

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

March 7, 2023 at 5:45 PM

Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs.: J. Nazaka, P. Telge

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

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Elm Street, east side, from a point 110 feet north of Green Street to a point 40 feet further north

Alderman Long

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

On Boutwell Street, west side, from a point 250 feet south of Kelley Street to a point 40 feet further south

Alderman Gamache

METERS- 10 HOURS 8AM-5PM, MON-SAT

On Elm Street, east side, from a point 103 feet north of Grove Street to a point 110 feet north of Green Street

On Elm Street, east side, from a point 150 feet north of Green Street to a point 50 feet north of Auburn Street South Back

Alderman Long

RESCIND CROSSWALK

On Pine Street, mid-block across from the Library (ORD 2211)

Alderman Fajardo

RESCIND ONE HOUR PARKING

On Union Street, west side, from Lowell North Back Street to Lowell Street (ORD 6233)

Alderman Fajardo

RESCIND HANDICAP PARKING ONLY

On Dearborn Street, west side, from a point 117 feet south of Summer Street to a point 25 feet south (ORD 9955)

Alderman Sapienza

RESCIND 15-MINUTE PARKING 8AM-5PM, MON-SAT

On Elm Street, east side, from 33 feet north of Green Street to a distance 22 feet north (ORD 10225)

Alderman Long

RESCIND METERS- 10 HOURS

On Elm Street, east side, from Auburn Street to a point 153 feet south of Green Street (ORD 9921)

Alderman Long

RESCIND METERS- 10 HOURS 8AM-5PM, MON-SAT

On Elm Street, east side, from a point 196 feet north of Green Street to Auburn Street (ORD 10228)

On Elm Street, east side, from a point 103 feet north of Grove Street to a point 33 feet north of Green Street (ORD 10226)

On Elm Street, east side, from a point 55 feet north of Green Street a distance 105 feet north (ORD 10227)

Alderman Long

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to table rescinding the crosswalk on Pine Street, mid-block across from the Library (ORD 2211).*

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

Chairman Barry asked if there was any new business.

Alderman Long stated there is new business. Before us we have a request from Stark Brewing Company for some parking seating by their business. I'm not sure if Ms. Nazaka can speak to this. The issue that I'm hearing is we're not in COVID anymore and they don't need the parking spaces and they are not going to be doing it on Elm Street like they did the last few years. I am of the opinion that if this is going to enhance a business, then I would find it favorable. I have been there four or five times and there is minimal parking in these areas now. I have seen four or five cars. Jodie told me today that there were probably four or five spots that were open when she went. So the idea is that we are losing revenue on parking, however, they foresee this summer there will be a big need for parking. I don't know how you quantify that, but it's a thought that they will. I look favorably upon this because it enhances the business and even though we're out of COVID there are people that don't like going inside still and would much rather be outside. That's my train of thought with this.

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, stated what is important to note, and I don't know if this is an opportunity to have the applicant or the requestor come up here as well and answer some questions but the question would be why isn't the request to expand the outdoor area on their own property. Why is it in the city spaces? I agree that any opportunity to expand a business and help them thrive in the City of Manchester, is a great opportunity but I would worry that the business that is asking for this is no different than any other business in the City of Manchester and wondering how other accommodations will be made to the other restaurants that are also looking for similar requests. Those were just some of my concerns. We have a great relationship in the Economic Development Office with the requestor, the owner of Stark Mill Brewery and we have worked really closely to help bring some activation to Arms Park and we are working diligently to activate that space. We added new lighting down there and we added a mural to understand that that is a great attractor for the city, especially for people who work in the Millyard. One of the other concerns too is the last two years that parking area has been blocked off by concrete barriers so physically nobody could actually park there. That barrier was removed this past fall, and once it was removed

people did start parking there again. It is not full all the time. I agree with that but if we're looking into the future with what we're expecting with the Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant that we got, the \$43,000,000 that the City received to expand the bio-fabrication industry in the Millyard, that is expected to bring 7,000 direct jobs into the Millyard within the next three years. If this does get approved, I would hope that the Board would consider maybe putting a limitation on it and maybe it could be reviewed annually. I don't think it is something that the city should just give carte blanche, give a forever approval that this private business owner can increase his revenues on city property from here until whenever. I think those are some things that the Board should consider.

Chairman Barry stated I agree. I don't think it should go on forever, but one thing I disagree with is the fact that I believe COVID is still a worry for a lot of people. People are still getting COVID. There are quite a few people I know. Our Health Director is here and she can probably attest to that. I think people are still concerned. I know people personally that are still concerned about going into businesses or going out to dinner. They would much rather be outside and have that six-foot space.

Alderman Stewart stated I didn't see on the application the charge for this.

Chairman Barry replied there is no charge.

Alderman Stewart asked didn't we charge the Elm Street businesses.

Alderman Long answered we did and we charged Stark Mill Brewery last year also.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated last year Mr. Telge paid \$1,260 for that space.

Chairman Barry asked for all the spaces.

City Clerk Normand stated yes that was the charge. It was \$1,260.

Alderman Stewart asked is that being proposed to be charged again.

City Clerk Normand stated I don't think that has been discussed.

Chairman Barry asked what were you charged last year.

Peter Telge, Owner of Stark Mill Brewery, stated for three spaces there was a charge on Elm Street. What was the charge for Elm Street?

City Clerk Normand responded it was \$420 a space on Elm Street.

Chairman Barry stated in here it is not proposed to pay \$1,260. Would you be willing to pay the \$1,260?

Mr. Telge answered absolutely. That is what we agreed upon. I told them I would pay that. I would like to say a few things about this. First of all, I have been trying to enhance Manchester in many ways for years. I think a lot of you know that. I've worked on a lot of

things for the city. I've been trying to get this park going. During my thirty years at Stark Brewing, I've been to this chamber for a number of meetings where they've tried to do things in that area. Manchester Connects was going to put stone things down there and bring in food trucks. There were people trying to do a trail down there with kiosks. I was on the board of those things trying to create ways to get people into the Millyard. I see this as an opportunity for Manchester to highlight the Millyard. I've been trying to do this since I've been there with some frustration. What Jodie did this past winter with the lights I thought was phenomenal. It was about time and what James Chase did with the murals I thought was awesome because as you drive down the highway, not knowing Manchester, you look and see that and it is beautiful. Arms Park is a beautiful park and it has been so underutilized for a lot of things. My little space...taking those spaces, which are not really used as I was pointing out on the camera to some of you guys earlier, there is never a lack for parking there. If that lot is ever filled up, right next door the same parking pass is Arms Park. The north side of Arms Park is never filled. All of the things that fill it up are mostly on the south side. On a really busy day for business in Manchester when Arms Park has the most cars there, the south will fill up and always leaves the north side open which is right next to that park. Anybody that is losing the space has to walk twenty feet more and park in another space and most of those spaces are taken by students that are in 540 Commercial. I have videotape. I have a security camera on there which I have shown to a couple of you. Most of those spaces get taken in the morning and the people walk over to 540 Commercial Street. It is not even people in my building or next door or even Dean Kamen's business. They don't even get the spaces; they don't park there. Again, I know with what Dean's doing there are going to be a lot of people in the future. I have spent a lot of money on getting furniture for that. I worked really hard with the artist to get the murals approved. There are going to be murals painted on all of those bridge abutments this summer. They got CEAG money to paint five murals on those five bridge abutments. It's going to look really cool. I applied for lighting and landscaping and I have been talking to Parks and Recreation, but that got turned down. I'm not done trying to work on that to enhance the area to make a really nice place for Manchester. I've talked to all the neighbors around me, which includes the restaurant next door who are friends of mine and they think it's a great idea. I've talked to the businesses in the building and 95% of them love it and think it's a great idea. A lot of people from Dean Kamen's companies come there and bring their own lunch and eat there in the afternoon and sit there to enjoy the weather and enjoy the river just eating their own lunch and bringing their own lunch boxes and bringing their own sodas. Construction workers have people from ARMI that go and sit there. It's a thing that enhances the city. I wish the city would have done something like this and I believe they have tried. There have been a few proposals that I think went through the Aldermanic Chambers to get approved but they fell short for whatever reason. This is a step in a direction to try to enhance the city. For my own gain? Yes, because I do do some things out there but I do spend some money to do that. I'm hoping you'll consider doing this for the future.

Alderman Stewart asked how many spaces this is taking up.

Mr. Telge asked do you remember Matt how many spaces.

City Clerk Normand stated between 16-20. I don't know if Chris knows off the top of his head but the Parking Manager is here.

Mr. Telge stated I have it on camera if you want to see it.

Alderman Stewart asked we're just charging \$1,260 for 16-20 spaces.

City Clerk Normand stated that is what the Board had come up with last year. It's a parking revenue and goes right to parking. I think that was a compromise that Alderman Long had worked on with some of the Board for that charge.

Alderman Stewart stated I would like to see a little bit more. I'd like to see how much revenue we're losing. I also think that we need some policy that is consistent. What if other business owners on Elm Street or anywhere else come to us? Do we have a policy or are we just doing these one offs?

Alderman Long stated this business isn't on Elm Street. The reason why it's \$1,260 was because on Elm Street there was a maximum of three spots that you could have, so we charged him for the maximum that was being charged. That's how we came up with the \$1,260.

Chairman Barry stated it is my understanding and correct me if I'm wrong, that if we block that off and we put that barrier there then unfortunately we can't cut it in half.

Mr. Telge stated if I could show you my camera I can show you what I'm talking about. Those spaces are empty at night. Nobody parks there. So you're talking about empty spaces.

Alderman Stewart asked what about during the day.

Mr. Telge responded during the day is the only issue. It's not all days, but some days it does fill up like our parking lot. What was asked of me, and if there's some way the city could do it, was to put some type of gate on it saying it's only available after 5:00 PM and I was fine with that but the last time I talked to the Highway Department gentleman he said that is not going to work because we want the jersey barriers up for safety. I said ok. We could just up a couple of cones there at 5:00 so they could use it during the day. We don't use it that much during the day. Maybe a few days a week but most of the time it's people eating their own lunch and Dean Kamen's people sitting there. My business is at night when they are totally empty spaces. So you're talking about an empty parking lot. You are not talking about Elm Street.

Chairman Barry stated we only have three minutes so we need to hustle here.

Ms. Nazaka stated because the program is not going to be continued on Elm Street, there's been no coordination or discussions with DPW about jersey barriers. That is probably something you want to include in the approval if you move forward with this; how the area would be blocked off. DPW does have the jersey barriers available, but there is no plan for getting those out there.

Alderman Stewart stated I love outdoor dining, don't get me wrong. I'm not necessarily opposed to this but I do think that we need some type of policy. Like some of my

colleagues, I'm not a fan of things coming in the night of and just being thrown at us. I would like to see some kind of plan before we approve this.

Chairman Barry stated I still feel that we still have COVID fear out there and I think it is important that we do whatever we can for the businesses whether it be downtown or in Mr. Telge's spot.

Alderman Long moved to accept the request, adding a \$1,260 fee and requiring jersey barriers to be placed as determined by DPW. **Alderman Burkush** duly seconded the motion.

City Clerk Normand asked and that is just for this year correct.

Alderman Long replied yes to be reviewed every year.

Chairman Barry called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Stewart being duly recorded in opposition and Alderman George-Kelly abstaining.

TABLED ITEM

2. 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 Stewart**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee