportunity. I am delighted to come and speak to you about the lack of student parking for Central High School students. I thought I was going to be late for this meeting because I had a dickens of a time getting a parking space here. That was me who ran in at 6:04 PM asking if they had called my name yet. I know it is no secret to you, ladies and gentlemen, that Manchester has a serious parking problem. I am delighted to hear that on October 16 we will have a new Parking Manager. I am here for a couple of reasons. Now that I hear this we can have someone that the public can interact with I am hoping to volunteer to facilitate some communication because there is a real lack of communication with the public, Central High School, Central High School students, the Traffic Violations Department...it is almost one of those things where you have to get a ticket to find out who to talk to on how to change things. So when I initially asked to be on the agenda it was because I was very upset that my daughter got a parking ticket on her first day of school that she received on

Ash Street, which is now two hour parking. I do understand and have full respect for tenants and residents on that street. I understand how this came to be. My frustration came from how quickly it changed. Both of my children...I have a freshman and a senior at Central, were on that street the previous week for orientation. My senior was asked to be an Ambassador and show freshman around. She is an honor student. My freshman is also an honor student and she was there to learn the lay out. They parked on Ash Street without a problem. They went to school on the first day to find it two hour parking. I am sure sometime in your years of experience in Manchester you have had the opportunity to travel to Central High School in the morning. You wouldn't wish it on anyone and it is not the time for 16, 17 or 18-year-old drivers to find out "Oh my God they have changed the rules." There is already a limited amount of parking as it is. So when I asked to be on the agenda it was because of my frustration in trying to find out from the Police Department, Traffic Violations Office, the SAU, Central High School, the Highway Department and the Mayor's Office what time my girls need to leave, where can they park, where is it safe, where is it free, where do I instruct them to go so they don't feel that they have to leave school every two hours. I find that a very big liability issue as a parent and certainly for the City of Manchester if kids are leaving school to move their cars and jockeying around looking for alternative places. I am happy to report that I don't have as long-winded a discourse with you as I was intending because on September 13 because of the many complaints and concerns and I would like to think because of my two days of phone calls and people getting tired of hearing from me that students now have...Mr. Rist was gracious enough to pursue for us that students display on their dashboard permission to park at 196 Bridge Street, which is our former SAU building. I am delighted because I find this a secure and safe place. It is lit in the evening when buses return students who have gone to athletic events as well and this is where the School District is picking up and dropping off athletes that are going to games. So that is where students and some of the faculty because right now 190 staff are parking on the property of Central High School and there are still staff members who don't have places and they are at the SAU building. So students who went down to Mr. Rist and secured this parking permit now can safely park there without coming out to find a ticket or that they have been towed. We can't ask kids to be good students, volunteer for extra-curricular activities, be our athletes at Central High and they insist that they only take the bus to school, which they have to pay for and leave at the end of school. That is not the world we live in. Students today have cars. They need safe transportation to and from school and they need to not be finding out the morning school starts that things have changed. So two things I ask this Board. I have come to you and I want you to remember my name and my face. When this SAU building parking changes, I want good information put out to the public and to Mr. Rist at Central High School who tries very hard to disseminate the information but he was not given the information that Ash Street had changed the first day of school. He had to learn it

the hard way as 30 students on that street did that day. He didn't get a ticket. I am just saying that he got a lot of complaints from parents as well. I am asking that now we have met as long as the SAU building is an alternative I am satisfied with that because I do find it a safe alternative. The other streets, I remind you, are not good alternatives. Saying that kids should be...as one Traffic Officer pointed out to me have her get there at 6:30 AM and park on the other side of the park. I have a problem with that. I don't want my two girls at 6:30 AM at the park when some of the people who don't have a place to stay are waking up and finding their way around. That is not where students should be on their way to school and there is limited parking. All of the streets around there...I did my homework and I walked and it is a nightmare. So we have to help the kids find a safe place. Right now this is one place but please keep it on the upcoming agenda. Please help to make this new person who is taking on this position on October 16 make them public friendly so we can disseminate the information to students. Finally I want to say this isn't a problem that is going to go away. I have talked with a lot of people. I talked to a lot of very nice people while I was making these phone calls and I was touched by how many people...you know people at the Police Department who said I am a former Central High School student and this has been going on since I was there. We all know it is not a new thing but I don't want to debate the issues about why kids have cars now. They do. Some of them work and they need them for that or other activities. We can't say well they shouldn't be bringing cars to school. They are and they need to. We don't provide bus transportation for them that is free and accessible for all times of the day so we have to and I remind you that we have faced serious crimes, especially against some young women...crimes have been committed on the way to and from Central High School. We have to have a good police presence in that area and not in the form of just meter maids ticketing cars. We need police presence and a safe alternative for students. Again, I thank you for your time and your consideration and again I hope I don't appear before you again but I promise you that I will if we take away that parking and next time I will bring a whole bunch of people with me.

Chairman Osborne asked with all of the surveillance that you took around the school and all of the people that you called did anybody have any ideas.

Ms. Hamel answered again I talked with some nice people and again what kept coming out was before this September 13 notice when Mr. Rist sent home this pass that my daughter could display on her care, before that I was not getting good answers. I was not getting calls back in a timely fashion in some cases and in other cases, again, I gave you the one example from the Police Department where I spoke with a very nice Lieutenant there but in the process of getting to him talked to someone who made the suggestion about the park and kids arriving at 6:30 AM and again some streets where I had to say wait a minute where is this and had to bring my car down. They mentioned Pearl Street. That is too far for these

kids to be walking. It is too far for young ladies to be walking and too far for kids to be walking who stay after to do student council, etc. School doesn't just end at 2 PM. Central High School doesn't close at 2:30 PM. Kids are coming and going from there and now as fall and winter approach and it gets darker earlier we need a well lit area and police presence.

Chairman Osborne asked so there were no ideas.

Ms. Hamel answered no one would rubber-stamp that SAU parking thing until September 13.

Chairman Osborne asked when that goes away then what.

Ms. Hamel answered that is why as I said I wanted to introduce myself and say that I am happy to facilitate any discussion and be a volunteer citizen to help us come up with something before we just in the minds of people overnight change things and have young inexperienced drivers on Beech Street, Bridge Street, Ash Street going "Oh my God they have changed it and there is no space and I have a test in 5 minutes where do I go." Someone from the Highway Department suggested to me that the kids go down to the garage that is located on Elm Street. That is way too far and any of you who have students in middle school or high school weigh their backpacks some day. I weighted my freshman's backpack yesterday. It was 22 lbs. That is too far to walk. I won't go into that she also plays sports and also carries a bag with athletic equipment in it. We have to have reason to let the kids know that we do care about their safety. I understand we are an inner-city school and that overnight there is not going to be a magical wonderful parking lot with 150 spots but I am asking that we not rule out places and assume that once we have parked the staff and the adults that the students can be overlooked because they can't. They really should be one of our primary interests because of the safety issue.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would like to apologize that we didn't give enough lead-time on this. It was a reaction to some neighborhood concerns so I apologize to you and to the other parents and Central students about that. I do think it was the right thing to do, however, because there were some significant issues. I am concerned in the long-term that the former School Administration building is going to turn into something else and that parking may go away. I drove up Bridge Street today and was pleased and surprised by the number of cars that were in there. It was full. I guess if I could...in my conversations in the past with residents in the area they have always embraced the Central students but for some reason there has been some behavioral problems. I don't think it is anything we are going to solve on our Board. I don't think it is anything that the Police Department...we can't put a police officer out on that one block for three or four

hours day so maybe the one challenge to the parents of the students of Central is try to come up with a way that maybe they could police it themselves. Unfortunately it is a few bad apples that ruined it for everyone else.

Ms. Hamel replied that is my exact point. I have respect, having been a former landlord, and I do understand the residents and tenants needing a parking space but again when I was hearing from people well you know why this is it is from the kids who played loud music and were disrespectful to residents, I don't have those children. I am working on my village and in my village my girls would not have been that way.

Alderman Roy stated they threw trash on people's lawns and I don't know what the right answer is but I think we need to partner with Central High School parents, students and staff to help solve this. I think if we can address those issues the residents may embrace it and say sure it is okay for the kids to come back and park there.

Ms. Hamel responded I am saying don't throw the baby out with the bath water. There are some bad apples...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I am sitting here asking for your help and the help from Central High School of which I graduated from. Nobody had cars when I went to Central though.

Ms. Hamel stated again we can go around and around. Chairman Osborne and I had a nice conversation on the phone when he was saying that I could come to this meeting how it was before and how it is today. It would be great. I won't tell you when I graduated from high school but it was a few years ago and when I did I brought a car to school because I worked after school and I came from a single parent household. Without that car and without going to that job it would have impacted other things. We can't just assume that every kid that is bringing a car to high school it is just because they have the luxury of a car and they are playing loud music and doing it for the wrong reasons. I think the vast majority of students are doing it because there are after school activities and work obligations and most households where there are two parents working, we can't possibly be bringing kids back and forth. We are kind of giving them a double-edged sword here – be active in high school and participate in things and be a good kid and a role model but how are you going to get to and from? We have to help them with that. I volunteer if we can work together and I have made myself available to Mr. Rist as well. As I said the good news is I didn't come as fired up because we have an alternative right now. I don't know how long it is going to be. My hope is that it at least carries through this school year but as I started this whole discussion I have a freshman as well so as I have the senior graduate with the car I have a 15

year old coming in to the scene. This isn't going to go away. Again, as a citizen of Manchester we have a responsibility to understand that these kids need to have a safe place to park. Maybe it means get on board with what other schools do that are in a similar situation. I investigated that to some degree but it only holds so much water because it is a location issue. If Memorial has more parking, it is silly to talk to them about how they solved it because they have more parking to begin with and yet in making that statement I talked to some Memorial parents who said there again you have to get there at a certain time and you have to know what is what. I have two kids that are willing to get there at a reasonable time but I think it is unreasonable to expect kids to get there at 6:15 AM or 6:30 AM for a 7:45 AM start just to make sure they have a parking space and to be secure that they are going to make it to school safely and that when they come out there isn't a ticket or a boot or vandalism done to their car. I think that is a reasonable expectation on their part to come out and find their car where they left it and go on.

Alderman Roy stated this question is probably for Mr. Hoben or Deputy Chief Simmons. I thank you for your passion. I received a number of calls on this. I am slightly disturbed that the signs went up without any Committee approval or through the full Board without any media attention and the children that did park there received one or two tickets at an extreme cost, which adds an extreme financial hardship to a lot of families. From my standpoint as an elected official, I am sorry that happened. The two things that I would ask is if the Clerk's Office could forward to me the copy of the public testimony where we first heard about the incidents. My understanding, and I just checked with Alderman Long and our understandings are different but that it was more of a vandalism and trash problem and more of a respect problem than it was a parking issue. When I first heard about this I was slightly dismayed that this act had been gone into and the signs had gone up and cars had been ticketed. As Alderman O'Neil pointed out, a few bad apples have spoiled something that has been a tradition for many years and being on another Committee of this Board that is working very hard to get rid of the former School District building, that is not a good solution. That property will be marketed soon and hopefully will be sold soon so we are just putting a Band-Aid on a problem that is not going to be solved. I would ask the Clerk to forward the minutes from that public testimony and I would just ask from the Deputy Chief what is the policy on ticketing and possibly double ticketing vehicles that are parked in an area like that when signs go up – whether it is 24 hours after the signs are posted or 48 hours...what is the notice process? It didn't go through the Committee. It is on our agenda tonight. I feel that we did a great disservice to the students by putting tickets on those vehicles. The other question, which is directed at Jim Hoben, is the emergency act for signage could I get something in writing and our policy of what the definition of an emergency act is and why and when it is used? Most of the signage in different wards come at the request of an Alderman and I would just like to know if there is consistency between wards and

when and why that emergency act can be used without going through the Committee process for either further discussion or notification to the public. If I could ask those three things I would really appreciate it.

Chairman Osborne stated I want to thank you, Mrs. Hamel, for coming.

Alderman Long stated actually my stepdaughter called me because she got a ticket for parking on Ash Street. I just need to comment that, yes, I do agree that we are asking a lot of the students in today's society and for them to have the independence of bringing their own car is a need, however, you need to know that there are students that do sports and go to work and don't have the luxury of having a vehicle. There is a balance.

Ms. Hamel responded absolutely but the kids that do, we can't lump them all together. This is what I was saying. Initially when I was making these calls some of the reaction I was getting was don't try to bail your daughter out of the ticket because it happened because those signs are up. When did the signs go up? I couldn't get a satisfactory answer about that. Why were those signs put up? Well because of kids being disrespectful to the neighbors and because of kids leaving their trash out. That doesn't apply in my case so again what brought me to this Committee was before the SAU building is taken away let's put our heads together now because it will be very unfair if overnight, again, which is really how most of us look at...well if someone can tell me well really Ms. Hamel it was three days to the kids it was overnight because the day before there was no school, that was the Labor Day Weekend. The Thursday before there were no signs so to the kids it was overnight and they had to make that judgement call at 7:15 AM. That is how many of them did it and some of them moved their cars and they are not supposed to be leaving school. They were really caught in a Catch 22 and it wasn't fair. I am just asking that this Committee put this out there. Let's start working on where we are going to tell them they can park that is free. We cannot ask students to do metered parking. We can't be asking them to do that. They will have to leave school and then they are going against school policy. We have to help them figure it out. We have to get some kind of census about how many cars we are talking about. Parking permits perhaps? I would be in favor of buying a \$10 parking permit for my daughter that identifies her as a student at Central High School and gives her a place that she can park an hour before school and an hour after school because again it is not just the hours of school being in session. Also, you must remember that this isn't just students. 190 park in the underground garage and at the Central High School property itself. They have more than 190 staff so some of those folks are also up there. We have to tell them something and when the snow comes and the snow emergencies God help us because where do they go then? I am asking that we in a timely manner start looking at this. You have my name and number and my time at your disposal here because I don't want this to happen

again. A lot of people were very angry and I volunteered to say let's see what we can do to work together. It is not fair to put it on the meter maid people, the Police Department, the Mayor's Office or the SAU. My dissatisfaction was that none of these places, and I called all six, had a satisfactory answer for me so every morning I was sending my daughter out saying here is where I want you to park and call me when you get there and call me if there is a problem. Again, it is the Central High School policy that cell phones go off once they enter the building so until she received that pass for her car I was for a week leaving her a text message that if she had a problem to let me know because I didn't want her coming out crying again because she got her first ticket over something I don't think she deserved.

Alderman O'Neil stated again Mr. Chairman I think it is important...we can do some things on our end but the Central High School community has to get proactive with this. They can't be reactive. They need to start getting together now and trying to help us find some solutions and come up with some suggestions that we can consider. It can't fall solely here because if it does this is exactly what is going to happen.

Ms. Hamel replied this is what I am asking for is communication among all of these departments because that is not what happened.

Alderman O'Neil responded but you did ask what you could do and what you could do is start a communication amongst the Central people – parents, students and faculty to try to help us address this or come up with some ideas.

Ms. Hamel stated I guess my first request is as this Board learns that that parking lot is no longer to be available and I repeat I don't want it to be an overnight thing where all of the sudden the signs are put up that now they can't...that won't be fair but there has to be a grace period and a communication period where Mr. Rist is informed and again you have to realize in a high school situation they don't even have...how the homeroom is set-up now is not like when you and I went to school. Announcements are made at different times during the day because students are allowed to come at different times of the day. Not everyone has a first period class or last period class. So we have to have things on TV and in the newspaper. We have to really get information out there, which to the extent that I could investigate I learned that the Ash Street change was not well publicized if at all publicized and I could not get a firm date from the Highway Department as to when exactly those signs went up but I know with my own eyes when they were not up.

Alderman Roy stated Mr. Borek is in our audience this evening and I would ask as a courtesy that as we progress with the Ash Street School and the RFP for sale that

you keep Ms. Hamel's phone number and Mr. Rist's phone number naturally you have and when we get close to a closing that both parties be given at least a 30 day notice.

Chairman Osborne stated again thank you for coming Ms. Hamel and I hope we can get all of this taken care of. I am sure you will get notice this next time. I am sure of that.

Ms. Hamel replied well sometimes something bad has to happen for change and I understand that.

Chairman Osborne stated there is only so much parking out there. It is a tough situation. I can understand that.

Ms. Hamel responded it absolutely is and as I said just coming here tonight it was kind of comical when I was going to be late because I couldn't find a spot near here and I said well this will be my first argument after we attack Central High School.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to receive and file.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have to meet somebody doing some work by 8 PM. Can you take Item 11 off? They owe us a report. I have been patient with it but it goes back to February and I still don't have the report.

Chairman Osborne asked do you want to receive and file this.

Alderman O'Neil answered no I would like to get the report. They owe this Committee a report.

Chairman Osborne asked is this the one that has been hanging on here since March.

Alderman O'Neil answered yes. Certainly I gave them some time when we were going through the budget process but it is now approaching October 1 and I think the Fire Department was leading the efforts on this. I need to leave but I just ask if later when you get to that item could you pull it off and maybe make a motion or directive...

Chairman Osborne interjected do you want to take it off to discuss it.

Alderman O'Neil replied not to discuss it. I would like to have the Clerk follow-up that they still owe us a report. That is what I am asking.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated we will make a note of it now.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce requesting that the two-metered parking spaces adjacent to the Manchester Information Center on Merrimack Street be reserved for use by the Granite State Ambassadors as previously allowed.

Alderman Long moved to approve the request for two metered parking spaces. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion. Chairman Long called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

YIELD SIGNS:

On Second Street at Queen City Avenue, southeast island
On Second Street at Queen City Avenue, southeast corner
Alderman Smith

CROSSWALKS:

On South Main Street, north of Harvell Street
On Harvell Street, east of So. Main Street
Alderman Smith

RESCIND CROSSWALK:

On Lowell Street, east and west of Ash Street (ORD. 1620)
Alderman Duval

STRIPED SINGLE YELLOW CENTER LINE:

On Robert Hall Road from Litchfield town line to the Londonderry town line

STRIPED STOP BARS:

On Brent Street at Robert Hall Road
On Vandora Drive at Robert Hall Road
Alderman DeVries

PARKING FOR PARK USE ONLY:

Stevens Park Parking Lot, Corner of Tarrytown Road and Lake Avenue

Alderman Osborne

STOP SIGNS:

On Maynard Avenue at Rosewood Lane, SWC, NEC
On Rosewood Lane at Maynard Avenue, SEC
Alderman DeVries

On Granite Street at West Street, NEC, 4-Way
Alderman Thibault

STOP SIGNS (EMERGENCY ACT):

On Brunelle Avenue at So. Lincoln Street, NEC, SWC, 4-Way
Alderman Garrity

On Douglas Street at Putnam Street, SEC, 3-Way
Alderman Thibault

2-HOUR PARKING (8AM-4PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMERGENCY ACT):

On Central Street, north side, from Tarrytown Road westerly to the dead end
Alderman Osborne.

2-HOUR PARKING (8AM-6PM):

On Blodget Street, south side, from Elm Street to a point 112 feet easterly
On Blodget Street, south side from a point 138 feet east of Elm Street to a point 18
feet easterly
Alderman Long

2-HOUR PARKING (8AM-6PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMERGENCY ACT):

On Maple Street, east side, from Spruce Street to Lake Avenue South Back Street
Alderman Osborne

2-HOUR PARKING (8AM-2PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY):

On Ash Street, east side, from Lowell Street to Bridge Street
On Ash Street, west side, from a point 90 feet north of Lowell Street to Bridge
Street
Alderman Duval

2-HOUR PARKING (8 AM-2PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMERGENCY ACT):

On Maple Street, east side, from Cedar Street to Spruce South Back Street
Alderman Osborne

RESCIND 30-MINUTE PARKING:

On Blodget Street, south side, from Elm Street to a point 90 feet east (ORD. 2674)

Alderman Long

**RESCIND 1-HOUR PARKING (8AM-4PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY/
EMERGENCY ACT):**

On Central Street, both sides, from Tarrytown Road westerly to the dead end
Alderman Osborne

RESCIND 1-HOUR PARKING:

On Brook Street, north side, from a point 20 feet east of Elm Street to a point 6-
feet easterly (ORD. 2712)

Alderman Long

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

On Brook Street, north side, from a point 80 feet east of Elm Street to Elm East
Back Street (ORD. 2713)

Alderman Long

**RESCIND 2-HOUR PARKING (8AM-6PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY/
EMERGENCY ACT):**

On Maple Street, east side, from Cedar Street to Lake Avenue South Back
(ORD. 8833)

Alderman Osborne

NO PARKING ANYTIME:

On Brook Street, north side, from Elm Street to a point 80 feet east

Alderman Long

On Beech Street, west side, from Pearl Street to a point 75 feet northerly

Alderman Duval

On Central Street, south side, from Tarrytown Road westerly to the dead end

Alderman Osborne

On Weston Road, north side, from a point 118 feet west of Roysan Street to a
point 95 feet west

Alderman DeVries

NO PARKING ANYTIME (EMERGENCY ACT):

On Maple Street, east side, from Spruce Street, South Back Street to Spruce Street

Alderman Osborne

On Page Street, west side, from Laydon Street to a point 60 feet north

Alderman Pinard

On Jewett Street, east side, from Somerville Street to a point 85 feet south
Alderman Shea

On Brown Avenue, east side, from a point 80 feet south of Pettingill Road to a
point 180 feet southerly
Alderman DeVries

On McQuesten Street, north side, from the dead-end to a point 95 feet westerly
On Wheelock Street, east side, from West Hancock Street to a point 105 feet
southerly
Alderman Smith

NO PARKING (7AM-7PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY):

On Hall Street, east side, from a point 30 feet south of Spruce Street to a point 37
feet southerly
Alderman Osborne

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On Blodget Street, south side, from a point 112 feet east of Elm Street to a point
26 feet east
Alderman Long

NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS:

On Hoyt Street, east side, from Joshua Drive to a point 75 feet northerly
Alderman DeVries

RESCIND NO PARKING (7AM-7PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY):

On Hall Street, east side, from Spruce Street to a point 105 feet south (ORD 8417)
Alderman Osborne

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Long it was voted to
approve the traffic agenda as presented.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

Discussion relating to parking issues at Bridge and Union Streets in the
vicinity of Pulaski Park as requested by Alderman Duval.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I believe Alderman Duval submitted a letter
asking that this item be tabled.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Long it was voted to table this item.

TABLED ITEMS

11. Discussion relating to coordination of services and utilities during storm events such as what occurred on February 10, 2006 as requested by Alderman O'Neil.
(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending report from Fire and Police Departments.)

This item remained on the table.

12. Parking Study Recommendations.
(Tabled 04/18/2006 – previously forwarded under separate cover.)

This item remained on the table.

13. **STOP SIGNS:**
On Lacourse Street at Rhode Island Avenue, NEC
On New York Street at Rhode Island Avenue, SWC
Alderman Duval
(Tabled 05/16/2006)

This item remained on the table.

15. Discussion relative to building codes/ordinances plus infrastructure relating to health and safety issues as requested by Chairman Osborne.
(Tabled 08/01/2006 pending further information from the Building Department.)

This item remained on the table.

On motion of Alderman Long, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to remove Item 16 from the table.

Communication from Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. requesting residential parking at 3-7 Dow Street, 1382-1414 Elm Street and 1426-1470 Elm Street.

Alderman Long stated we have Will Stewart here to explain this request.

Will Stewart, Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, stated I hope you are not tired of hearing about parking related issues because we have one more for you

tonight. Actually right here in front of us you can see on this large picture what is at issue tonight. As Alderman Long said we are from Manchester Neighborhood Housing and our properties as you can see are Renaissance V and Renaissance MM properties. They are just north of Bridge Street on Elm between Dow and Langton Streets. It is a decidedly residential block and we feel that the 13 spaces currently metered in front of these buildings should be eligible for...I should say our residents and tenants in these buildings, the 68 units should be eligible for resident parking tags that would allow them to park at the meters free of charge throughout the day but primarily after hours and on weekends when the demand is greatest. It is my understanding that the reason they have currently received these tags is because it is technically part of the City's Central Business District but as I noted before this block is decidedly residential. In fact, there is only one business on the entire block. So to us it is a question of fairness. We think that our residents should be able to get these permits like the other residents of the City who live in primarily residential areas. I would like to thank you for your consideration of our proposal and we are available for questions. I have with me Jennifer Vadney also with MNHS and Liz Feliciano who is the Occupancy Manager at the properties and a tenant of Renaissance MM as well.

Chairman Osborne asked how many meters did you say were there.

Mr. Stewart answered 13 between Dow Street and Langton Street on the west side of Elm.

Chairman Osborne asked how often are they used now.

Mr. Stewart answered well as you can see from the picture and that is pretty representative, not very much and that was taken during the day.

Chairman Osborne asked Mr. Hoben would you have any statistics on that particular area and how well they do on the meters there.

Mr. Stewart answered I don't have that information.

Chairman Osborne replied I am asking Mr. Hoben.

James Hoben, Traffic Director, stated I don't have that information. I would have to research that.

Mr. Stewart stated we are not asking to have the meters removed.

Chairman Osborne replied but you said free of charge. Did I hear right?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I believe what they are requesting to do is to have these areas added to the residential permit parking plan that the City now has, which is an ordinance. It would be an ordinance change that would have to be drafted but basically the permitting would go through Ordinance Violations as it does for other areas in the general downtown facility.

Chairman Osborne asked so they would be the only ones that could park there but they would have to feed the meters. Is that what you are trying to say?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered no they would have a permit where they could park at any metered space in a certain district and what we would be doing is creating a new district that would include the areas that he is speaking of.

Chairman Osborne stated all I am trying to find out is how much money is being lost by doing this.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded I believe Mr. Hoben has indicated to you that he would have to research further what the tabulations might be from the meters in that area.

Chairman Osborne asked could you do that Mr. Hoben.

Mr. Hoben answered yes.

Alderman Shea stated what I am wondering is the people who live in that vicinity, that building there, where do they park now. Do they park at a meter? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Stewart answered it is kind of a mixture. Liz, would you like to address that?

Liz Feliciano stated right now it is a mixture of parking. There are some spaces that are used all day basically by the Community Health Center that is right across the street, which 1415 Elm Street but they have their own parking out back. Most people don't use them because it is either too far away or the offices or the doctor's offices that they are going to visit are right at the front of the building. Our tenants currently have to park in front and it is a two-hour meter and if you live there it doesn't make sense to have to move your vehicle every two hours. We don't have enough spaces as it is because it is a residential block that our 68 units, most of the units there are three bedrooms. Some of our tenants wind up parking at Sanel Auto Parts and they pay anywhere from \$35 to \$75 a month for parking. Between paying rent and not having parking and in the winter it is very difficult. Sanel doesn't only rent to our residents. It rents to other businesses around as well. We need some kind of a compromise...not a solution but

something we can work with. It has been very difficult. I have been there 11 years and I still have parking issues. I stay there because I love my neighborhood, the schools are great, the bus picks up the kids right in front of the building for elementary and middle school. Central High is not too far and the kids can still walk but we need to come up with something. I have so many tenants who get four or five tickets in a matter of two weeks.

Alderman Shea stated let me give you my own impression. I don't have to pay a fee in front of my house to park and I don't think that people who live there should have to pay a fee to park in front of their house. Now I don't know what the implications are but believe me when the vote comes up I will vote in favor of making sure that people living there don't have to pay money to park in front of their own residence. It doesn't make any sense to me. We do it all over the City for other people so why wouldn't we do it for you. That is my comment. I don't know what the implications are as far as the businesses and all of that but hopefully we can do that. You treat others as you want to be treated yourself. That is the way I look at things and my goodness it doesn't make sense for people who live there to have to pay money to park in front of their own house.

Ms. Feliciano replied right and it is only two-hour parking on top of all of that so you have to move your car every two hours.

Chairman Osborne asked has that always had 68 units there.

Ms. Feliciano answered yes. It used to be some businesses before they renovated. There was a dental office and a law office so there were businesses at one time but right now it is all residential.

Chairman Osborne asked so if I was to say...there has to be a lot of apartments running all along Elm Street and I think...not that I am against it but I have to look at others as well or this is the way I look at things anyway. All of these other people who live on Elm Street will be after the same thing. The first thing you know we won't have any meters left on Elm Street and that is revenue.

Mr. Stewart answered I personally live on Elm Street in a different section, actually near City Hall. I think there is a big difference in that in this section of downtown, say between Bridge and Granite Street, there are a lot of businesses in both directions but on this particular block there is one small shop on the entire block. The difference is that it is all residential.

Chairman Osborne stated but other businesses will be looking for it then. If it isn't residential it will be businesses for their employees.

Ms. Feliciano responded most businesses have a parking spot, whether it be through the City or an arrangement with another building. Even E&R Cleaners, which is a block south of where we are speaking of they have their own parking out back for their tenants. We, unfortunately, don't have that. Most of that entire parking lot back there is owned by Sanel Auto Parts and of course we would love to buy it, MNHS would love to buy it, but they are making so much money off of the tenants that they will pass that along to their children and grandchildren for ever because it is a money maker. Like I said people are paying between \$35 and \$75 month to park their car.

Alderman Roy stated while I do agree that that is a large residential building, I do have a concern as to the layout and parking of the rear of the building. I also have a concern that as Alderman Osborne said once we open it up for one building in that area, we will be opening it up for the buildings on Prospect Street and Harrison Street and Myrtle Street, all the way down to Orange Street. I didn't like the way we set-up our residential parking permits in the downtown area a couple of years ago. That was going on when I first became an Aldermen and I don't think that it works in the best interest of the City as to promote people from parking in areas like behind this building and making that paved square footage work. I have driven Hampshire Lane a number of times and I would like to see what the original parking layout was and what is there now and what is being used before I vote on this. I do have concerns. Based on the City GIS there is some pretty good square footage back there. Whether it is not the most convenient square footage versus parking right in front of the building, I would have concerns as to the utilization of it and the design of it so I would render a decision at another time. That is information before I vote on this that I would like to see.

Chairman Osborne stated I think what is happening here, like every place else, whether it might be Central High School or my ward or Ward 7, mostly inner-city is that years ago...I have lived in Manchester all of my life and in my ward all of my life so I know it pretty well and what is happening is back in the 50's, 60's and 70's or especially in the 40's you were lucky to have one automobile per household so the problem you have now is that even in your apartments there are a couple of people that live there that share the rent or there might be three families, who knows, but with the rents today they have to have more than one family usually to support it and in that particular apartment sometimes you are talking two or three cars.

Ms. Feliciano responded yes you do have two or three cars but there are not more than one family living in there.

Chairman Osborne stated so this is the problem you are running into. It is not...streets don't stretch. They are the same as they were back in the 40's.

Believe me. The front of that building I know very well. It is the same as it was back when Abraham Lincoln was born. It is reality. It is a shame but we have nothing left to do but to get sky hooks. There is nothing else you can do with this parking situation. Just to be fair with everybody...not that I am against it because I wish everybody had a parking space in front of their house but you just can't do it for all. It is completely impossible without the City losing a lot of money that is but even then if we were to designate all of Elm Street for the businesses and everything else, that is a lot of money. I am just trying to be fair with everybody.

Alderman Long stated I think this area is a unique area. I don't think we are going to run into other apartments abutting Elm Street where residents are going to want to park on Elm Street. I am sure they are going to want to park on Elm Street but there are more businesses in that area where the metered parking is acceptable than there would be right on this block here. What do you have around there for a business? There is one business on the corner and parking isn't an issue for them.

Chairman Osborne replied there are a lot of apartments down there, Alderman Long, over stores right around here that don't have parking either and the first thing you know they are going to be yelling for it.

Alderman Long responded but there are stores around so you need the metered parking to accommodate the businesses.

Chairman Osborne stated true. It is a hard decision. I understand all of that. It is a very hard decision.

Ms. Feliciano stated we are just looking for a compromise. We are not saying make it go away because we can't but there has to be some point where...

Chairman Osborne interjected it is not totally up to me anyway. I am just giving you my opinion.

Alderman Long moved to designate the area for residential parking permits. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. Chairman Osborne called for a vote.

Alderman Roy stated I am going to have to abstain at this point and ask Mr. Stewart for the information on parking in the rear of the building before I render judgement. I don't feel that we have a justifiable amount of information for any decision. I respect Alderman Long's wishes to make the motion and as a ward Alderman I lean towards supporting that but there is more information needed. As I click through buildings in that area, there are a lot of 8, 10 and 12 unit buildings and I do feel that this is going to start a snowball effect but I don't want to vote

yes or no without knowing how many spots are in the back of that building and possibly having a personal viewing of that on a much more critical scale.

Mr. Stewart stated right now we have 25 spaces.

Ms. Feliciano stated there are 28 spaces that we have that belong to the building for the 68 units. The rest belong to Sanel Auto Parts. There are three lots back there. Just about all of that is theirs. It is not ours.

Alderman Roy asked so everything on the eastern side of Hampshire Lane abutting the back of the two buildings...

Ms. Feliciano interjected yes those 28 spaces are ours.

Alderman Roy asked and there are only 28 spaces.

Ms. Feliciano answered yes that is it for those 68 units.

Alderman Roy asked are they lined spaces.

Ms. Feliciano answered yes and believe me we have made some of them very tight so we can squeeze as many spaces in there as we possibly can.

Alderman Roy stated I would still like to abstain at this time.

Chairman Osborne asked Mr. Hoben is there anything on Elm Street now like this.

Mr. Hoben answered no.

Chairman Osborne stated I am opposed to it because I think it is just opening a can of worms. I am opposed. That doesn't mean much because there are two against one.

The motion to designate the area as requested by the Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services as residential parking carried with Alderman Roy abstaining and Chairman Osborne being duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Shea stated this goes before the full Board and we will see how it goes there.

Alderman Long stated and it has to go through the ordinance change process correct.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded yes it will be a couple of months to get through the process and if you want to call the Clerk's Office tomorrow I can explain it.

Ms. Feliciano stated thank you for your time and your patience. We appreciate it very much.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to remove Item 14 from the table.

Discussion relative to Saturday parking fees.

Alderman Shea stated the reason I would like to take this off is obviously it has been there a long time and I feel that in my judgement we are subsidizing a certain element that comes into the City here. Obviously what I am referring to is the fact that on Saturdays we have people coming to the Verizon who park...I looked and they spend \$10 here and \$10 there and they are parking at meters for nothing and we pay the Verizon over \$400,000 for parking fees. Now if we can get back a couple of hundred thousand dollars at least that will help the budget.

Alderman Shea moved to charge for Saturday parking. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion for discussion.

Alderman Roy asked for a clarification from the Clerk's Office. Didn't this come for a full vote at the Board meeting?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered it has had several hearings at the Board level. I am not sure which one you are referring to.

Alderman Roy asked has there been a vote.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered at one time there were Saturday fees and then they were removed and then they were removed and then I believe they were put back in at one point and came back off again. I would have to research it certainly.

Alderman Shea stated I know there is opposition on the Board to this. There is no doubt but we should clarify it because we are getting to the point now where the budgetary concerns are going to start coming and my point is if people are opposed to it, that's fine. If people are for it...I am but we should get a vote one way or another.

Alderman Roy responded thank you Alderman Shea because that is kind of the direction I am going in. Keeping this in Committee doesn't do anyone a service. We did...Alderman Gatsas brought this up in his budget and it was added to subsequent budgets and it was used to set our revenue number so having it here in the Committee is not something that I am in favor of. I will second it to go to the full Board. I may vote against it at that time but I will...

Chairman Osborne interjected are you just moving it to the full Board or are you voting on this.

Alderman Roy stated moving it to the full Board with...I believe Alderman Shea wants the implementation.

Chairman Osborne asked are you seconding that motion.

Alderman Roy answered yes.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated one I apologize to Alderman Roy. I misunderstood his question. With relation to the budget I believe the Saturday parking fees were included as a revenue item on the budget if that was your question. I'm sorry I misunderstood. The second item that I would have for the Committee is the hours. Would they be consistent with the same hours as during the week because we have to set a zone time? If it is 8 AM to 8 PM during the week are you being consistent with that or 8 AM until 6 PM.

Alderman Shea responded no. I would almost...if I could I would make it from say noon until 8 PM or something like that. What I really want to do is get the people who are coming in and going to the Verizon and parking for nothing. A lot of these people come in from out of town and we are subsidizing both their going to the Verizon as well as the parking because we are being charged for parking by giving the Verizon \$400,000 and the people coming and supporting this are not just local people. They are people from out of town. That is my concern so I would say help the merchants downtown by not implementing it until noon and going to 8 PM. That is my thought.

Alderman Roy stated I would have to remove my second for consistency. We stand on two different spectrums when it comes to the Verizon facility. I don't think we should be targeting one business when it comes to our parking structure. It has to be the same as it is Monday through Friday or something consistent with our previous ordinances.

Alderman Shea responded well then I will amend the motion and make it 8 AM until 8 PM.

Alderman Roy stated I think this is going to get a lot of discussion at the full Board where I believe it should have stayed.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied so consistent with the hours Monday through Friday.

Alderman Shea responded yes.

Alderman Long stated I would consider Saturday parking. I just think we are making it difficult now. We have allocated monies for Smart Meters. I think that would make it easier to set time zones to target certain parking set-ups. I think right now it would be difficult and I think...I hear complaints all of the time about searching for quarters. It is just an archaic system. I know some businesses that are charging...they are giving 35 cents for a dollar for quarters because people are dying for quarters.

Alderman Shea asked when is this other situation coming in.

Alderman Long answered it is in our budget so I would suspect that when this person is hired that would be one of the...well Finance has already...actually Paul maybe be able to answer that better than I could.

Paul Borek, Economic Development Director, stated an RFP was issued and we have proposals in. We have narrowed the proposals down to a couple of preferred vendors. We are pretty close to making a decision on ordering the meters and having them in place...I would have to consult with the vendors themselves for sure but our discussions have been to try to get a good portion of them in place within four weeks of signing a contract. Somewhere within the next two months we should have them in.

Alderman Shea asked so you think it will be before January 1.

Mr. Borek answered yes. Our goal is to have them in before that and before December 1 if possible.

Alderman Long stated that is why I was looking at this being tabled until that was implemented and then we could make a recommendation because now we could set certain areas of the City targeted from noon until 8 PM and another area could be 8 AM until 8 PM or 6 AM until noon...

Alderman Shea interjected yes but that wouldn't change the fact of Saturday parking would it.

Alderman Long answered no. I would consider Saturday parking with the Smart Meters in. As it stands right now, I think it is too archaic and too complicated.

Alderman Shea stated I was just saying and my point is that what I would like to do is get a vote whether or not the Aldermanic Board would want Saturday parking fees. That is all I want. If we postpone it until January because we are getting new types of meters, that is fine. That is not a problem. Maybe the Aldermen won't go along with this or maybe the Mayor will veto it. Who knows? I am just saying that one way or the other we should have a decision concerning what is the Board thinking about Saturday parking fees. That's all. That is all I am saying.

Alderman Long asked so we are not voting on Saturday parking effective...

Deputy City Clerk Johnson interjected yes it would be. When it is submitted and once it is passed and advertised it would be effective but the Board can set any date it wants as an effective date at that point. It could be changed at the Board level to a specific date. As it stands right now the way the motion is reading it will go into effect.

Alderman Shea moved to amend the motion to have the full Board vote on Saturday parking fees with the provision that the Board make the effective date based on the installation date of the new meters that are going to be installed.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I understand what you are trying to do. We will try and figure out some language that would meet that criteria. I am not sure that those meters are going throughout the whole downtown area at this point either.

Chairman Osborne asked wasn't it sent to this Committee for a recommendation.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked for the discussion on the Saturday parking fees. I am not sure to be honest with you. It has been on the table since June so it is possible.

Chairman Osborne stated we are either for Saturday parking or we are not. That is the whole thing here.

Alderman Roy stated for the record I will second the amended motion to move this to the full Board.

Chairman Osborne asked with what recommendation.

Alderman Roy answered I am seconding Alderman Shea's motion to move it to the full Board without an effective date at this time.

Chairman Osborne asked so you are approving Saturday parking.

Alderman Roy answered right but like I said before I was against it when Alderman Gatsas put it in his budget and I still think it would be a detriment to downtown but I would like to see this be a full Board decision instead of sitting on the table in Committee.

Chairman Osborne replied yes but once we give a recommendation then they are going to have to move on it.

Alderman Roy stated right but I just want the record to state that I am just working with Alderman Shea to get it to the full Board level and vote it up or down one way or the other but I am also against it.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked can I get clarification because I am completely confused. If I am understanding it, you are recommending charging for Saturday parking from 8 AM until 8 PM, the same times as Monday through Friday so it would be on Saturdays the same hours and you are not recommending an effective date but are you tying it to these new meters or not? That could be a year from now. That is why I am saying you really...you are not putting a date certain on it and this has to be advertised in the newspaper and posted.

Alderman Shea replied I think what I would like to do, Carol, is have the Board of Aldermen say yes we want Saturday parking fees or no we do not want Saturday parking fees and then decide as far as what the effective date would be and what the hours would be. That is really what I am trying to get across.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated so you are recommending that the Board have a discussion as to whether or not to approve it.

Alderman Roy responded and I support that even much more than the original motion.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated so on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Roy the motion is now to recommend to the Board that they discuss approving Saturday parking fees.

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

Chairman Osborne stated I have something under new business. I want to get a little bit of an update of the Traffic Department seeing that Mr. Borek and Mr. Hoben are here. I have had a lot of problems getting a hold of Traffic and who is there and who isn't there. Could you both come up here so we could discuss this a little bit seeing it is my Committee? Mr. Borek how do you find this so far with what you have to do with Traffic added to your department?

Mr. Borek asked are you talking about the Parking Enterprise? Since the passing of the new budget we have advertised for and hired a Parking Manager that will start October 16 and as I indicated earlier we have advertised for and received proposals for the pay and display meters. In addition to that, I have interacted with the parking staff and in addition to that the Parking Control Officers who remain within the Police Department but are paid for out of the Enterprise budget. The Enterprise budget is administered through the Economic Development Office. During this period I think we have enabled things, I think, to operate smoothly in terms of handling the day-to-day operations. I have also interacted with engineering on some of the annual maintenance that occurs in our parking structures and parking lots and that ongoing work that was previously budgeted is underway as well.

Chairman Osborne asked to this date who has been doing all of this. Denise?

Mr. Borek replied Denise has been continuing her work in terms of administering the parking hangtags and parking...

Chairman Osborne interjected is she getting any help from anybody else.

Mr. Borek responded I don't believe so other than the parking technicians. They do their work and maintain the existing meters and collect from the existing meters. The administration...the payroll, office and purchasing administration work is originated by Denise and run through my office.

Chairman Osborne asked so nothing has really changed since the beginning of time since this was put into the Enterprise situation and all of that. Nothing has changed.

Mr. Borek answered other than the knowledge and the approvals go through myself and my office. Actually...

Chairman Osborne interjected what do you think a Parking Manager...this is just my own curiosity but what do you think a Parking Manager is going to do that is any different than what is being done now.

Mr. Borek responded I think that a Parking Manager...

Chairman Osborne interjected this has been bothering me for a long time and I did vote against it so this is why I am kind of into it a little bit.

Mr. Borek replied I see a Parking Manager as being proactive from their training and experience in looking at the entire parking system, the spaces, the garages, the hours of operation and working to make them more efficient and operate better and be more productive and more responsive to needs through hands-on management and improvements and changes. The person that...

Chairman Osborne interjected do you consider this a workload for yourself. This is something you have to think about too being in your department.

Mr. Borek stated presently it consumes a fair amount of my time.

Chairman Osborne asked so you could be doing other things.

Mr. Borek answered yes.

Chairman Osborne stated so we are running into another Catch-22 here in a sense.

Mr. Borek replied well the Parking Manager would assume the lion's share of the responsibility for the supervision that I am doing now.

Chairman Osborne stated well we had a Parking Manager back in the early 80's when I was an Alderman back then and it didn't work but anyway and again I don't want to take the whole thing here but there is only so much space out there and what we have now I think we could handle it. That is how I feel about it. I don't know other than going up on rates and fees and everything else the only change you could make out there with a Parking Manager...I mean what else can you do with the parking out there? Sky hooks? I keep saying the sky hook thing but there is no space out there unless you are going to put some garages up again, which I will never vote for but anyway we had enough with garages as far as I am concerned. We buy one for \$5 million and we can't even sell one for \$3 million. It doesn't make sense to me. This is the way I feel about it.

Alderman Shea asked Paul where is Denise right now. Is she located still on Hayward Street?

Mr. Borek answered yes.

Alderman Shea stated so she is there and you, Jim, are located at the Highway Department.

Jim Hoben, Traffic Director, answered no I am at the Traffic Department.

Alderman Shea asked you are still at the same building too.

Mr. Hoben answered yes.

Alderman Shea stated Paul I am glad I came to the meeting because I didn't know, as a member of the Traffic Committee, that we hired a Parking Manager. Could you tell me who it is or is that kind of not to be...you said we hired someone. I don't know who it is. Does somebody know other than you?

Mr. Borek replied yes the Parking Manager that has accepted the position is a woman by the name of Brandy Stanley presently from Richmond, VA. She is a lifelong parking professional with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Business Administration.

Alderman Shea asked what is her name.

Mr. Borek answered Brandy Stanley.

Alderman Shea stated I know that Dan O'Neil and a couple of others seem to know but I didn't know. I had no idea who it was but I thank you for letting me know. It does help in case somebody calls me up and says I heard you had a new Parking Manager. Riley probably would know before I would know.

Mr. Borek replied I apologize for not mentioning it sooner.

Alderman Shea asked that's fine. How do some find out and others don't. Do they call up or do you call them? How did they find out?

Mr. Borek answered I was making phone calls regarding another issue and I tried to mention it to everyone but I may not have mentioned it to everyone.

Alderman Shea replied you missed me because you called me the other day.

Mr. Borek responded I did and I apologize. It slipped my mind.

Alderman Shea stated I think in courtesy the Chairman of the Traffic Committee should have been informed also.

Chairman Osborne stated don't feel bad, Alderman Shea, nobody ever calls me. Anyway, I just wanted to get this together. I know that I would like to have Highway here too because I think this whole thing is like the squirrels you know, nuts. It is getting nowhere and we aren't making anymore money and we have to pay for a Parking Manager now and it is somebody who doesn't even know the City. She is from where?

Mr. Borek replied Richmond, VA.

Chairman Osborne asked how long do you think it will take her to know the City before she decides she can do something with it.

Mr. Borek answered our job will be to help her understand the City as quickly as possible.

Chairman Osborne stated and the moods and the feelings of the people of Manchester. It will take a long time to learn that one let me tell you. Anyway I just wanted to get an update on it, which I will in the future as well. I know there is a lot of rhetoric. I call there a lot. I call Traffic a lot. I call every department a lot. I am just having a hard time now reaching people. I used to reach them a lot faster before than I can now for some reason. I don't know why. Mr. Hoben is trying to do the best he can. It is a tough situation and he needs help like everybody else I guess.

Alderman Shea stated I feel that we should bring to the attention to the full Board the Compliance Officer. I really feel that we need someone to help Glen Gagne before Glen Gagne is carried out of here.

Chairman Osborne stated I am the one that brought them in here. I feel the same way.

Alderman Shea moved to recommend to the full Board that a Compliance Officer be hired and that the money be taken out of contingency if need be. We need a Compliance Officer to assist this man because he has a Herculean task here and we are not getting the services to our constituents that need to be done. Some wards impacted...maybe all wards are impacted. I am only speaking for my ward. I am calling these guys to check out all of these different areas of the City that are blight to the neighborhoods and probably you are too.

Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion. I ask that we send to the Board that we recommend hiring a Compliance Officer and not a dedicated funding source so it is just the hiring and likewise one of the things that the Police Department responded to on my letter was the Compliance Officer as well as the Solid Waste

Officer and I believe both are necessary and I would ask this Committee's indulgence that after we vote on the Building Department Compliance Officer that we work towards approving the Solid Waste Compliance Officer and let the full Board vote that either up or down.

Chairman Osborne asked that would come from your Committee wouldn't it. It would be more proper coming from your Committee than this one.

Alderman Roy stated it came from the Solid Waste Committee. I put it in the Public Safety letter to get the Police Department's opinion on it and tried to make it more of a public safety issue so I would look for it to come from this Committee, again to the full Board. It will probably get voted down or tabled but at least the effort is there.

Chairman Osborne asked do you want to take one at a time.

Alderman Roy answered yes please.

Alderman Shea amended his motion to recommend to the full Board that a Compliance Officer be hired. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion as amended. Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Roy moved to recommend to the full Board that a Solid Waste Compliance Officer be hired and attach the letter from the Police Department to the report. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Long stated if I may quickly for an FYI...I have the Highway Department looking...there has been a serious safety issue with respect to Elm Street north of Bridge with high traffic. There are a lot of people starting to use the crosswalks there. The crosswalks aren't very visible when you are in a car - the area of the Mass Pharmaceutical College and also the Child & Human Services area. I have the Highway Department looking at that. I recommended those stands that say "crosswalk" but they said they don't recommend those because they get hit all of the time. I asked them to look into whether we can paint the crosswalks anyway a navy blue or hunter green or what have you so that it will stand out as cars are approaching the crosswalk.

Chairman Osborne called Mr. Hoben forward. The crosswalks are above Bridge and they go how far?

Alderman Long answered all the way to Webster.

Chairman Osborne stated you mentioned to me awhile back Mr. Hoben about a different type of paint that lasts longer, probably three times as long as what we have out there now. It holds up a lot better and has more visibility than what you are using now?

Mr. Hoben responded right. We had a demonstration of thermal plastic paints. It is the paint they originally used on Elm Street when they redid it. You might get three years out of it. It is a better definition on the ground. It shines brighter. It is an additional expense also.

Chairman Osborne asked the crosswalks that are there now and painted what width are the lines. Regular 8”?

Mr. Hoben answered some are 6” and some are 12”.

Chairman Osborne asked the ones you just put on because of the little boy that got killed on the corner of Belmont and Spruce Streets, what kind of a situation is that. That is beautiful and I want to thank you for that by the way. That is a very bad corner.

Mr. Hoben answered we used 12” painted lines.

Chairman Osborne stated but you have more than one. You got the diagonal lines and so on there.

Mr. Hoben responded we used hash marks on them.

Chairman Osborne stated well it stands out real well and I think this is something probably that we could look into for Alderman Long in that area from Bridge to Webster Street. How much more would it be to get into something like that compared to what you are doing there now?

Mr. Hoben responded it does eat the paint up. You use an awful lot of paint doing the hash marks so there would be some expense.

Chairman Osborne asked but the new paint would hold up a lot better. It is Elm Street and there is a lot of heavy traffic there. Well Spruce Street has a lot of traffic too but what can we do to solve this problem with...

Mr. Hoben interjected we could do the hash marks. Just repaint them with hash marks.

Chairman Osborne asked with the paint we have now.

Mr. Hoben answered yes we could use the same paint we have now. You would need more funding to go to the thermal plastic paint.

Chairman Osborne stated I understand that but I think we should get into that other paint. A lot of other places have it and the City is growing so we have to grow with it and keep safety in mind. I would kind of get figures together if you can of what the difference would be. I know you would save on at least the labor. The labor doing it every year versus doing it every three years it a big difference isn't it?

Mr. Hoben responded right. I agree. I think it is much nicer than the painted lines.

Chairman Osborne stated if you can put some figures together for this Committee...I am going to go forward with it because we need it out there. I know the roads are getting bad with crosswalks and everything else and you can hardly see them. It is a safety issue and we have to follow-through with it. So get some figures together on the three year paint and what you are doing now and the labor difference and so on and so forth. Even if it breaks even we are ahead of the game.

Alderman Roy asked what is the cost of the weighted state law "Stop for Pedestrians" sign.

Mr. Hoben answered we had them years ago and I think they were \$100 at the time. I have no idea what they cost today.

Alderman Roy moved that from Bridge Street to just north of Clark Street on Elm that the crosswalks be repainted with the hash marks and that we add the weighted "Stop For Pedestrian" signs. I was looking for these on River Road and Union Street over the last couple of years and it was said that they get stolen and hit – the same answer that Alderman Long got. There have been two in front of Southern NH University for the better part of two years now and if it costs \$100 per crosswalk to keep people safe I would definitely support those. I know they are used as a traffic calming measure. They are effective and I do believe we have a wider section of Elm Street there where there is not the business density and not the angled parking so speeds tend to pick up. I believe Alderman Long has four in his ward and I have another just north of Elm that I would like to see done. So I would like to try those five crosswalks repainted with hash marks and the weighted signs located in the center of the road and we try it as a pilot program and see how it works.

Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Hoben stated we would need additional funding. There is very little in the Traffic Division budget.

Alderman Roy asked can we pass this along to the full Board and if you could bring us a cost estimate for our next meeting. Right now if the Committee can decide on this without a funding source and if you could have a cost estimate by...I believe our next meeting is October 3.

Mr. Hoben asked from Kidder to Clark.

Alderman Roy answered from Bridge to the north side of Clark Street.

Chairman Osborne asked if they were \$100 20 or 30 years ago, how much are they now like \$1,000 each.

Mr. Hoben answered I have no idea how much they cost.

Chairman Osborne stated I was going to bring this up at some point but I have been watching these pedestrian lights and there is no enforcement to that at all. I see it all the time on Elm Street. People pay no attention to those things.

Alderman Shea stated maybe we should take a vote on the motion.

Chairman Osborne replied we can still have discussion. Nobody pays any attention to the crosswalk. They go against them, for them or whatever. I don't think that is your total answer by doing this. I think it is going to cost money and if you stood there you are going to see what I mean. They could care less about those pedestrian lights. It irks me. It makes you feel good that they are there but are they going to work.

Alderman Long responded we are not looking for lights. These are the stands that go in the middle of the street.

Chairman Osborne replied oh I thought you meant the lights.

Alderman Roy stated no the signs just have the stop sign and then a picture of a pedestrian in a crosswalk and it says "state law."

Chairman Osborne asked have we ever had those before.

Mr. Hoben answered we tried them on Bridge Street and Belmont.

Chairman Osborne asked what happened to them. Somebody just takes them?

Mr. Hoben answered they get run over. What you need is a caretaker of those. I believe the Mass College of Pharmacy is putting them out and taking them in. We tried it a few years ago and it will work if you have a caretaker.

Chairman Osborne asked could we try the large hash marks and all of that first and see how that works.

Alderman Roy answered I would like to stay with the motion. No matter what the crosswalks repainted with the hash marks will stay there but I believe the five signs will be a nice traffic calming measure and I would like to see if we can go ahead and do something for the pedestrians on the northern part of the street.

Chairman Osborne replied again we are opening a can of worms. I would like to have those in my ward then too. I have some very dangerous corners in my ward so if you are going to start open up a can of worms to spend money that is fine but there is no guarantee that those things are going to stay there.

Alderman Roy responded that is what I am saying. Five is a small investment. If it is successful as it has been at Southern NH University with the two that they have, our five here on north Elm Street will solve the problem that Alderman Long and I have had on Elm Street and if they work I will gladly second or make a motion for any other Aldermen to put these throughout the City. I believe they are a good traffic calming measure.

Chairman Osborne asked what is your opinion Mr. Hoben.

Mr. Hoben answered my opinion is that the signs won't last. The paint is fine and good but it is an additional cost of labor and materials and we don't have a budget for it.

Chairman Osborne stated I am a little different than most Chairman I guess but I always put the burden on somebody and say well it is \$1,000 for this particular sign so would you spend the money to put it out there saying it won't last or it is going to be stolen.

Alderman Roy responded on many occasions I have considered purchasing one of these for the crosswalk in front of my house when I see the traffic go by and much like painting the crosswalk on Belmont Street it takes one accident.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote on the motion to repaint the crosswalks from Bridge Street to just north of Clark Street with hash marks and that five weighted "Stop For Pedestrian" signs be purchased. The motion carried with Chairman Osborne being duly recorded in opposition.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee