

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

October 20, 2009

6:00 PM

Chairman Shea called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Shea, O'Neil, Sullivan, J. Roy, Ouellette

Messr: B. Stanley

Chairman Shea addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:

**NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On Chester Street, north side, from Amherst Street to Dutton Street

Alderman Jim Roy

On Krakow Avenue both sides, from Union Street to Pine Street

Alderman Sullivan

On Harvard Street, south side, from a point 180 feet east of Maple Street to the dead end

Alderman Shea

On Hayward Street, south side, from Sunnyside Street to a point 23 feet west

Alderman Shea

On Walker Street, south side, from Second Street to Turner Street

Alderman Smith

On Turner Street, both sides, from Walker Street southerly to the dead end

Alderman Smith

On Laurel Street, north side, from Kenney Street east to the dead end

Alderman Osborne

On Moore Street, west side, from Kelley Street to a point 40 feet south

Alderman Ouellette

**NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:**

On Massabesic Street, east side, from a point 55 feet north of Old Falls Road to a point 25 feet north

Alderman Osborne

On Walnut Street, east side, from a point 50 feet south of Salmon Street to a point 22 feet southerly

Alderman Gatsas

On Lincoln Street, west side, from a point 56 feet north of Dix Street to a point 20 feet north

Alderman Shea

**NO LEFT TURN -7:00 AM – 9:00 AM / 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM – MONDAY – FRIDAY:**

On Connecting Road at Brown Avenue  
Alderman DeVries

**CROSSWALKS:**

On Young Street, east and west of Jewett Street  
On Jewett Street, north and South of Young Street  
Alderman Shea  
On Pinard Street, west of Agnes Street  
Alderman Smith

**CROSSWALKS:**

On Union Street, north of Green Street  
On Green Street, west of Union Street  
Alderman Osborne  
On Mammoth Road, north of Smyth Road  
Alderman Gatsas

**STOP SIGNS:**

On Ellis Avenue at Ruth Avenue – SWC  
On Hamblett Street at Somerville Street - NWC  
Alderman Shea

**STOP SIGN – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Hayes Avenue at Chase Avenue – SWC  
Alderman Osborne

**YIELD SIGNS – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Laurel Street at Milton Street – SEC  
Alderman Osborne  
On Laurel Street at Milton Street – NWC  
Alderman Jim Roy

**RESCIND ONE HOUR PARKING:**

On Cypress Street, west side, from a point 85 feet north of Hayward Street to a point 90 feet north (Ord. 2903)  
Alderman Shea

**RESCIND RIGHT TURN ON RED PROHIBITED:**

On Varney Street at South Main Street – Westbound (Ord. 9107) – (Effective when the reconstructed traffic signals are placed in operation)  
Alderman Smith

**RESCIND NO PARKING 4:00 PM – 7:00 AM:**

On South Main Street, west side, from Varney Street to a point 80 feet south of West Hancock Street (Ord. 9053) – ( Effective when the reconstructed traffic signals are placed in operation)

Alderman Smith

**NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On South Main Street, west side, from Varney Street to a point 80 feet south of West Hancock Street

(Effective when the reconstructed traffic signals are placed in operation)

Alderman Smith

**RESCIND NO TRUCKS – 9:30 PM – 7:00 AM:**

On Central Street, from Cass Street to Kenney Street (Ord. 8028)

Alderman Osborne

**NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Lois Street, west side, from a point 375 feet south of Roysan Street to a point 83 feet south

On Lois Street, west side, from a point 560 feet south of Roysan Street to a point 160 feet southerly

On Lois Street, east side, from a point 540 feet south of Roysan Street to a point 90 feet southerly

On Lois Street, east side, from a point 290 feet south of Roysan Street to a point 80 feet south

On South Gray Court, west side, from Fernand Street to a point 80 feet southerly

On Fernand Street, south side, from South Gray Court to a point 80 feet westerly

Alderman DeVries

**NO LEFT TURN – 7:30 AM -8:30 AM / 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM / MONDAY – FRIDAY –EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

On Summerside Avenue at Milford Street

Alderman Smith

**RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On James A. Pollock Drive, east side, from Lewis Street to a point 200 feet south of the Parker Varney School (Ord. 3156)

Alderman Smith

**NO PARKING – 7:30 AM-8:30 AM – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On James A. Pollock Drive, west side, from a point 450 feet north of Allen Street to Lewis Street

Alderman Smith

**NO STOPPING, STANDING OR PARKING – 2:15PM – 3:15 PM – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On James A. Pollock Drive, east side, from a point 450 feet north of Allen Street to Lewis Street

Alderman Smith

**RESCIND TWO HOUR PARKING – 8:00 AM-6:00 PM – MONDAY – SATURDAY:**

On Valley Street, north side, from a point 45 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 40 feet east  
(Ord. 8587)  
Alderman Osborne

**15 MINUTE PARKING – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Valley Street, north side, from a point 45 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 40 feet east  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND 30 MINUTE PARKING – 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Valley Street, north side, from Belmont Street to a point 120 feet west (Ord. 6257)

**NO PARKING ANYTIME – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Valley Street, north side, from Belmont Street to Wilson Street  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND ONE HOUR PARKING:**

On Cypress Street, east side, from Massabesic Street to a point 100 feet northerly (Ord. 2906)  
Alderman Osborne

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Sullivan, it was voted that the Traffic Division report, including the addendum, be approved.

Chairman Shea addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Ratify and confirm phone poll conducted September 10, 2009 approving the request from Nicole Vailas, Manchester Monarchs, for permission to place yard signs at area businesses, major roads and rotaries throughout the city from Thursday, October 1, 2009 through Sunday, October 18, 2009.  
*(Unanimous vote)*

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to ratify and confirm the phone poll conducted on September 10, 2009.

Chairman Shea addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Ratify and confirm phone poll conducted September 24, 2009 approving the request from the Verizon Wireless Arena for on-street parking free of charge for 70 employees from September 29, 2009 through October 4, 2009.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sullivan and Alderman J. Roy who could not be reached.)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to ratify and confirm the phone poll conducted on September 24, 2009.

Chairman Shea addressed item 6 of the agenda:

6. Ratify and confirm phone poll conducted on September 30, 2009 approving the request from the Manchester Fire Department for the use of the Federal Building Parking lot on Sunday, October 4, 2009, from the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sullivan and Alderman J. Roy who could not be reached.)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to ratify and confirm the phone poll conducted on September 30, 2009.

## **TABLED ITEMS**

7. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, submitting a snow removal policy clarifying the duties of certain departments.  
*(Tabled 1/20/09)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

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

8. Communication from Rene Fortin of Gold Street, requesting alternate solutions to commercial expansion in the Gold Street neighborhood.  
*(Note: Referred by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on 08/18/09. Tabled 8/31/09 waiting for Planning Board meeting.)*

This item remained on the table.

9. Discussion regarding the Canal Street Parking Lot Operational Policy.  
*(Note: Referred by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on 08/18/09. Tabled 8/31/09. Accepted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on September 1, 2009.)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

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

10. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, requesting an ordinance amendment to Section 70.57(B) Parking lot rates which removes parking meters from the Pine Street Parking Lot and creating permit parking within the lot.  
*(Tabled 8/31/09)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Sullivan, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated item ten is a request to change 70.57, which allows us to remove the parking meters that are currently in the Pine Street Parking Lot. We've talked to the Norris Cotton Federal Building and the Police Department and they are both okay with removing them. The reason we want to remove them is because when the Norris Cotton Federal Building was remodeled they eliminated the pedestrian entrance on the backside of the building for transient traffic. The only way a visitor can get into the building is from Chestnut Street. The parking meters in the parking lot are lined up in the back and they are almost never used, except by monthly parkers who end up getting a ticket because they parked at the meter with an invalid permit. We thought the best thing to do would be to remove the meters so we can remove the confusion for the monthly parkers.

Alderman Sullivan asked what would happen to these if they are not metered? Are they going to become permit parking?

Ms. Stanley replied yes.

Alderman J. Roy asked how much revenue are we getting from the meters now?

Ms. Stanley replied I'd say that from the 20 meters that are there, we are getting about \$1,500 a year. Not very much.

Alderman J. Roy stated by removing them and selling permits, how much are we going to make?

Ms. Stanley replied the permits in that lot are \$50 per month. If you sell one permit you make \$600 per year.

Alderman J. Roy stated if we sell three permits we are making more than we are with the meters.

Ms. Stanley stated yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated there are three pages of the Ordinance that makes this up. We're only changing that one section that references the Pine Street Lot?

City Clerk Matt Normand replied that's correct.

On motion of Alderman Sullivan, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to approve the Ordinance amendment to Section 70.57 (B) for the Pine Street Parking Lot.

11. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, providing information related to a Board request for details of enforcement activities on July 4, 2009.  
*(Tabled 8/31/09)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

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

12. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, requesting an ordinance amendment to Section 70.78 Penalty which adds new fines for parking in a permit only parking space without displaying a permit and for occupying more than one stall.  
*(Tabled 8/31/09)*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Ms. Stanley stated we are requesting these two changes to section 70.78. The first is establishing a new fine for parking in a permit-only parking space. There are many spaces throughout the City in parking lots and on the street that are designated for permit parking only. The City does not currently have a fine specific to that violation. In the past, the City has always written tickets for vehicles parked in the permit parking only space as a no parking zone, which is a \$50 fine. That \$50 fine, in our and our customers' opinion, is extremely onerous because most of our parking lots are either \$45 or \$50 per month. If you forget your permit one day, you are automatically paying double what you

pay on a monthly basis. It is not a safety violation. Safety violations have higher fines because we want to discourage people from doing it again. What we are trying to do is establish a new fine that would be issued to a car parked in a permit space without a permit and attach a fine of \$15 onto that. That is a little bit more than an expired meter because the City does reserve those spaces for people who pay monthly. However, it is a little bit more palatable for both the monthly parkers who forget their permits and people who make an honest mistake and don't see the signs. The second one is establishing a new fine. We have found that there are places on the street and in the parking garage where people will occupy more than one stall, which is what we call double parking. They will take one space out of inventory by parking across the line. Currently, there is no penalty for this. We write the ticket for parking in a no parking zone, which is a \$50 fine. Again, this is not a safety violation, but an inconvenience to some of the other parkers. A \$50 fine is rather steep so we would like to establish a new fine for that violation and make it \$15, \$30 after 30 days and \$36 after 60 days.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have no problem with the recommendations. Can you get some data on how many of these violations were written in the first nine months of the year so we can have some data on what changes have happened? Is it easier to do the fiscal year?

Ms. Stanley replied it is not easy at all.

Alderman O'Neil stated we should be able to hit a button and see what's going on with a particular fine in a lot.

Ms. Stanley stated as I said before, we currently write both of those citation under one fine, which is the no parking zone. The no parking zone is also used for parking too close to the corner, parking across a crosswalk, and many other violations. I can run a report that lists all the tickets that are written under that fine, but I can't...

Alderman O'Neil interjected, okay, going forward, I would like to see some kind of report.

Ms. Stanley replied sure.

Alderman Sullivan stated I want to make sure that people are clear. You say these are two new fines. Usually when we hear that people are skeptical, but we really aren't making something new illegal. We are taking an existing situation and changing the violation so it is written to better reflect the severity and the circumstances. I just want to make sure everyone understands that we're not our looking for excuses to write tickets. We're changing the violation number on the ticket and lowering the fines to something that is fairer.

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct. This is not going to effectively change the number of tickets we write, but the fine will go down to \$15 from \$50.

On motion of Alderman Sullivan, duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette, it was voted that the Ordinance amendment request for section 70.78 be approved.

13. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, informing the Committee that both the Parking Division and Highway Department is beginning implementation of the reconfiguration of a portion of Elm Street from West Auburn Street to the Rockwell property.  
*(Tabled 8/31/09)*

On motion of Alderman J. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Ms. Stanley stated both the Highway and Parking Departments decided that the wiser course of action was to drop this letter to the Board. It does not require an Ordinance. However, in this year's fiscal budget there was revenue included for changing Elm Street between West Auburn Street and the Valero Station, just south of the Rockwell Property to angled parking on the west side of the street. This is going to require reducing the number of lanes on Elm Street in that area, from four to three, a center lane and one lane travelling in either direction. That is the same as Elm Street to the north of Granite Street. The traffic flow will be exactly the same as it is for the main section of downtown. The Highway Department also felt that they wanted to construct a bump out on the southwest corner of West Auburn and Elm Streets to protect pedestrians, traffic and parked vehicles. This will cost about \$5,000. It is in the Parking Division budget and we will generate about \$10,000 a year, mostly from event revenue from the change.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't have a problem with this per se, but my understanding is that we are going to be seeing a presentation sometime soon on the Gas Light District. This is part of that. I personally wouldn't want to move forward until I see the entire presentation on the Gas Light District. I'm told it is done. I don't know when we are going to see something on it. This is the east end of the Gas Light District, so I think it needs to tie into the other recommendations they are talking about. I would like to see the big picture before we start spending money on a block at a time.

Alderman Shea asked do you have any information about what he's referring to?

Ms. Stanley replied I know that there was a plan in the works. I was involved in the original plan and I believe this is where these drawings came from. This configuration is from that design phase. I don't have any idea when this Board can expect to see anything. I have been involved in this project for quite a while.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think it is part of the big picture and I would personally like to see it first. I can't see that we are going to get construction done this year anyway.

Ms. Stanley stated I think the reason the request to suspend the rules is before you is because the Highway Department feels that if it is approved tonight they can actually get it done this construction season.

Alderman Shea asked is this project in the budget?

Ms. Stanley replied both the revenue and the expense is in the budget.

Alderman O'Neil asked it isn't in Highway's budget to do the work is it?

Ms. Stanley replied no, it is in my budget to pay them to do the work.

Alderman O'Neil stated it should have shown up as a Highway project. You are the funding source. The project itself should have shown up as a CIP project. Correct? The answer is yes. I think I would like to see a bigger picture.

Alderman Shea stated the revenues that you are hoping to gain from this will not be realized so your income flow will be less than you anticipated. Is that correct?

Ms. Stanley replied it will be less by about \$10,000. I do believe we will be able to make that up in other areas, but theoretically, that is correct.

Alderman Ouellette asked when are you expecting the construction to be completed so you can achieve your \$10,000 goal?

Ms. Stanley replied we will not be able to achieve the \$10,000 goal this fiscal year because we missed the first few months. It will probably be about \$7,500 because the Verizon is slow during the summer months. They are just starting to get busy.

Alderman Ouellette asked if we approve this, when do you foresee the project being completed so you can start achieving your revenues?

Ms. Stanley replied the meters are already there. Virtually, what needs to happen is Elm Street needs to be restriped, which can happen very quickly. The Highway Department requested that this letter be drafted and it be sent to the Board tonight for approval because they can get started on it immediately and get it done before the cold weather sets in.

Alderman Ouellette asked are they going to do that before they construct the bump outs?

Ms. Stanley replied they were going to do the whole project at once.

Alderman Ouellette stated without having seen the total presentation that Alderman O'Neil talked about, I'm not sure that this part of the project should be held up one way or the other because we haven't seen that presentation. To me, regardless of whether or not we approve that project for the Gas Light District, I think we could still go ahead and do this and make some of the changes that she requested.

Alderman Sullivan stated I tend to agree with my colleague from Ward 11. The striping of that strip is something that has been discussed for a while. My understanding is that it has to do with event days. That seems to be the major concern. Monday through Friday there isn't a huge amount of traffic in that area, but this may be a way to realize some revenues from events at the arena and at the ballpark in the summer months. I don't think there is anything that will occur that will adversely impact the Gas Light Redevelopment. My feeling is to move forward. If there are changes that need to be made, they can be made, but I don't see a reason to hold this up any further.

Alderman Shea stated this has already been approved in the budget and we're sending it to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for an informational type of review. Is that correct?

Ms. Stanley replied that was the idea. I don't think either department wants to move forward if it isn't the will of the Board.

Alderman Shea stated Alderman O'Neil feels that there might be some conflict with the Gas Light discussion, but other members of the Board have a different view point.

Alderman O'Neil stated I'm not saying that it is conflict, but if you look at the three drawings attached to our agenda they clearly say Gas Light District General Plan. My issue is that we are taking one piece of what is suppose to be an entire plan. I don't know why that plan hasn't come before us. The plans Brandy is using to support this say Gas Light District General Plan. I don't know why we are piecemealing this. I'm going to vote against this.

On motion of Alderman Sullivan, duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette, it was voted to send this item to the full Board for review.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Sullivan, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee