

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

October 4, 2010

5:30 PM

Chairman Roy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Osborne, Long, Ouellette, Shaw

Messrs: T. Soucy, A. Thomas, B. Nettleton, B. Stanley

Chairman Roy addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from Timothy Soucy, Public Health Director, requesting permission to place yard signs at area businesses, major roads and rotaries throughout the city from November 10, 2010, through November 29, 2010.

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

Alderman Osborne asked how are we doing with the smokers out there?

Mr. Timothy Soucy, Public Health Director, replied we would like to get them all to quit.

Alderman Osborne asked do you want to discuss what this is all about?

Mr. Soucy stated first of all, let me introduce Brita Nettleton who is the Public Health Specialist in our office who is working to coordinate our tobacco program and you know Anna Thomas, the Deputy Director. I'm going to have them do a brief presentation on what we are proposing.

Ms. Anna Thomas, Deputy Health Director, stated I think one of the things that we really wanted to do was use the month of November and the Great American Smoke Out to try to promote tobacco use prevention throughout the City and encourage as many residents as possible to quit and use the Great American Smoke Out as a start date for that. We are very fortunate to have Brita Nettleton on staff. She is not only a certified health educator, but she has also gone through tobacco treatment training through the City so it is nice to have that resource.

Certainly all of the work that has been building up to this and some of the programming that we have been able to begin to implement from securing some grants for the City to actually targeting different areas, we would like to package all of this promotional work in the month of November in a multi-pronged strategy, so this is one of many steps in that direction to promote the community to be smoke free.

Ms. Brita Nettleton, Public Health Specialist, stated the initiative that we are proposing is a part of a larger statewide smoking cessation campaign and it would involve placing 25 to 50 yard signs around the city that promote the website, trytostoph.org. The website, which is maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, contains information and resources that will help smokers try to quit in New Hampshire.

Alderman Osborne asked is there a local number that they can use to call anybody?

Mr. Soucy replied we try to utilize the same resources around the state, which is the 1-800-try to stop number that we are going to be promoting. That is in conjunction with the State Health Department and then working with the American Cancer Society around the Great American Smoke Out and really targeting that initiative.

Ms. Nettleton stated information on that phone number is included on the website. It is 1-800-try to stop.

Alderman Osborne stated some people don't use websites.

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

Chairman Roy addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, submitting two requests for the use of Arms Lot, one for UNH Manchester Commencement Ceremony to be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012, and one for Habitat for Humanity Moonlight Festival to be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010.

Alderman Ouellette moved to approve this item. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Long.

Alderman Arnold stated I have a couple of questions, specifically about the commencement request. Can you take me through the process that your office would be following to determine whether or not this is going to be logistically possible without incurring costs that you referred to in your letter?

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, replied again, this is pretty far out. It is 2012, not this coming spring, but the next spring. If the parking situation in the Millyard remains the same we should be able to relocate all the parkers that we have parking down there in that area. If something changes and the number of available parking spaces goes down then we will need to figure out how to get them to and from work and where they can park. If there is not enough parking available in the Millyard they would have to be moved somewhere else. It could be within walking distance, but if that were the case, it would be on private property and I'm sure that there would be a cost associated with it. We could move them somewhere else, but we would have to run a shuttle back and forth.

Alderman Arnold asked under the proposal that I guess the Committee will be recommending adoption of, is there any cost that is going to be borne by the applicant or the requestor?

Ms. Stanley replied that is what I would recommend. That is one of my recommendations, not that it has to be the case. That is obviously not my call, but it is going to cause a big inconvenience to the people who park down there because they will be taking up the lot for approximately three days. There are a lot of people who park down there. It is possible and I'm sure we can work with them to make sure that everything goes off smoothly, but if there are costs, it is up to the Board to decide whether or not it is appropriate for the City to pay those.

Alderman Arnold asked have we done commencements there before?

Ms. Stanley replied no.

Chairman Roy stated you brought up a good point, but that is included in the proposal here. If there are any costs they are going to take care of it.

Ms. Stanley stated that is not included in their proposal. It is part of my recommendation.

Alderman Long asked Brandy, could we put a condition that they bear the parking costs for relocating parkers? That will be an amendment because this is just requesting them to pay the costs. This approval is under the condition that they pay the costs for relocating parking.

Alderman Ouellette amended his motion to include that the approval is contingency upon UNH Manchester accepting responsibility for any costs associated with the request. Alderman Long duly seconded the amended motion.

Alderman Long asked do we know if Habitat for Humanity has received a permit from the Clerk's Office yet?

Ms. Stanley replied yes.

Alderman Long stated so we don't need to add the appropriate departments. They received the permits for this so they are all set for this so it can be approved as is.

Ms. Stanley stated correct.

Chairman Roy asked Clerk, how do we separate this out because Habitat for Humanity is timely and needs to go to the Board?

Mrs. Heather Freeman, Vital and Legislative Records Supervisor, replied we can do two separate committee reports if you would like.

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

Chairman Roy addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, submitting Ordinance Amendments to Section 70.54 changing Kidder and Hollis Streets and a portion of Elm Street from Parking District 26 to Parking District 27.

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

Chairman Roy stated reading this I believe the streets are incorrect on page 5-6, the bolded part where it says on the east side, meaning the east side of Elm Street, and it says from Langton Street to Hollis Street. Langton Street is on the west side of Elm Street as is Hollis Street. I believe it is probably going to have to read Harrison Street to Orange Street. Further on, Elm Street west side from Langton Street to Orange Street, I think that should be Hollis Street. As this goes forward could you make sure that is corrected?

Ms. Stanley stated yes, I apologize.

Chairman Roy stated I just saw it this afternoon and I apologize for not calling you before. That is the only thing they need to clean up. They probably would have caught that in Bills on Second Reading.

Alderman Long stated the reason for this is that we are trying to encourage employees to park in parking lots. Within the last six months there have been a lot of placards for downtown parking that employees receive through the businesses and they are parking on the streets and they are for ten hours. The businesses on Elm Street don't like that people will park their car and they will be there all day, until 8:00 PM or 5:30 PM. With Hollis and Kidder Streets there is also residential parking. The only retail is a pawn shop. There is ten hour parking there and residents aren't able to park come 5:30 or 6:00 when they come home because the employees are still parked there and they will park there all day. By the time they leave, the bars are open and people are grabbing those parking spots. It is going to be until 8:00 PM so it will give the residents an opportunity to get a spot and then those that are going out on Elm Street will have spots on Elm Street and whatever available spots on Kidder and Hollis Streets. It is both to encourage employees to park in lots and to make sure that residential neighborhoods are able to find areas to park.

On motion of Alderman Long, duly seconded by Alderman Shaw, it was voted to approve this item as amended.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee