

COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

JANUARY 27, 2021

A meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure was held Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Chairman O'Brien

As Chairman of the Committee on Infrastructure, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

To join by phone: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 853 6857 2906 Passcode: 018059

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Alderman Schmidt called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 5 members of the Committee on Infrastructure present:

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman David C. Tencza

Also in Attendance:

Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development
Dan Hudson, City Engineer

ROLL CALLChairman O'Brien

I am present, I am alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Lopez

I am present, I am alone and I can hear the proceedings and I apologize for shouting, I was trying to correct the date before you got too far ahead.

Alderman Schmidt

Alderman Jan Schmidt is here and alone in the room.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Tencza

I am present, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Schmidt

That would be 5 members in attendance, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good; welcome all. Alright, at this particular point in time I will open the meeting to Public Comment. I don't see anybody, but however if you are out there, make yourself known. Seeing none we will move onto discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NoneDISCUSSION

- Update on barriers

Chairman O'Brien

And this evening for a special treat, and to get to a system and getting the information out, I welcome Director Tim Cummings, who is going to discuss the barriers on Main Street. I know several of you have questions. And also too before I get too far ahead, the Clerk can recognize Director Cummings is here and Director Dan Hudson is also with us too. So thank you. Without further ado, I'll turn the meeting to Director Cummings.

Chairman O'Brien recognized Economic Development Director Tim Cummings.

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Thank you Mr. Chairman and through you to the Committee, my name is Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. I wanted to join you this evening to just have a brief discussion about the barriers and in particular outdoor dining as I know that this is an issue that is near and dear to a lot of folks including myself. So I thought it would be good just to kind of give everyone a brief update as to where the various

elements of this project are at, and, of course, happy to take any questions. Hopefully we can keep this rather informal, Mr. Chair, if it's your pleasure and OK with you, if questions arise, we will take them as they come. But I am just going to talk through basically the highlights of what we have been acting and doing over the last few months since the last time I was before you which was, I would say, early December when this conversation was last brought up.

If you recall, late last fall / early winter, we outreached to the public to ask what their opinion may have been on the aesthetics, on the particular barriers. We know last year the biggest feedback we got from folks was that they did not care for the aesthetics of the barriers and understandably so at that time, we didn't own the barriers so we couldn't really do much with it from a beautification standpoint. But we tested out a couple different barriers. We looked at some more aesthetically pleasing type barriers, but they weren't as durable. And then we looked at a different type of concrete barrier that was much more durable but fell a little short on the aesthetics. The overall input and consensus that we got, we didn't do anything official. We surveyed, we outreached to the various groups, we solicited input; it was a mixed bag. There wasn't much consensus I think actually more people were leaning more towards the concrete barriers on Main Street than what was put out on Pearl Street.

But ultimately there wasn't an overwhelming, I would suggest, interest or desire to pursue either one of the barriers. That happened to work out very nicely because coincidentally enough, we were able to work out a deal with the vendor who let us rent the barriers last year so we were able to procure the barriers that we used last year at a very steep discount; I want to say something like \$20,000.00/\$25,000.00 for 2,100 linear feet or thereabouts of barriers. So we got a substantial discount on that so that helped. And now that we own the barriers, we can actually do some beautification, different type of beautification elements that the community so desires.

So we have a lot more barriers than we originally anticipated because of the price that we were able to get for the barriers. Because originally either barrier we were looking at was going to be much more expensive and so it turned out to be a win/win all the way around. We were able to act on that. So we escrowed \$200,000.00, which that money is still available. We are going to need to use that money to put the barriers down, you know, the cost of that is probably going to be for a round trip, dropping and pick up is probably somewhere in the range of about \$60,000.00 so we are going to need to use some of that \$200,000.00 for that and then that remainder, say for this conversation and this is rough estimates please don't hold me to any of this but it gives you a ballpark order of magnitude of what we are talking about. We could use the \$140,000.00 that is left over in various ways and I would suggest we would want to maybe do some beautification, maybe an art project or something to that affect with some of the money; by no means all of the money that is left in the escrowed money.

We were originally looking at laying the barriers in a more condensed location just because we knew we were going to have to prioritize. We couldn't afford the 2,400 linear feet so now that we have 2,100 plus a few extra hundred linear feet from previous purchases, we can get more towards what we were looking to do last year and not have to prioritize as I thought we might have to. So we will be looking to follow pretty much the same plan that we pursued last year. So I am just going to look at my emails here and see if I can find it, Mr. Chair, if you don't mind, if I could pull up my screen, I can go over the map.

Chairman O'Brien

Absolutely, you are on your own, my technical savvy isn't there so hopefully you have "share screen".

Jeff Poehnert, IT/Program Manager

You're all set.

Chairman O'Brien

Alright thank you Jeff.

Director Cummings

Thanks Jeff. So I am just going to share my screen here, bear with me. And I'll pull this down as soon as I can because I know it's better to be able to talk to folks. I am going to start back up here as a reminder so we will look at doing something in through here, something similar to what you see here in terms of barriers. This isn't as high of a priority so you know we know we can set this up later on if necessary and tweak it as time comes. So this is though not the main thrust of what we will be looking to do. We really want to focus our efforts along Main Street here, Peddler's Daughter; this is something that I am not suggesting we make any changes right now. But I do want to let folks know that Riverside Barbeque was recently purchased by a restaurant group out of Haverhill, Massachusetts looking to come in here. So there may be a conversation we have depending on what their business plan and their timeline may be.

Alderman Clemons

I'm sorry, you have the wrong spot on there for that.

Director Cummings

Oh sorry, thanks. That's right here, sorry. Thanks Alderman Clemons. So Riverside Barbeque is right here and I'll note that we don't have any barriers but we may need to do something there at some point. So I just flagged that for you as an FYI, I'm not suggesting we do anything now. Keeping everything the way it was before, we tweaked this area right in here and will continue to do that again so folks can make the right on Water Street continuing on down through here, again not changing anything through here, keeping it pretty much the same as we did last time around.

Alderman Jette

Tim, could I interrupt you?

Director Cummings

Yeah, please.

Alderman Jette

So at that intersection there, that Water Street, Main Street, Water Street, Park Street and Pearson Avenue area. So if you notice last year we had some barriers in front of Ameriprise Financial.

Director Cummings

Every year, yeah.

Alderman Jette

And so it was pointed out to me that as people were heading north on Main Street when they got to that intersection there was a lot of congestion caused because, you know, people trying to go north and through that intersection taking a right on Pearson Street. They were funneled over into that, because of the barriers, they are funneled over into the left hand northbound lane. You've got barriers on the bridge in front of Peddler's Daughter so there's just one lane there. And because of the barriers in front of Ameriprise, you are beginning the one lane right at the intersection. So you've got traffic coming north and because of the way the lights work, people trying to cross that intersection to go north, there was a lot of and many times there was back up there so people would end up straddling the intersection.

So people coming out of Park Street couldn't come on to Main Street and I am just suggesting that the elimination of those barriers in front of Ameriprise, which I think serve no purpose other than to begin the funnel, if you could eliminate that, that would give a little more room for cars coming across the intersection to kind of either go onto Pearson Street or kind of a staging area to get, to go further north across the bridge. It would give them a little more room and allow...

Director Cummings

I understand.

Alderman Jette

Maybe avoid some of the congestion at the intersection of Park and Main?

Director Cummings

Sure I understand, Alderman Jette. I mean I guess we can study it, we can look at it. I think when you suggest that the barrier serves no purpose other than to start the funneling, I would just point out that that's probably the main thrusts of why it was designed the way it was, was to create a pinch point to start that funneling. You know, I hear you, your point is well taken in terms of can we do it differently, can we look at trying to create some more capacity there. And we will look at that. Ultimately I just want to, I don't want to necessarily drill down on this point too much for this specific issue. But I just want to remind everyone that the more we whittle away at these barriers, a little here, a little there; can we tweak this there and take away the capacity, you know, you are going to have the opposite effect of creating that congestion which is really what you should be striving for. I mean last year, I was very strong that I thought the Water Street intersection worked without creating that additional capacity. Folks wanted to do it, we did it, and also we will look at this again but I just want to remind folks that a little here, a little there, you know sooner or later you are going to lose the original intent of what we are trying to do here. So that's an overall comment that just has spurred by this particular issue.

Alderman Jette raises the first of what I can tell you I've been approached by many people over the last four months in terms of, hey can we ... the most recent one I got was can we remove some barriers here, for the exact same reasons that Alderman Jette just suggested is because it doesn't really serve any purpose there's no restaurants here, there's not outdoor dining per se. But what it does do is it starts that funneling affect and creates the narrowing of Main Street creating that road diet condition which slows the cars down. And that's one of the byproducts that we really want to strive to try to maintain.

Chairman O'Brien

Director Cummings, if I may.

Director Cummings

Yes, sir.

Chairman O'Brien

OK last year we had the conversation with this and it is timely now with Alderman Jette's point. But last year when we had the barriers up we kind of left the traffic lights, those devices alone. Are we going to look at them this year if the infrastructure is modern enough that we can adjust the changes, would that be part of things to ... We don't want to increase the speed of Main Street, we want to be able to move traffic efficiently on Main Street. So would we be looking at the traffic devices to assist us with that?

Director Cummings

I will speak to DPW on that. I know that was something that was raised last year and you are absolutely right Mr. Chairman. It was discussed that one of the ways we could manage and control this better was by changing the timings of the lights. My understanding was that was a little cost prohibitive last year and we weren't sure if we were ever going to do it again so we didn't want to necessarily make that change. But you raise a good point; it is probably something we should look at and study further if we are going to continue doing this. And that's a question that I have for this group and for others is are we going to be doing this semi-regularly, semi-permanently? I definitely understand we are doing it now for the pandemic here, that's continuing. I don't any of us saw this continuing as long as it is. But then the question is going to arise are we going to be doing this the following summer, the following summer and so forth. I think developing, to your point, a longer term even medium sized long-term plan not a whole out infrastructure upgrade is probably worth a conversation. I will speak to DPW on that specific point and get back to you and others on that.

Alderman Lopez

Director Cummings?

Director Cummings

Yes?

Alderman Lopez

First if we do end up not doing this next year I would like to claim all the barriers so I can make a giant maze. But those little areas where we have like they are traffic control areas but there's actually space behind them, some of those are reasonably sized. Have we thought about maybe leasing that out to vendors who might set up and take down during the day?

Director Cummings

I am going to scroll in Alderman Lopez, could you just point to me where you are kind of talking about?

Alderman Lopez

I mean the one that we were talking about was a good example, but there's also one I think a little bit north of here. I am completely lost this is further up. I am looking for an orphan one here. Yeah just go back to the one that Alderman Jette was looking at because I think it is big enough. Some of them are bigger too, right here, actually on your left. So some of those are not really in front of restaurants, you could put like a little pop magazine stand or hotdog vendor or something like that. I'm sorry I just heard Public Health like sit up, but whatever it is would be subject to obviously regulation. But if we make that available, that might give some people who were kind of laying low during COVID because of the nature of their business an opportunity to get a visible spot. It could generate a little revenue.

Director Cummings

You raise a really good point, Alderman Lopez. I think based on market demand I'm not sure if there is any but yes, can we utilize this space in a better way? I don't know, I think getting electricity and some of the fundamental infrastructure out there may be a little challenging, so we would have to kind of look at that. Maybe there is electricity there. We would have to kind of investigate some of those more technical details. It might not be every single one of these sites, I think out in front of the former, I think it's 147 Main Street, it's the former ...

Alderman Lopez

Yeah there's a big one there that I've seen people like hanging out anyway.

Director Cummings

Yeah so I think that's like right here, this area right here.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah.

Director Cummings

Yes, could we look to activate that space in some way that's safe? That's a really good point we should look at that so I will, again, I will further look into that a little bit more and see what we might be able to do there.

Alderman Lopez

Well if I'm on a roll it might be something you want to run by the Downtown Improvement Committee and Great American Downtown because whoever is running a business in front of that is obviously going to be like, so who are you putting in front of me. And then the other thing is GAD has been nothing if not creative, so they might be able to actually program stuff in there or do the marketing.

Director Cummings

Yes, agreed, it's a good thought that we would and should explore further and some of those as you said "dead spots", that are necessary. Just because they are dead spots because they don't have necessarily a restaurant in front of it, it does serve a purpose. So we should look at maybe activating them in some way. Just continuing on here, I think we kind of went through this section here.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman can I ...

Chairman O'Brien

Yes, Alderman Clemons, yes.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I did have a question to Director Cummings and that was, and it brought up, it was back to what Alderman ... sort of what we were talking about "dead spaces". I know that some of the areas weren't used really as much as others. Are we engaging in to businesses and restaurants this year before we put these up to see, is this something you really want? Because I am thinking of down near the Pizza Place?

Director Cummings

Espressos Pizza.

Alderman Clemons

Espressos Pizza, didn't really use it.

Director Cummings

I was there yesterday and I had this conversation for the point you are raising Alderman Clemons, you are absolutely right. And he committed to me yesterday, because I said to him if barriers go out, are you going to put any tables out there, are you going to take advantage of the outdoor dining and he said to me yesterday, absolutely yes, I am going to put the tables out there.

Alderman Clemons

OK.

Director Cummings

And then he said to me which I thought was an interesting point and I didn't necessarily think about it because I too was coming at it the same way, which was wow, we did this and I didn't really see that space getting used. I thought maybe it could have been used better by the operator but he made a really good point, which was just because Main Street was as active as it was, and it was as vibrant as it was, he was getting a lot of people coming into his restaurant getting a slice of pizza and continuing on with their night. So he was, as he said, he was very thankful for having the outdoor dining set up as it was last year just the way it was. He said to me that he really needs it again because these last three weeks have been the hardest three weeks that he's had thus far. And he said because we did the outdoor dining it saved him last summer.

Alderman Clemons

And that's totally fine and to the business owner that wants it in front of their restaurant again, absolutely 100% I am behind that, I just wasn't sure if you had the conversation yet. Because certainly if we could have added more parking or maybe instead of that because it is a pizza place people might have wanted a 15 minute area there. I am glad you had the conversation hopefully, you know, the only other thing that I would mention is, I don't know what the scheduled opening is for the Riverside where Riverside Barbeque used to be and also where ... I'm aging myself.

Director Cummings

Timber Grill.

Alderman Clemons

Where Timber Grill used to be, yeah. Do you know if they are going to be opening because I would imagine that those two places would be someplace we would add barriers?

Director Cummings

You are absolutely right Alderman Clemons. So I flagged the Riverside Barbeque issue which I don't have a clear answer on that yet, it is something I am monitoring. I don't have a good answer there, I don't know. But what I can tell you is Timber Grill, I have spoken to Mr. Gleason just before Christmas. They are looking to open sometime soon and they do want to take advantage of the outdoor dining. So to your point, it is something that we are going to have to entertain and I've flagged this internally with City folks already is Timber Grill is here, so we are going to have to think about possibly doing something. They have requested outdoor dining on Factory Street, so more to come as it comes together. But your point is well taken. We are monitoring it and trying to work with the restaurants.

Alderman Jette

So Director Cummings, Alderman Jette here, the name of the place is Talespinner, it used to be Timber Grill but it is going to be called Talespinner. And it's not where you indicated it's further west.

Director Cummings

It's right around here, right?

Alderman Jette

It's not there but it is to the west of that. Right there.

Director Cummings

Yeah it's in this area though.

Alderman Jette

Yeah.

Alderman Dowd

Director Cummings, just a couple of things. Were you looking this evening to find out if the Committee was still interested in having the barriers up, redesigning how the barriers are being put out or looking for ways to enhance it? My personal perspective I think that we ought to be looking at a minimum of 2 or 3 years of having these out there to give the businesses a chance to recoup some of their losses. Too I think that a lot of communities now have decided to do this permanently because people like it and like eating outside.

I guess the other thing, I'll just throw out there now, it might come up later is, we have a lot of artists in Nashua maybe you want to have an art contest to decorate some of these things or at least have the restaurants be able to paint them a certain color. I think a lot of places like in Boston because of the traffic and people talking about not wanting to be near the cars, they allow them to put plants or something on top of the barriers to make it so you really can't see the diners from the cars. So just throw that out there.

Director Cummings

I appreciate all those comments Alderman Dowd. Tonight I am really just looking to continue the conversation. I mean yes, any comment, any suggestion, any observation is more than welcomed. I am looking for that input. Ultimately I mean based off of past conversations with this group and others, it has been made clear to me that folks want to continue in this direction. So I am working to get Legislation filed for the next Board of Aldermen Meeting that will kind of mirror this plan and will go through the Board of Alderman process and we can tweak it as necessary before it is finalized.

But something I haven't brought up that I just, I apologize I meant to make this a talking point when I first started. But outdoor dining we are looking to start on March 15th. And that's going to be coming up around the corner. So we really need to finalize this now because a good example is I know and I want to preface my comments by saying I want every single restaurant operator to follow all the best safety protocols out there and I believe they will. We have some great groups and they will adhere to the social distancing and the public health recommendations and regulations. But you have St. Patrick's Day coming up and we really want to make sure – because that's a big revenue source for some of these businesses. So we want to make sure that we have this in place by March 15th.

So to that end, I think we will be looking to lay some of the barriers with that in mind so we get the restaurants that have a strong St. Patrick's Day attendance up and running as best they can under the proper conditions. And then again, closing out when would we be looking to pick up the barriers that would a November 15th timeframe. So March 15th to November 15th. Of course, we could always extend it longer if folks desire, a couple weeks or so. But we really want to make sure that we get the barriers up before the snow falls and so I think the November 15th, right before Thanksgiving is a good timeframe.

Alderman Clemons

What if there is still snow March 15th?

Director Cummings

That's a great question and I will have to work with DPW to work through that. I mean ultimately we are going to have to hire a third party vendor to put these barriers back down. Once DPW gives the OK for that, that's when the barriers will go down. The Legislation is going to read just something like so we have the ability to do it, post-March 15th. And I am really hoping we don't have snow on the ground.

Alderman Lopez

Director Cummings?

Director Cummings

Yes.

Alderman Lopez

That's the whole logistics thing to this because it's been talked about a couple of different times. But just some comments regarding having artists decorate these. We probably want to think about whether or not we can have them paint them before they are put out just so that there aren't artists like in the street.

Director Cummings

So we have been studying this so I have a couple of points on that front. First and foremost, depending on the paint and the material, my understanding on the concrete barrier that we will be using in a good mural art paint really need to paint these in a May type timeframe, you need to have 50 degree weather. So there won't be anything really done if we do anything I should say, but I am assuming we will do something. So under that assumption it's really going to be May before we do it. And Alderman Lopez you are absolutely right, the barriers being put down, that's really going to cause an issue. Painting, you can't really take up much more capacity on Main Street. So we are actually going to have a conversation about doing it at night or doing something during off hours when it is not going to affect people.

We've had conversations with art groups expressing these types of concerns to feel them out, to get a sense as to where they are at. Ultimately, what I would recommend is we put out an RFP to all artist groups that have an interest and then I will not be the arbiter of who decides for the record. But we would put a call out for arts groups to submit to us a proposal and then we ultimately would probably select 2, 3, 4 whatever folks want to do that's reasonable and execute along those lines with the constraints that I just talked about.

Alderman Lopez

So my take way first of all as it has got to be May, and I'm not letting that pass and then the second thing is I was actually leading up to like having them painting in the street was potential dangerous unless you tried to pair it with the Mayor's Plan and Positive Street Art's Plan and have an Art Festival. Because both were

trying towards that goal last year. I know the Mayor had contacted Beyond Walls, Positive Street Art was trying to celebrate their anniversary and had one. So you could potentially just do it in a day like as a planned event, because the main areas are right between the area that is usually shut down for Farmer's Market, so there's a direction plan for that. And then you could figure out how to work around it as well. So May is maybe a little bit early to have any kind of gathering especially with COVID-19 still looming around but just food for thought that another way to go would be to have an Art Festival.

Director Cummings

Yes it's a great suggestion, absolutely. I will make a point to raise that. I do know that to your point everyone is talking about a mural festival; they would love to see a mural festival if we are able to incorporate in that would be great.

Alderman Lopez

This is like a third of a mural festival because it's knee height.

Director Cummings

So just rough numbers, my understanding is 1,000 linear feet will take about two weeks to do is what we have been told is you know, roughly. And I am not suggesting we do a certain amount, I think we might look to do depending on how much we want to spend and what we want to do, probably maybe 1,500, maybe 500, 500, 500, I don't know. And then we are going to have to look at how we want to chunk that out, make sure we get the same aesthetic look on the east and west sides, making sure we take into consideration what some of these businesses want in front of their restaurants. So there's going to be a lot to this but it is definitely something that I think folks would welcome and want to see. Once we get the barriers down that will be the next thing that we work on because we do own them this year.

Alderman Lopez

It might be helpful to look at the Live Wall which is constantly changing on the side of the Rail Trail; it's on the back of where Maynard & Lessard keep their tires, that little Chinese Restaurant. There's a lot of different mural groups and one of the reasons that things changes so often is because teams are coming in and like, a lot of them. So while it would take a group two weeks to do that much time, I mean there's a lot to be said for bringing in a lot of people.

Director Cummings

Agreed, and that's one of the ways we could structure it. Just moving on here, so we talked about the former Timber Grill over here. I do want to just note that we got a request so this restaurant over here, I should say it is this restaurant right in here, didn't really take advantage of outdoor dining last year. They would like to, this is going to cause an issue in terms of how we reconcile it. They would like to see outdoor dining out here. It is going to be really tough; West Pearl Street is really tough to accommodate it for multiple reasons. The biggest one is the turning radius through here makes it difficult. We have the Performing Arts Center which will be going under construction. So we are going to do the best we can to accommodate the outdoor dining. It may end up being back out through here again; we did that at the end of the season last year. We will probably look to do that again. I will tell you, just so folks know, the request was for something closer to Main Street, so if you came out of their door you would make a left towards Main Street for the outdoor dining and not a right. We have a lot going on. I don't know if we are going to be able to do everything. We are still working through that, I just wanted to kind of raise that as an issue so folks if you hear about it, you are not surprised.

It is a little outside the box, but it is just something that folks should be aware of is and it is a conversation to be had that I want to raise to the group. I believe this is Pine, I believe this is Palm Street right here. I don't have ...

Alderman Lopez

No Pine Street is over to the left.

Alderman Clemons

One next to Pine.

Director Cummings

This one?

Alderman Clemons

Yeah.

Director Cummings

So this one.

Alderman Lopez

It's hard to tell without all the fireworks.

Director Cummings

Back in through here, I am not exactly sure where, I'd have to go back and study it. We got a request recently that we consider doing outdoor dining in through here.

Alderman Dowd

In front of the Pine Street Eatery?

Director Cummings

No, not the Pine Street Eatery. It's a Latin Restaurant in this area, it's at the corner.

Alderman Lopez

Oh yeah, I know what you are talking about, I can't think of the name right now. But they won Best Rice on the Block two years in a row.

Director Cummings

They recently raised the question of "hey can we have outdoor dining here". They are not in the downtown and I wouldn't suggest that we would be wanting to preclude them, I think they are a very well established, respectable neighborhood group that we should be looking to help. But I raise it as only like we do have some of these restaurants, and some of these operators outside of the traditional Main Street. If I am not hearing any major pushback, I do think it is a conversation that we should have about allowing for outdoor dining in those areas which means we would have to put up the barriers. And it means in this particular area when we looked at quickly the other day, it looks like there is a through lane and a turn lane and we would probably have to reduce a turn lane. So if the queuing worked and this all needs to be studied by DPW Engineering we would look to possibly accommodate it if the infrastructure allowed for it. But I just wanted to raise it as an issue because it is outside of the traditional area that we have always talked about.

Alderman Lopez

There is (inaudible) West Hollis, they always feel like they are a little separated from whatever is going on on Main Street and I mean that is a very difficult road to easily look at it but it would be nice for them to at least be able to ask and see if it's feasible.

Director Cummings

And so you raise the next, yeah so Alderman Lopez you are absolutely right. So the other area is right in through here where we are getting requests and we understand, I mean I guess in through here as well but I mean the request came through here. East and West Hollis Street are very tight areas; it's very hard, there's very small sidewalk. It's a safety issue that gets raised, but you know, it's definitely, depending on the particular site, I think it is worth a conversation and we should study it and just say "no" right off the bat. I know that we are hearing from some of these groups. So it's definitely something we can continue to look at.

Similarly with, we added it at the end of last year right here. So this was a new restaurant that came in, it's an Irish Restaurant so we put some barriers up right here. And that wasn't part of our original May roll out, we did that in like I want to say August or July, end of July. So those are kind of the updates that I wanted to give you in terms of the tweaks in the maps since the last time we were around. I am going to pull this down now.

Alderman Lopez

Before you completely leave, have you heard anything about Sub Zero going in on Factory Street?

Director Cummings

I've heard that they have signed a lease and that they are going in; but I have not heard from them in terms of outdoor dining.

Alderman Lopez

Ok, so I forwarded a request regarding, they were looking for handicap parking. I think I sent that to Jill. But it might also be a good idea to make sure they know this is even being considered. If it is going to be something they are looking for and we are doing it next door at the Gleason place then we might want to figure out how to coordinate them.

Director Cummings

Agreed. I will reach out and facilitate that and see if there's anything that we can do.

Alderman Lopez

OK.

Director Cummings

Thank you.

Alderwoman Lu

Mr. Chairman, may I just offer a couple of comments?

Chairman O'Brien

Absolutely. Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I just wanted to offer a couple of comments I had while I was listening. Where I live frequently I have to go through downtown, I frequently go somewhere down off of Canal Street and I live close to town on the south end. And the only way to get there is through town more or less. And the traffic was really – many people that I spoke with had a really hard time with traffic last summer. And I just feel that maybe there's a reason why but I feel that as you are going north on any street that you can take a right that you stop the barriers 100 feet before you get to that right to allow for right turn flow. And then coming south, any rights that you can take, that you also stop the barrier 100 feet before you get there. I think it would make a big difference in flow and between 4:00 and 5:00 it is really tough.

Director Cummings

So can I comment on that. If that's your pleasure, if that's your desire, I mean that's a value that you hold, I can't argue with that. I mean I understand. What I can tell you is from an urban planning perspective and in the downtown, what you just articulated and suggested is yielding to an auto centric mindset and not creating a pedestrian friendly condition. So the question is, is do you want to yield to the pedestrian or do you want to yield your policy to the automobile? And yes the flow would be much better in that regard and you would have less congestion and you'd have more capacity understood. You are also going to make it not as safe for people who are walking the downtown to walk. And that is the trade-off and the question that arises is what type of urban built environment condition are you looking for?

Oftentimes in a downtown, you will yield to the pedestrian and you try not, you want to try to limit as much as possible your turn lanes. You don't want to have that extra capacity because you don't want to create that mindset where cars speed up to turn to make the right to beat the light type of mindset. So that's just what the philosophy is, you know? At the end of the day, lots of downtowns go in the direction that you are suggesting.

Alderwoman Lu

OK. My thoughts are we have a lot of crosswalks in downtown. But the other thing I wanted to just mention is as far as painting the barriers, I just wonder if, I am wondering if we – I am great with painting the barriers that are at a diagonal, but I am afraid, I wonder if any thought was given to if we have a lot of interesting artwork along the side that as people drive by and they start looking and then, you know, it is a distraction. The diagonals would be fine because any driver can see as they are driving toward it.

Director Cummings

Yes, understood, good point.

Alderwoman Lu

OK that's all. Thank you.

Director Cummings

Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Aldermen Tencza.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So Director Cummings just on a couple points, I just want to echo something that Alderman Lopez said earlier about bringing in other vendors downtown to fill the space and not only necessarily where the barriers will be in the street but maybe some other locations we have downtown. I think that's a great idea to maybe draw a crowd or different people down there on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. I don't think it has to be every day, but I think, I am sure Nashua Area Artists Associations probably have some folks who would love to be selling art throughout the summer. We would draw people downtown who may not otherwise go down there.

As far as the other streets if there are, if the Fire Department and Street Department are OK with barriers in other locations along West Hollis I say we should give it a try to help those restaurants out. I think those areas are obviously a little bit – the streets are narrower so it may be more difficult. But if you are looking for our input on that, I would say absolutely as long as it can be done in a safe manner.

And then finally I would hope that we are, towards the end of the summer, are going to be looking towards the end of this pandemic. One of the things I would love to see, I know it has been done before from Pearl Street – shut down from Pearl Street to Temple, Pearl to Factory there, for musical festivals. I would love to see some, you know, later in the summer some kind of event. I think it's probably GAD who puts it on and not your office but in conjunction with your office some type of celebration almost of downtown or late Summerfest. I don't think they are going to do the brew fest this year but something similar to that where there's a section of the Main Street that is shut off from traffic so people, almost like a beer garden type style, type thing, which again it would just be kind of, not culmination, but another way to support those businesses, get people down there and really take advantage of the investment that the City has made and these barriers. Thanks.

Director Cummings

That's a great point, I will discuss that with Great American Downtown and see what we might be able to do. I wholeheartedly understand what you are saying.

Alderman Dowd

One thing we don't want to do with the barriers is have any kind of advertising or social group names on them because that would just cause us some issues. I think it should be art, real art, not anything that could get us in trouble.

Director Cummings

I understand what you are saying. We will make sure that there's some guidelines on there, but you know, I am also not going to be the arbiter of what is art and not art. But you do make a point that I just want to make sure I am correct in understanding. I have had some of the businesses suggest that maybe they would like to have signs in front of these barriers. I think that might run afoul to our land use regulations but I applaud their effort to further advertise their businesses. So I think we will probably try to steer away from that type of marketing and advertisement as well on those barriers.

Alderman Dowd

I would steer that question to Director Marchant and DPW for those kind of decisions.

Director Cummings

Very entrepreneurial some of these operators; I give them credit.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah if I could just add though that I've seen billboard space on barriers and it does not look as good as people think it will. That's also exactly the kind of distraction that Alderwoman Lu would be worried about. If there were murals that were intended to be looked at at ground level, they wouldn't necessarily catch the eye. But if you see like a big Coca-Cola sign, you've been programmed since birth to look at those things so I would be a little bit hesitant about that. And it might be a good idea to make sure that you come up with guidelines well before announcing to anybody, just so there aren't any false expectations.

Director Cummings

Yes, good point, thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

If I may remind the Board, if you think back when we worked to get umbrellas down on Main Street, we had to remove them from the sign Ordinance. We do have that so I think that would encompass some of the advertising concerns that you have. I don't have it off the top of my head, but to let you know there is an Ordinance that does incorporate signage so maybe you might want to take a look at that as well.

Alderman Lopez

And to that point, anybody who wants to advertise on one of those has to be sure that a barrier for \$2 million dollars, so good luck guys.

Director Cummings

Well I am just raising it because if you are approached by an operator who says, I'd like to do this, I want to get ahead of it. Because I can only suspect when City staff says, "No that really doesn't follow our policy we have concerns about this", I know they are going to reach right out and say, "we would like this". And there's concerns, there are legitimate concerns as to why we ... my son is here he's going to bed. He is going to say goodnight to everyone. Say goodnight.

Everyone says goodnight

Alderman Klee

He looks just like you.

Alderman Dowd

Same amount of hair.

Director Cummings

Night, night. Sorry about that. So he was just saying good night to me.

Chairman O'Brien

(inaudible) before he goes to bed, did I get you in trouble there?

Director Cummings

He got a sugar cookie before bed. He made sure, that's fun. So anyways, yeah, so that's the only reason I was raising the issue is I could foresee it coming down the pike.

Alderman Lopez

I have a question regarding the amount that you said may or may not, that we are not absolutely holding you to, but if it is such a significant amount like \$140,000.00 would we be in a position to potentially help restaurants that might need financial help putting out equipment; like if they need to replace tables or umbrellas or that kind of stuff?

Director Cummings

So the escrow reads pretty specifically for barriers, I don't think it reads for outdoor dining, I'll double check. That's really going to be question for our finance team, how we can use that money. Now if you so elect, you could always repurpose that escrow for a broader category. But I am just pointing out that I don't know if we will be able to do that without an act of the Board of Aldermen.

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Clemons, please? I think you are going the same direction I am, go ahead.

Alderman Clemons

Well what I was going to say is you know we may want to, do you already, Director Cummings, do you already have a contract in to put these out?

Director Cummings

We have quotes for putting the barriers out.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah so what I was wondering was, I was wondering if we can, if it was possible to get a quote for this year and next and sort of lock in a price. Because if we could do that and save some costs now, we could escrow that money forward for next year because we are going to run into the same thing obviously. So just thinking ahead that if one of these companies is willing to lock in a price for this year and next, with a no exit whatever, like if we don't do it, whatever no penalty exit clause for us we might want to think about doing that because then we can save some money, plan for the future with the \$200,000.00 that we have now or whatever is left over, put that aside and not have to worry about next year. Because obviously we are going to be facing some really tough budget seasons this year and next so it might be prudent for us to do something like that.

Director Cummings

It's a great point. I see Dan Hudson is on here, he's the one that is closest to this issue. He might be able to speak and I don't want to put him on the spot per se; but he might be able to speak to that a little bit better than I could.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yeah that's something that we can certainly talk to the company about. We intend to use the same company we did last year; they are very familiar with the whole set up and know how to plan for it now perfectly. But we can certainly talk to them about that and see if we can extend the quote for next year.

Alderman Clemons

That would be great. And if you can do that, that would be awesome and just let us know and maybe that's something that this Committee can think about as a plan forward. Because, again, coming up with money to do things like this in the future is going to be tough. And I would recommend if we have a big lump sum like that and this is something we want to do next year, that we put aside for it now.

Director Cummings

So Alderman Clemons you raise a really good point. And this is a question, the way the Legislation is going to read is for this year. Would it make sense to authorize for it to be for the following year as well? And I started out my comments this night by saying that I am looking for direction as to whether we are going to be doing this 2, 3 years. This goes to your point and it goes for good planning. It would help us immensely if we knew, we could set expectations, we could let people know that this is our 2 to 5 year plan or whatever it may be that you would be doing this. So your point is well taken.

Alderman Clemons

Can I ask a follow up to that?

Chairman O'Brien

Follow up, Mr. Clemons yes.

Alderman Clemons

So Director Cummings and I had a conversation about the parking revenue that was down this year and it is related to the barriers because obviously we are taking away parking spots. So my question was, I had asked if we could put into the parking study what it would cost the City in revenue if we could get that into the parking study. Have you done that Director Cummings or is that something you plan to do?

Director Cummings

Yes that is going to be in the scope.

Alderman Clemons

Because my personal opinion is I would certainly support to do this this year and next with the caveat that it is being studied and we will have some answers between now and next year of how to do it beyond next year. And if there are things that we have to tweak or whatever the case may be, but I would certainly support that.

Alderman Dowd

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman O'Brien

Yes, Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I think it's very prudent to come ahead with a 2 or 3 year plan. You know doing this every year over and over again doesn't make a lot of sense. Let's do a, say a 3 year plan this year and in a couple more years it can be tweaked later on but at least you'll have the basics of what we are doing.

Chairman O'Brien

I agree with that because the nexus of this was because of the COVID and to help out the downtown. And I pray to my Lord that with the vaccine coming out and everything else that we will get beyond this, that we don't lose another valuable citizen in the City to this terrible pandemic. So when we get on the bright side we may have to look at this again. And I think 3 years is a prudent, short-term, it's long enough to go with it but yet it's short enough that we can reevaluate, because who knows what the world will look COVID-free 3 years from now. So it's something definitely to discuss. Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you. I've heard a lot of great comments about what we did downtown. I heard a lot of people say that slowing traffic down and people coming out, the whole community felt connected and were part of it and that is something unusual for Nashua. And it is a wonderful thing. Not only that, we watched cities around the country decide that Nashua did the right thing and they joined us. And what we are finding that the downtown, they are becoming more attractive and this is really a great idea. And as far as traffic, if it can go around downtown that's fine. I think that it's – what we want to do is to create that walkable, that community feeling down there. So yeah, 3 years as long as we possibly can I think we should extend this. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Now Director Cummings, can I play the Devil's Advocate here, if I may? Alderman Clemons did bring up the point, I'm all in favor of the barriers, I don't want anyone to say that I'm not and the outdoor dining I agree with Alderman Schmidt. I've heard a lot of very positive feedback on it. But, however, we are losing parking spaces and after a certain dollar amount, that money goes to the Downtown Improvements and had we at least buy something, do we have something in the closet that we could drag out to look at for the revenue of this? Because I think the good people in the City would be disappointed if we didn't have the Holiday Stroll for example. So can we anticipate that and try to do an economic equally as well feasible.

Director Cummings

So this is exactly the conversation that Alderman Clemons and I had is making sure that we have an economic forecast of our revenue and our expenditures and do some modeling so we have a comfort level and confidence. If we are going to do the barriers, what's that potential revenue picture look like. So what I am going to say to that is that right now what I know is that we have enough parking capacity, we have enough parking spaces. The most valuable, the most sought after parking spaces are Main Street parking spaces, because it is about convenience. So think of this as non-COVID times, so all we are doing is redirecting people to not necessarily park on Main Street. They are still coming to Main Street but now they are parking behind the buildings and we are forcing them to walk out to Main Street and down Main Street. And that is what we want to do because you want to create walking activity.

But then the second part of it is, do we maybe shift the pricing of what we are charging Main Street if we are not going to be having really parking on Main Street anymore to the back lots? And so you will be made whole essentially. Because you are driving the same cars there, you are just not necessarily charging them because the real value is the convenience of the Main Street. So yes we are going to study it; your point is well taken. I will be continuing to look at it further.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman O'Brien

Yes, Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

And I do have Legislation that I am working on that has the support of the Mayor and I did speak to you and Alderman Wilshire about it briefly and Director Cummings which is basically a temporary funding plan for the Downtown Improvement Committee as a COVID relief measure. Not for this Fiscal Year but for next Fiscal Year to make sure that they have money going into their account. That Legislation is being worked on and I don't have the nitty gritty details but that's hopefully going to be coming forward in February. So I will keep you all posted on that.

Chairman O'Brien

And I am very excited, thank you Alderman Clemons, very excited to hear that and if you need any help with that, I'd be willing to help you as well. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you.

Director Cummings

So Mr. Chairman, I've essentially covered all the points I wanted to cover this evening, I wanted to make sure I got this conversation out there. I am going to do another community type conversation in the next week or two to continue that so please be on the lookout for a similar type conversation that we had back late last fall with some of the downtown stakeholders; make them aware of all the various things that are happening. But we will be looking to file Legislation for the February 3rd meeting to kind of get the ball rolling so we make that March 15th bogey. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Alright well very good. Sounds like we are wrapping up, is there any other further questions from members of the Committee? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Could Director Cummings stay for my next conversation piece?

Director Cummings

Sure. Happy to.

Chairman O'Brien

Anybody else? OK, also here to give equal time, I know Director Hudson you are here for a different matter, but you've been very patient. Do you want to chime in on anything of things we have discussed so far?

Mr. Hudson

Thank you for the opportunity. No I really came tonight to answer any questions about the proposed stop signs if there were any. This barrier discussion and outdoor dining was an added treat. So I am glad I for that reason anyway, so I am really just here just to (inaudible) if you have any questions about that.

Chairman O'Brien

Well thank you Mr. Hudson. This is the Infrastructure Committee, we open up and we converse ideas and this is a great format. So thank you for that. Director Cummings I thank you very much for coming this evening. You are welcome any particular time to come in and get the information out to the people such as this. I think this is very good. And thank you for going March 15th, I am very attached to March 17th so anything that could help out my good friends on March 17th I think that would be brilliant as we say and look forward to that. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Alderman O'Brien?

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Lopez, yes.

Alderman Lopez

It occurs to me that rather than holding Director Cummings hostage when he's trying to put his son to bed, my conservation piece is very brief. I just wanted a quick update on the parking.

Chairman O'Brien

Please go, Alderman Lopez, yes.

Director Cummings

If I may, can I just say, I am in no rush, my son is already to bed. So no, I am here, so please go with your Agenda, we can do it at the end if you'd like.

Alderman Lopez

OK. Alright.

Chairman O'Brien

That's OK Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I just figured for efficiency sakes.

Chairman O'Brien

OK well maybe we can free up Mr. Hudson then, who might want to go to bed himself. Alright again thank you Director Cummings.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS – None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-20-043

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON DARTMOUTH STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH DOUGLAS STREET AND STOP SIGNS ON HILL STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH DARTMOUTH STREET

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO AMEND BY REPLACING ORDINANCE 20-042 WITH THE CHANGES MADE BY ATTORNEY CLARKE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

Very good. Alderman Klee, would you like to speak to this amendment?

Alderman Dowd

You're on mute.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much. I have it on mute when I need to speak and I don't have it on mute when I don't want people to hear. When I originally put this through it was on the behest of the Public Works Department, they had called and asked me to put it through. At that time, I really wasn't thinking this is truly Ward 2 so it would have fallen under Alderman Dowd, but I had moved forward at that point and I have brought him into the conversation and so on. It borders my Ward as it crosses Cushing. The crux of the matter was when they had called and said there was a safety concern and safety issues and wanted to put in these stop signs at Dartmouth and Douglas and Dartmouth and Hill.

Since then, they put in some temporary and I think Mr. Hudson can probably speak to that too. They put in some temporary stop signs. There was a little bit of pushback and kind of some angst about the one at Dartmouth and Douglas as that particular intersection literally Dartmouth comes into Douglas and it tees. So they felt that it wasn't necessary for them to have to have a stop sign there, that it wasn't quite as trafficked. So I have since spoken to Public Works and they have pulled back at the request of Dartmouth and Douglas and possibly reserving for future, but at this point the real concern is the Dartmouth and Hill. I am hoping that I have all of this right. Dartmouth and Hill is the biggest concern that they are having at this point. So right now we really want to go forward with Dartmouth and Hill as it has been kind of known as a dangerous and if Mr. Hudson would speak to that I would really appreciate that.

Chairman O'Brien

I would like to the first opportunity to your co-sponsor, Alderman Dowd. Alderman Dowd, I'll give you equal time if you want to.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I had some phone calls and I agree with the changes and coordinated with Alderman Klee and if the Department of Public Works doesn't think we ought to put that other sign up because of the concerns of the people that live there, I am fine with it.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Hudson, would you like to speak to this amended?

Mr. Hudson

Yes, sure. We support the amendment. As noted, the primary concern was Dartmouth at Hill. In looking at it we noticed that maybe a stop sign could be put up at the end of the street too. So we did put those temporary signs out and we received the feedback that it really wasn't necessary up there because of the low volume and it's a T intersection and so it is fairly obvious you need to stop there anyway. So we concur with that. It seems that is unnecessary and the primary issue that will be still be addressed by the amended Legislation is to put stop signs at Dartmouth and Hill which is a four way intersection without you know minor street approach having stop signs. So it's certainly warranted there and we support that.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good. This Ordinance has been properly introduced, I will open it up to questions by members of the Committee or any other Aldermen? Are there any questions?

Alderman Dowd

Alderman O'Brien?

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Sort of like a sidelight to this particular stop sign conversation but I have had several calls over the years; the last couple of years especially of the traffic around St. Christopher's School which is right in that area. People come off Cushing and they go up and they drop their kids off and a lot of them go straight up that street. That street is very narrow and a lot of the people thought that there should be parking only on one side because if you park two cars, one on either side, nobody can get through the middle; it is too narrow. And other people have thought it should be one way. I just want to say that I think at some point if you have an opportunity and nothing on your plate at the time, you can take a ride up there and take a look at it particularly when school is getting out if you want to get stuck in traffic. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Alderman Dowd. Any further questions or comments from any Aldermen on the amendment? Seeing none would the Clerk please call the roll and this is for the amendment.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Tencza	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman O'Brien

Now Madam Clerk I am going to look for a motion of O-20-043 with a recommendation. Could you give that to me please?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT AS AMENDED BY REPLACING O-20-043 WITH THE CHANGES MADE BY ATTORNEY CLARKE FOR FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

OK and this is for the amendment we just voted on replaces the original bill and this is the original ordinance so this is the one that we are voting on. So thank you to the Clerk. And the motion before us is for final passage. Any additional comment from members of the Committee? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

I just, for clarification, is this going to end up being a 4-way stop or just a 2-way and where are the stop signs going to end up being?

Chairman O'Brien

I'll let the sponsor, Alderman Klee, do you want to take this one?

Alderman Klee

I think I'd like to defer to Mr. Hudson, he can explain a little bit better, yes.

Chairman O'Brien

Nice out. OK. Mr. Hudson you are on the hot seat.

Mr. Hudson

Thank you, Mr. Chair. So stop signs will be added to Hill; it won't be a 4-way stop. It is a 4-way intersection but you'll have to stop on the Hill approaches; you will not have to stop on the Dartmouth approaches.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Any further questions or comments? Very good, will the Clerk please call the roll of O-20-043 as amended. A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt,
Alderman Jette, Alderman Tencza 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman O'Brien

Nobody has brought to my attention the items that have been tabled so therefore we shall leave them as such.

TABLED IN COMMITTEE**O-20-004**

Endorsers: Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

ALLOWING PERMITTED OVERNIGHT ON-STREET PARKING ON EIGHTH STREET

- Tabled at 2/26/20 meeting

O-20-006

Endorsers: Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

ALLOWING PERMITTED OVERNIGHT ON-STREET PARKING ON A PORTION OF PRESCOTT STREET

- Tabled at 2/26/20 meeting

O-20-032

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Brandon Laws
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Elizabeth Lu

REDUCING THE FINE FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING VIOLATIONS

- Tabled at 10/28/20 meeting

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman O'Brien

Would this be the proper time, Alderman Lopez that you would like to have your comments with Director Cummings?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I wanted just an update on how the participation in the parking videos have been going? I know you've had several Town Halls so far and ours is next Tuesday I believe.

Director Cummings

Yes, if I may Mr. Chair.

Chairman O'Brien

Yes, absolutely.

Director Cummings

Thank you, again, Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development for the record. Alderman Lopez, the participation has not been overwhelming to say the least. We have done 3 wards; Wards 9, 8 and 7 thus far. We had a handful of participants in each Ward with Ward 7 having the most participants, but again that was still no more than a handful. We will continue to do these Ward Meeting Outreach conversations. We have one tomorrow night with Ward 6 I believe. And we hope to have a report back by the end of February type timeframe. And then it'll be up to the Board of Aldermen to pursue whatever recommendations or comments that come out of that report. I am happy to answer any questions that you or anyone else may have. But does that answer your question?

Alderman Lopez

Basically; I had gotten at least one person who is a former constituent who said that the link didn't work for her. I did verify with a different meeting that it works and it is the same link for all of them if I am correct.

Director Cummings

Yes.

Alderman Lopez

Is it on the website under parking I think it is?

Director Cummings

It is exactly and it is scrolling on cable access all the time. We put it up on Facebook, we have asked folks to put it out to their networks. We have done our part to try to promote and get the word out.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I would imagine some Wards are more interested in it than others.

Director Cummings

Well that's exactly right Alderman Lopez. I think it's safe to say that Wards 9 and 8, this isn't as strong of an issue; Ward 7 there was a little bit more of an interest. But I'll still say even in Ward 7, you know, there was not an overwhelming outcry for on street, overnight parking like I thought maybe I would see in Ward 7. And same with Wards 9 and 8; they all followed suit.

Alderman Lopez

OK that was my question.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you. And I could only attend the one but don't be discouraged; I don't think anybody is. But I think when we get into the crux, I am in Ward 9, it's like a prairie out there to park, it's not really so much of an issue. But I think when you get to Wards, in the example 3 and 4, as the example, I think you are going to have a lot more participation on that. So looking forward to hearing from the public. So please pass the word on to your constituents; this is their opportunity to have this type of format and speak about it to assist us as we march on in the future to make these very important decisions. So very good, thank you. Anybody else, question to Director Cummings? Ok seeing none, we will move on to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt,
Alderman Jette, Alderman Tencza 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 8:23 p.m.

Alderman Jan Schmidt
Committee Clerk