

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

July 31, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Barry, Long, Kantor

Absent: Aldermen Stewart and George-Kelly

Messrs.: Aldermen Levasseur and E. Sapienza, K. Clarke

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

STOP SIGN

On Arthur Avenue at Coral Avenue, northwest corner

Alderman Cavanaugh

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated there is an addendum that has been handed out this evening which includes:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On W. Hancock Street, south side, from South Main Street to Second Street

Alderman Barry

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On W. Hancock Street, south side, from South Main Street easterly a distance of 90 feet (ORD 6310)

On W. Hancock Street, south side, from Second Street to Goffe Street
(ORD 6312)

On W. Hancock Street, north side, from Dartmouth Street to a point 65 feet west
(ORD 8925)

Alderman Barry

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to approve with the addendum items.*

2. Communication from Alderman Levasseur recommending an Ordinance Amendment relative to camping in public places.

Alderman Levasseur stated an issue occurred in the City of Manchester where I thought the police were doing their job quite well and handled the situation really well. They didn't realize at the time that the person inside the tent was recording them and citing an ordinance. When I listened to her and did some research on the ordinance that she was citing, I was shocked to know and unfortunately didn't realize that we had this ordinance in place that kind of handcuffs the police as far as their ability to cite people who are on public property with tents camping out. I didn't realize this until we had the big fight with the ACLU with what occurred in front of FIT but there is a state statute that

simply says no public camping allowed and that is it so I don't understand why we would have to add a caveat in there or add an extra bonus in there that there is no camping allowed in Manchester, however, you can camp here if we don't have a bed. I think we need to strike that from this ordinance. I think that we should move it to the full Board and have a strong discussion with our City Solicitor about it tomorrow night.

Alderman Long moved that the Ordinance Amendment ought to pass, be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review, and be reported out to the full Board tomorrow night. **Alderman Kantor** duly seconded the motion.

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

3. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, requesting approval to enter into a contract extension with American Medical Response, to take effect July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2029, with the option of an additional three one-year extensions.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to approve the contract extension.*

4. Communication from Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding a request from Jasmine Grace Outreach to use the Arms Lot for the 5K For Hope event scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2023.

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

5. Communication from the Parking Manager regarding a request from Stark Brewing Company to use the previously permitted section of Arms Lot for its Midget Mayhem Wrestling event scheduled for Sunday, August 13, 2023.

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

6. Communication from Peter Telge, Stark Brewing Company, requesting a fee waiver for its Micro Comedy Show scheduled for Sunday, August 13, 2023.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to receive and file.*

7. Communication from The Palace Theatre requesting permission to paint Hanover Street green for the first annual NH Irish Festival, from Chestnut Street west to Londonderry Lane, from August 18 through September 10.

City Clerk Normand stated it is my understanding that they are now seeking to just paint a shamrock in front of the Palace Theatre.

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

8. Discussion regarding the intersection at Sheffield Road and South Willow Street.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated briefly there have been numerous accidents there over the past few years. The good folks at Pro Image Auto who live right there at the corner live in daily fear of cars rolling into their business and that is not an exaggeration. I understand that South Willow Street is a state road and we are just right outside of the urban compact so we don't have control of South Willow Street. There is a plan to renovate that whole area by the state who I have been in contact with. The problem is that it is not going to happen for a couple of years at least. Basically what I am asking is can we do anything and everything we can as a city until the state moves in. That would be appreciated.

Chairman Barry stated we can refer this to Kristen Clarke to have her do a study because I know you mentioned making one portion of Sheffield Road one-way. Kristen could you look into that? Do you want to come up and speak?

Kristen Clarke, Traffic Engineer, stated we have looked into the crashes. In 2023 there were nine crashes and seven of them were reportable. It was a mix of eastbound, westbound, rear-ends, and left turns. It is not a consistent type of crash that is happening there. We have looked at the one-way option to see if it would be feasible but the problem is it is looking at one-way for only half of the block and there is not enough width in the right-of-way to be able to turn around without having to be a nuisance to a business and use their driveways to back-up and get back out. There is not a ton that we have seen we can do as an immediate short-term solution. I was out there this morning and I noticed that bunch of trees were overgrown and blocking the flasher so we did have our tree crews schedule to go out and trim those trees. The stop bars and the stop pavement markings are faded so we are going to get those repainted as soon as we can. We did do a speed study last year and provided that data to the Police Department to try to help with some targeted enforcement because I believe the average speed was at least 45 mph in that area. I think it is posted 40 or 45 mph but definitely there are some higher speeds out there as well.

Chairman Barry stated if we put lights up we would have to coordinate with the state because part of it is the state.

Ms. Clarke replied there is a flasher there already and it doesn't meet warrants for a full traffic signal. That has already been looked at. The state's project is primarily looking at adding left-turn lanes to try to get rid of some of the crashes. There were a lot of distracted drivers that didn't realize someone had stopped to put their blinker on to turn left and were just flying down and causing rear-ends or swerving and side-swiping vehicles. They are looking at left-turn lanes and the possible reconfiguration of Sheffield Road as either closing it off completely at South Willow to the east or making it one-way for a portion of it.

Chairman Barry asked is the state against lights. With so many accidents there from every direction, I think that would be a prime spot for traffic lights.

Ms. Clarke answered it doesn't meet any of the warrant criteria including the crash warrant that we have looked at in the past which is five or more crashes in one year that

can be improved with the installation of a traffic light. Given the types of accidents, I don't think in any one year there were even five of the type that would be resolved by a traffic light.

Alderman Long asked so prior to going out for bid on those fixes, I assume that DOT will come and speak to the BMA.

Ms. Clarke replied I talked to the DOT yesterday and they said that they have a consultant selected and are currently negotiating scope and fee and then the first stages of the project will be a meeting with city officials and if you want that to be at the BMA, I am sure we can ask for that.

Alderman Long stated it doesn't have to be.

Ms. Clarke stated there will also be a full public outreach meeting to get some input from the abutters.

Alderman Long stated if we can be clear now as to what we are looking at and let the DOT know, that would help.

Ms. Clarke stated we requested a road safety audit through Southern NH Planning and it was conducted by the state's team so they have been part of this all along and they are aware of what the issues are and what our thoughts are on what could help resolve some of the issues.

Chairman Barry stated Alderman E. Sapienza I am sure you will stay on top of this.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated as a sideline, I would urge anyone who is dealing with this on any level to talk to the people at Pro Image Auto simply because they are there every day. They are kind of the experts on this by virtue of the fact that this is their daily reality and they have seen it all.

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

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated tomorrow night as you know is National Night Out from 5 PM until 8 PM at JFK and the Beech Street School. We will have a pretty large footprint that we are occupying over there and a lot of good things will be happening. Sixty community partners are coming out and the NH National Guard is bringing a helicopter display. Chaos & Kindness has joined the team and they will be putting on some fun events as well so we are looking forward to that.

Chairman Barry asked what time does that start.

Chief Aldenberg answered it is from 5 PM until 8 PM. The Elliot/Delta Dental Road Race is on August 10. As you know, that is a big event downtown so there will be a lot of road closures on that day. The Sky Show at Arms Park is slated for August 26 with a rain date of August 27. Cruising Downtown will be held on September 2.

TABLED ITEMS

10. 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 9/6/2022 committee meeting. Item #2 regarding the installation of a park & pay kiosk is the only item on the table.)
11. Communication from the City Solicitor's Office recommending that the citizen proposal for an amendment to ordinance Section 71: Snow Emergency Regulations not be adopted.
*(Note: Tabled 6/6/2023. **The Committee approved an Ordinance Amendment regarding parking during snow emergencies on 7/11/2023.**)*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to remove Items 10 and 11 from the table.*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to receive and file both items.*

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

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee