

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

October 4, 2022 at 5:15 PM

Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Barry, Long, Stewart, George-Kelly, Sharonov

Messrs.: Alderman Heath, C. Goodnow, M. Gomez, A. Aldenberg, G. DiTullio,
M. Donahue

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

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Milford Street, north side, from William Street to a point 90 feet east

Alderman Barry

On Jewett Street, east side, from Cilley Road to a point 75 feet north

On Jewett Street, west side, from Cilley Road to a point 80 feet north

Alderman Heath

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to approve the traffic agenda.*

Chairman Barry stated Alderman Heath has something to say in reference to that.

Alderman Heath stated thank you. I want to talk about the situation that we have on Jewett Street right now. Since Hallsville School closed, we continue to have many more children crossing the intersection of Cilley and Jewett. It is really becoming a hazard for our children. Because of parking on the sidewalk, and actually parking enforcement has been great and have been getting out there as much as they can, but we are at a point now where the only real remedy is going to be that lights can be put in place for the safety of the children. So I'll be coming back later on with that, but I just want to thank you for passing this motion this evening. Again, I just wanted to raise that concern about Jewett Street and Cilley. Thank you.

2. Communication from Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding a request from Doreen Desmarias, Able-NH, to use a portion of the Arms Lot for their Disability Justice Festival scheduled for October 15, 2022.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Communication from the Parking Manager regarding a request from Keri Dutton of LNA Health Careers to use the Middle Street Lot for a health care recruiting event on October 23, 2022 from 1:00 PM to 4:15 PM.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to approve.*

4. Communication from the Parking Manager regarding a request received from John Mortimer, owner of Millenium Running, to use a portion of the Arms Lot as home base for their Trick or Trot 3K road race on October 30, 2022.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Sharonov**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Communication from the Parking Manager regarding a request from Kerri Morelli of ARMI BioFabUSA to use a portion of the Arms Lot on Friday, October 21 for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge award celebration.

***Alderman Long** moved to approve the request. **Alderman George-Kelly** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Long asked was there a request for an extended period of time to leave that tent up. Was there a request to leave the tent up for a week or something?

Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, responded yes they want to leave the tent up for their Build Back Better event on Friday and then they have another approved event from last month on that Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday I believe. So it is almost going to be up for a week.

Alderman Long stated ok so I'll move to amend the motion to include leaving the tent up for the week.

Mr. Goodnow stated yes, that is what we are asking.

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

6. Communication from Kristen Clarke, Traffic Engineer, requesting approval of an agreement between the City and Trinity High School for the installation and maintenance of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon at the intersection of Bridge Street and Highland Street, as well as fencing along the northern side of Bridge Street.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to approve.*

7. Communication from Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, requesting approval of an ordinance amendment regarding prohibited behavior in parks.

***Alderman Long** moved to approve the request.*

Alderman George-Kelly stated I think we need to table this. We need to table it not because I don't think it is the right thing to do for the parks. I understand from the parks'

perspective why it is important but I also think from a community's perspective, it is on the road to criminalizing our unhoused residents in our community. We are working on trying to hire a new homeless services initiatives director in our community, and we need to give that person an opportunity to come in to the position and be able to make a difference and impact the unhoused individuals in our community. This ordinance is targeting those individuals who are hanging out in our parks during the day that have all of their belongings with them and nowhere else to go. With only the option of the 199 Manchester Street shelter, we don't have any other options to offer them at this moment. So what we are doing indirectly by passing this ordinance is criminalizing unhoused individuals because they are going to say I can't take my shopping cart out of the park because I have nowhere to go with it, and then they are going to get arrested for refusing the orders of the police officer, or because of the contact that they might have with a police officer. I am asking us to table this until we have further discussion on the homeless services initiative director and that there is a plan in place to really respond to the issue of unhoused individuals in our community.

Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, stated I want to be crystal clear. Everyone is welcome in our parks. People who are homeless and people who have homes. The purpose of the ordinance change is to make the parks accessible and enjoyable for all. Right now, we have individuals who are bringing enormous quantities of materials into our parks. It is impeding the ability of others to enter and move about in the parks, to enjoy all of the areas in the parks, and is contributing to excessive litter in the parks. Sometimes the quantity of materials provides a visual barrier behind which illicit activity can occur. I think it is critical that our parks be accessible and enjoyable by all. That is the purpose of the proposed ordinance amendment.

Alderman Long stated I agree. We don't have the luxury of waiting until we hire a new homelessness director to address this. I can see where Alderman George-Kelly is coming from, but I disagree. I think it is a public benefit. I know people that are not going to the parks because it seems like the parks are taken over. That is up to them, not up to me. I'm telling them to use the park, but they don't feel right there. I am highly supportive of this. It has to go through the ordinance process which is a little time consuming, but I am in favor of this to open our parks for the public benefit; for all of the public's benefit.

Chairman Barry stated we have had some of the things that are highlighted. We have had them in place about enforcing tents and tarps and so on. So what are you actually adding to it?

Mr. Gomez answered a couple of things. A ban on shopping carts and a limitation on the number of bicycles that an individual can bring into the park – a maximum of one per person. We have had issues with individuals bringing in 10-15 bicycles on their own.

Chairman Barry asked about shopping carts.

Mr. Gomez replied about shopping carts as well. The other thing that the ordinance amendment does is clarify that language in Section 130.13 around what constitutes camping or an attempt to camp. That language applies within parks as well and I think it just cleans up a little bit of the language in the existing ordinance.

Chairman Barry stated I read here that you did go through the Police Department and the City Solicitor and they are ok with it. They are in agreement.

Mr. Gomez responded yes. We had several conversations with representatives of the Police Department and City Solicitor's Office to talk through the proposed changes. I believe we have their support.

Alderman Stewart stated I appreciate my colleague's concerns. We certainly don't want to criminalize homelessness. At the same time, I also agree with my colleague, Alderman Long, that time is of the essence here. If we had all the time in the world...we don't know what the timeline is going to be with regard to hiring a new homeless initiatives director and getting that person up to speed and having them make the requisite relationships across all of the community to finally come up with some type of better solution. People who are around me enough often hear me say that perfect is the enemy of the good. Is this perfect? I don't think it is. Is it better than what we have now? Is it good? Yes. Do we need it now? Yes. Can we change it in the future? Yes. For these reasons, and to your point about everyone being able to enjoy the park which I think right now is not happening because there are a lot of people who do not want to go to the parks, they are not for everybody now. I am also concerned about the barriers that are being created in the parks that our police cannot see behind. I know what I see when I walk through the parks and what I see is not legal. It is behavior that I think this is aiming to correct. I will be supporting this tonight.

Chairman Barry stated I want to make it clear that we are not stopping homeless people from using our parks. Anyone and everyone can use our parks. We have to make sure that the people using the parks, whether they are homeless or not, are following the rules. I agree with you one hundred percent. It is unfortunate because it is probably a few people that ruin it for others. But some people are taking over the parks and doing what they please because we don't have any teeth as far as telling them to behave and telling them to do the right thing. I will also support this.

Alderman Sharonov duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman George-Kelly being duly recorded in opposition to approve and refer to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

8. Communication from Allen Aldenberg, Chief of Police, regarding a quote of \$6,983.31 from Clean Harbors Environmental Services to provide for the removal and disposal of abandoned campers and recreational vehicles on city streets.

Alderman Long moved to approve the request. ***Alderman Stewart*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long asked Chief are you going to absorb the \$6,983.31. Is that the conversation we had? You're going to absorb the \$6,983 in your budget?

Allen Aldenberg, Chief of Police, stated I can for this current group of campers that is currently sitting over at the dump on Dunbarton Road. Before we came here, Sergeant Donahue and Lieutenant DiTullio from my Traffic Unit who handled this issue for me,

informed me that we probably have about five or six more that will be earmarked for destruction as well. We're talking about another \$6,000. Like I told you earlier today, I bring this up just to make the Board aware and make this committee aware that eventually I don't think it is appropriate for that to come out of my budget. I can certainly handle this first wave of it due to vacancies, but I think moving forward in FY24 we need to allocate a line item for this. Many of you are calling to complain about these campers, and rightfully so. We found a plan and came up with an avenue to address it. Moving forward, if I come back, I don't want anybody to be surprised that I will need some money to offset the cost.

Alderman Long stated when we are reviewing the city budget, you will have a better handle on what amount you're looking for I would assume.

Chief Aldenberg replied yes I think as we develop the budget for FY24 we could probably give an accurate number to allocate moving forward. I think that is fair.

Chairman Barry stated I would hope, and you've received phone calls from myself because of certain areas in Ward 10 that people seem to congregate in with campers, that the more we tow away the less we are going to have and we won't continue having them in the city unregistered and parked places. I heard a rumor that they were getting them from Concord and placing them here in Manchester or towing them here or whatever. I don't know how accurate that is, but I heard that it is pretty accurate.

Chief Aldenberg responded there is probably some truth somewhere in there.

Chairman Barry stated it is pretty sad that people are doing that. We have to do it; we have to enforce it. We have to get them off the streets. Not only are they an eye sore, it's a safety issue. Just like when Mr. Gomez came before us, we have people that don't want to abide by the rules. They use their campers, they go outside, they urinate and do whatever they do, and leave their trash behind.

Chief Aldenberg stated I just didn't want the committee or the Board to be shocked at the end of the fiscal year when I report back that I spent \$25,000 out of my budget to dispose of campers.

Chairman Barry replied I guess in the long run the city is going to find the money. It is city money whether it is in your budget or Pat Long's budget.

Chief Aldenberg stated this is more bringing it to everyone's attention. We will handle it for now.

Alderman Long asked just to clarify, are campers that are registered and that are moving along...there are three streets in my ward where they are doing the ten-hour deal. They park somewhere for ten hours and then move to another street for ten hours. Constituents are telling me they are emptying their sewage down the grate. These are just abandoned and unregistered RVs. If you have a registered RV parked...

Gregory DiTullio, Police Lieutenant, stated the ones that we are looking at right now are the ones that are not roadworthy. They are unregistered or they have flat tires or are

not running. Those are the ones that we are getting off the street. This is a process just like with removing these campers from the street and destroying them. There is a process. To get them off the street, we red tag them so they have 24 hours to move the campers and get them out of the area. We just dealt with one over off of Harvell Street. Same thing. We gave that individual 24 hours. He claimed he needed a part so we gave him 24 hours and if it wasn't gone then we would tow it. The problem we are seeing now is we have six campers that are over in the transfer station off of Dunbarton Road. A prime example is the one you called us about. We don't have a place to put these campers. If the constituents call you with a problem, we can try to go over and move them along, but if they don't move we have no place to put it. The tow yards are at full capacity right now and they don't have room for these campers. It is imperative that we get these six campers taken care of and then we can make some more room for some other ones so if somebody does call we have the ability to actually remove it from the street and bring it to a spot that is out of the public view.

Chairman Barry asked Chief, is Clean Harbors all set if we approve this and get it going. Can they take them so we have more room?

Chief Aldenberg stated yes. Sergeant Donahue to my right, as early as last week, had another conversation with Clean Harbors to update the quote that we received. They are ready to go.

Michael Donahue, Police Sergeant, stated they are ready to go. They need about a two week lead time.

Chairman Barry asked so if we approve this right now and put it before the full Board tonight to expedite it...

Chief Aldenberg stated I don't know if you really need to put anything in front of the Board tonight because I'm not asking you for money. This is more just to be aware and so that we're all on the same page. Unless I am wrong, the Clerk can correct me.

Alderman Long stated so we're going to give you permission to spend your own budget.

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

9. Communication from the Chief of Police recommending an automated computer software program on the City's website that will allow for a more efficient special events application process.

Alderman Long moved to approve the request. Alderman George-Kelly duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long stated I don't recall ever going through this, but I can imagine the process that Jodie Nazaka is dealing with now. Forms change, or you need more information and the applicant doesn't know that and it is taking longer. This software, do we already have it or are we buying a software?

Sergeant Donahue stated it is going to be new for us. The IT Department has stated that they have something that will work that they are familiar with that we can start to implement. We have never implemented anything prior. We did some analysis of different departments and looked at Boston and the similar ways that they handle these applications. I think if we go to this system or something similar, we will learn and maybe change a few different things, but it will help make things smooth from all the municipal agencies communicating because we all have our own requirements.

Alderman Long stated so this software will touch every department that needs to be in on any decisions.

Chief Aldenberg stated essentially it is 2022 and we are trying to automate and make it easy for everybody. That way when they apply we are not getting notified four days before an event that we weren't aware of that didn't make it our way and now we have to react and force 15 cops to work an event that I wasn't even aware of. So it negatively impacts our employees. I spoke with the mayor today, and we're going to work with IT along with the City Clerk's Office and whoever else needs to be involved to get this system in place.

Alderman Stewart stated it is good to see this process being brought into the 21st Century 22 years into the century. Is there a cost to this software? Do we know what that cost is and where it is coming from?

Sergeant Donahue stated the cost we don't have. We don't know what the cost will be, depending on what format we go with. If it is something that IT currently has, that they currently have operating licenses to, there may be minimal cost. If we go with something else because of what our requirements are, we will have to revisit what that cost will be once we finalize the actual software that we're going to go forward with. It's more of the concept that we are deciding to go to a software sooner rather than later to benefit everybody so that we don't have conflicts and we don't get surprised.

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

- 10.** Communication from the Chief of Police recommending changes to improve the overall function and operations of snow emergencies.

Alderman Long stated there are a couple of questions we need to ask. We weren't sure if there were four officers for parking enforcement. I recall last winter parking enforcement had a couple people available but that was a last minute thing. I lean towards the officers because when we declare an emergency, we don't need to call Parking and ask if they have anyone available and what time would that be. Is that all going to be done in time? As far as the revenue, it makes sense the revenue that you have here. There were some members on the committee and myself that had more questions so for that reason I move to table this. I know we want to get it done the earlier the better before snow falls, so we're looking at the November meeting and we can move it on the full Board in the first November meeting.

Chief Aldenberg stated we will certainly make ourselves available to the committee members during the week or whatever works if members have questions to ask us about this proposal in anticipation of that meeting.

Alderman Long stated it is comprehensive. You did an outstanding job presenting it. It is soup to nuts. It is really comprehensive. To absorb it, I had a bunch of questions.

Chairman Barry asked would this be overtime. Would that be for snow emergencies only the days that are snow emergencies?

Chief Aldenberg answered correct.

Chairman Barry asked this wouldn't be to enforce the odd/even parking. This is only for snow emergencies?

Chief Aldenberg replied right. As you know, eventually the lots get full. There are only so many cars the lot can absorb that are towed. So simultaneously, they have officers out there doing the ticketing for the streets that we can't get to. We prioritize based off of what Public Works wants done first in terms of towing. We can simultaneously ticket for snow emergencies while it is only going to be an added benefit to continue to educate and enforce what is already in place. We are trying to improve the process along with the additional parking options for people to go to a public lot that we put in the proposal as well.

Chairman Barry stated I noticed you put in Crystal Lake and you have some options. The airport we talked about that last year.

Chief Aldenberg responded that came up last year. There are limited opportunities for people to park for free. That is why we also made that part of the proposal; to increase their options as well.

Chairman Barry stated ideally it would be great to tow them to the area where they are close in proximity. Like on the west side, bring them to the West Side Arena. In the south end bring them to Crystal Lake and so on.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I know we are looking at tabling this tonight to gather more information but I want to say thank you for putting all the time and effort into this. I know we asked you to come to us with a comprehensive plan before the winter came, so I appreciate the fact that you followed through with that and presented us with this. It is going to be important for us to look at some of the budgetary implications of this but I appreciate the work and the plan. Thank you.

Chairman Barry stated as far as the odd/even, I'm sure officers will be out there at night enforcing that.

Alderman Stewart stated I want to echo the thanks for putting together this comprehensive plan. I like that it has more places for residents to take their cars. I like that it expands capacity of the towed vehicles and the number of officers out there doing this work among other things. I'm fine with tabling but I just want to ensure that if we do

wait until the first meeting in November to approve this and report it out to the full Board that you'll have enough time to stand everything up before the snow starts flying, which hopefully we have a couple of months.

Chief Aldenberg responded to answer that question, I think the only delay could be the change in the fine amounts and how long that would take to institute. If we were to intentionally finalize this at the next meeting and then maybe it carries over that night, then getting the ticket books published and getting that changed will take a little bit of time.

Chairman Barry asked if we do support this and okay it going through the full Board and give the overtime rate, the extra revenue that we get from it that goes to the Parking Division correct.

Sergeant Donahue answered that is who I believe the revenue goes to. They could probably speak to that as far as tickets.

Mr. Goodnow stated it is my understanding that the revenue goes to Finance. The plan was to get with Finance and Parking and figure out what the best course of action is to pay those man hours and then take the revenue from there.

Alderman Long stated I'll move to approve it. We'll have two weeks to figure out the fine tuning questions that I have and that anybody else may have.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to approve.*

11. Special events update from the Police Department, if available.

Chief Aldenberg stated in regards to our special events, on October 8th there is the Octoberfest 5K down at the Backyard Brewery; October 15th is the Able-NH Disability Parade and Festival at Commercial Street and Arms Park; October 20th is the Powers Aid Walk-A-Thon at Trinity High School; October 21st is the Build Back Better celebration at Arms Park; October 22nd is the Workman's Block Party on West Street; October 29th is the Cross Country High School Championship up at the Derryfield and the Hocus Pocus on Hanover Street to Chestnut to Elm; and October 30th is Trick or Trot 3K at Arms Park. If I didn't say it earlier, I also declared that Trick or Treat will take place on October 31st from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

TABLED ITEM

- 12.** Communication from Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding an inquiry from Brad Pernaw in reference to parking in front of the Common Man Roadside restaurant at 451 Commercial Street.
(Note: Items #1 and #3 of the request were received and filed at the 9/6 committee meeting. Item #2 regarding the installation of a park & pay kiosk is the only item on the table.)

This item remained on the table.

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

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee