

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

January 7, 2025 at 6:45 PM

Chairman Vincent called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Vincent, Morgan, Kantor, Barry, Goonan

Messrs.: Alderman Long, C. Dobbins

1. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:
HANDICAP PARKING ONLY
On Myrtle Street, north side, from a point 220 feet east of Pine Street to a point 25 feet further east
Alderman Long

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted to approve.*

2. Communication from Pamela Provencher, owner of Granite State Escape, requesting the installation of directional road signs to her business, contingent upon the approval of the NH DOT to add the business to the I-293 attractions sign at exit 5.

***Alderman Barry** moved to approve the request. **Alderman Morgan** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Long stated back in 2020, there was a group of us that worked on way-finding signage. We had too many signs in the city. Every block there would be three of four signs. We removed a lot of signs and there was a way-finding plan that we had submitted to former Mayor Craig. I don't know if the mayor still has that in his office, or maybe Jeff Eisenberg has a copy of it. What happens is when you request the state to have your signage on the highway, it is the city's responsibility to continue that. That means the city will be putting in three or more signs within the city showing where this business is. I would be careful, because businesses will be coming to us and saying they would like a sign on the highway. To DOT it doesn't matter how many businesses want their signs up as long as the City of Manchester approves it and we put up signs continuing the way-finding of that business. I would be cautious of approving this for that reason. We will continually have clutter. It was suggested that they just put a sign below the Palace Theater's signs. There is a certain distance that you need to have which some of these Palace signs, if you put another sign below them, you won't have distance. We have to be aware of that and be cautious.

Alderman Barry stated my understanding is that sign that she is looking at for her business already has three of the four spots taken, so she would be the fourth. I get what Alderman Long is saying, but she has to do the legwork to work with the state.

Caleb Dobbins, Highway Chief Engineer, stated we have discussed this internally at DPW. As Alderman Long explained, the likelihood that all the different businesses could end up asking for way-finding signs whether or not there is any kind of rhyme or reason

as to which ones would be allowed whether it is population in terms of customers or whatnot, regardless of who is asking for this I think it is important to look at the concept. This proposal itself is saying we can put the signs underneath the Palace signs. Well, that is not realistic. There is no room for them. They have to be a certain height above the sidewalks so people aren't hitting them as they are walking by. There is no room on the existing Palace signs. The proposal gave no specifics. It did not specify what locations are wanted for signs. Nothing was included in the proposal. I am not saying whether or not this business warrants signage or not, I am saying that more information is needed in order to figure out if this is feasible or not.

Alderman Barry stated I get it but we already have them in the city. I don't know how many are available on the state highways. What she is proposing I am assuming is you get off the highway and you have to give people an idea that her business is in the city limits. Then she has to work with city officials to depict where her business actually is. We are already doing it for other businesses. I would hate to start saying we are going to pick and choose which ones we are going to do it for and which ones we are not. If the other signs on the state highway are not available, I think we are in good shape.

Mr. Dobbins stated I would hesitate to speak to how the state program works. I believe it is a matter of who is the closest. This business might be on it now. Two years from now it might not be on that state directional sign if a business that is closer wants to be on it as the one furthest away gets bumped off of the sign.

Alderman Barry asked what would happen if a business is on the sign and they go out of business. Who is responsible for the signs to have them removed within the city?

Mr. Dobbins stated if they are out of business, I would imagine that the state charges for those signs. I would assume the state would remove them because they have already been paid to put them up. I am uncertain as to who would pay for the signs being installed within the city.

Alderman Barry asked what's the main problem with the city to put a couple extra signs up to show where a business is. She is only asking for a couple of signs to show where her business is.

Mr. Dobbins stated we looked specifically at the signs that are already way-finding for the Palace Theater and the posts that those signs are on cannot support another sign in terms of staying in compliance with how high above the road they need to be. If they get too low, then the driver can't even see them. If they are at a certain height, they need to be above a certain height so that the pedestrian walking along isn't going to hit their head on them as they are walking. Where they proposed to put them is probably not feasible. There may be whole new signs and posts that need to be installed.

Alderman Barry stated I wish we knew about this prior to this meeting. Coming to this meeting and then finding out these things, is totally unfair to them. She took the extra step to call and speak with all members of the Committee in reference to it. I came here and I didn't receive any correspondence from anyone saying that we may have a problem.

Mr. Dobbins stated understood. This wasn't an item that we submitted, and I don't believe the person ever contacted DPW.

Alderman Barry stated well they contacted us and here we are.

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

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, 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