

# COMMITTEE ON LANDS & BUILDINGS

October 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Shaw, Cavanaugh, Long, Sharonov

Absent: Alderman Levasseur

Messrs.: S. Garrity, M. Gomez, P. Croasdale

1. Communication from Kevin McCue, Heritage Commission Chairman, regarding a proposal for the installation of educational signage regarding the history of Manchester's Black citizens.

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

Chairman Shaw stated I think this is excellent and I want to thank Stan Garrity for all of this work and invite him up to say a few words.

Stan Garrity stated this idea started when somebody approached me over three years ago now to see if we had any black history in the city. It got my curiosity. I had a couple of things and I just started digging into all kinds of records whether it be in libraries or state records or city records or newspapers or deeds. We have a vast black history in this city dating back to the early 1700's. We had slaves here believe it or not. We had some free blacks too and they were land owners. When the mills came in, in the 1850's census it showed that we had 16 black barbers in the city all downtown giving haircuts and stuff. They had families and they had histories. We had some civil war guys and some of them went to high school. We had a lot of servants. Some worked for the railroads. There was a woman who was a property owner and owned two properties back in 1886 or a little later. It goes on and on. I have a lot of stuff and I believe I have enough where we can put up probably 10 historical markers in the city. More information will come in and we can add on when we want. The first sign has been ordered and paid for by private donations. I hope to get that up by the end of the year but the year is going by fast. I think everybody is going to like it. I am going to ask for private donations and I don't foresee having any problem getting those because people have been offering me money to get this done. I think it is a good idea for the city and a long time in coming. I appreciate you approving this.

Alderman Sharonov stated you said this is all funded by donations correct.

Mr. Garrity replied correct. There should be no cost to the city at all. I don't think I will have any problems raising the money. The first sign has already been paid for.

Chairman Shaw stated I would like to echo what Mr. Peters from the Manchester Historical Society said which was "I am hopeful that Stan's work will shine the light on

the importance of telling all the community stories and will inspire others to do the same in the future.” Thank you for all of your hard work.

2. Communication from Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, requesting an amendment to Ordinance 96.04 Park Operating Policy to change the curfew hours.

***Alderman Long moved to approve. Alderman Cavanaugh duly seconded the motion.***

Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, stated it was brought to my attention at the end of last week that there is another section of the ordinances besides the one that I wrote you about, which is 96.04. There is another section, 130.39, that specifies curfew hours for locations with playgrounds. That section will also need to be amended so it is consistent with the change that we are proposing to make to Section 96.04. There wasn't an opportunity to get that recommended change to you in writing before the meeting today, however, I have shared it with the City Clerk's Office and I believe they are going to put that together for the Bills on Second Reading meeting. Again, the intent is to dissuade or discourage illicit activities in parks under the cover of darkness. At this time of year for example there are several hours after it becomes dark where the existing curfew hasn't kicked in yet. We would like to make that change. I think it will make it easier for us to enforce our rules and laws in the parks. I appreciate your consideration.

Chairman Shaw stated so the ordinance would dissuade illicit activity under the cover of darkness and the curfew would be sunrise to sunset for park activity and from sunset to sunrise there would be no access.

Alderman Long asked what is the other section you want to amend.

Mr. Gomez answered 96.04 is the one you have a letter on and the other one is 130.39. That one addresses locations in the city where there are playgrounds. The curfew under that ordinance is 9 PM to 7 AM. We want to make that consistent with the sunset to sunrise curfew.

Alderman Long stated I spoke to Asst. Chief Mangone and he said they were in favor of this. He was going to be late or not able to make this meeting and he wanted the committee to know.

***Chairman Shaw called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Sharonov being duly recorded in opposition.***

3. Communication from Philip Croasdale, Water Works Director, requesting authorization to dedicate and name the new distribution storage building located at 1881 Lake Shore Road in honor of Charles J. (Charlie) Smith.

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

Philip Croasdale, Water Works Director, stated I don't have much more to say than what I wrote in my letter. I think it is important that we not only honor but recognize the history. Water Works is 150 year's old this past June and Charlie Smith, as I have come to understand from other people that worked with him in the past, was a great city resident and a great worker at Water Works. He was well-respected and well-liked by his peers. For someone that has worked 54 years for one company, over five decades, I think just a small recognition is well-deserved. Thank you for approving this.

4. Communication from the Water Works Director requesting authorization to dedicate and name the Cohas Pump Station located at 567 Cohas Avenue in honor of John Thomas (J.T.) Fanning and to place a plaque on the residence wing in honor of Charles C. Cole.

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

Mr. Croasdale stated again what I wrote in my letter pretty much sums it up. It was amazing that coming into our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary I went back into some old records and the original annual report from the first year and did a little reading on the history of Water Works. I was amazed by a lot of what I read, especially about this gentleman, John Thomas Fanning who was an architect and an engineer. He actually designed the original Cohas Pump Station and the canal that is still in service, the main dam and Cohas Road that now goes underneath the highway and comes out to the reservoir on Mammoth Road where the two tanks are now and stayed on as Chief Engineer. Over the following three years he oversaw the construction of 23 miles of main throughout the city that started Water Works when water first started being pumped on July 4, 1874. In those three years he built all of those assets. As you can read in the letter, he was also the architect for some historical buildings in the City of Manchester – the building where the Palace Theatre now resides, that whole block. It is on the National Historic Registry. He also designed the Harrison Smith Block Building on Hanover Street and the Carpenter & Bean Block Building up on Elm Street. He was an amazing person. He then went on to become the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Director of the American Water Works Association. There have only been five from New England and two of them have been from Water Works – J.T. Fanning and Fred Ellwell in 1991. There is a lot of rich history with Manchester Water Works and I think it should be memorialized and I plan on putting in a kiosk with that information near the canal where we have a parking area now for people to park and walk. Again, I think it is important to recognize our history as Stan said and he has done a great job with black history. Water Works is a very historic and important organization for the City of Manchester.

Chairman Shaw asked and the residence wing in honor of Charles Cole.

Mr. Croasdale said Charles "CC" Cole was the first manager of the pump station. J.T. Fanning recommended him to the new board of water commissioners at the time and he was appointed the first manager of the pump station. If you look at the Cohas Pump Station, and I attached a picture, it is on the left side of the building. It looks like an addition but it is the residence wing. It is still there and people who worked at Water Works lived there until about seven years ago when Russ Johnson retired. He was the last one to live in the residence wing. Again, I think it is a nice recognition for the first

manager of that wing. I would like to read something that was written in the annual report by the first superintendent of Water Works, Charles Walker. He wrote "Cole was an able and trusted man. No accident happened in the 18 years he had charge caused by any neglect or carelessness on his part and in his death the city lost a faithful servant." I think that a small recognition of a plaque on the residence wing to honor Charles "CC" Cole is appropriate.

Chairman Shaw stated thank you for that information.

5. Communication from Brenda Masewic Adams, Tax Collector, requesting acceptance of the high bidder for the sale of property located on Union Street (Map 0310, Lot 0004).

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

6. Communication from Josh Gagne, Chief of Facilities, requesting authorization for the Mayor to sign the Landlord Consent and Waiver of Lien document for Tabletop Tycoon, Inc., the tenant at 195 McGregor Street.

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

7. Discussion regarding the proposed sale of six tax-deeded properties:

- 160 Eddy Road
- 141 Pinard Street
- 49 West Street
- Andrew Street (vacant lot)
- Almond Street (vacant lot)
- Harriman Street (vacant lot)
- Joseph Street (vacant lot)

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Sharonov**, it was voted to deem each property surplus and to authorize disposal through public action.*

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

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee

