

## COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

A meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure was held Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Auditorium, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Chair, presided.

Members of Infrastructure Committee present: Alderman Tom Lopez, Vice Chair  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Ernest A. Jette  
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Skip Cleaver  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director  
Bobbie Bagley Director of Public Health  
Kim Bernard, Chief Public Health Nurse

---

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Hirsch 15 Prescott Street. I came forward a few years ago to see if we could be added to the on-street parking pilot program. I understand that is no longer an option. But I'd like to also propose, our street is going to have work done on it and be repaved in the spring, that we have on-street parking maybe added at that time as well and some bays set up. I went to the neighbors to see if there was still any interest and I ended up with a sheet full of neighbors who had actual interest in joining some type of overnight pilot or regular parking program. Also, the neighbors that did have concerns, we were easily able to address those, they just wanted to make sure that the plows were still going to be able to get by and trash was going to be able to be picked up. That's what I would like to enter into the record. I have a copy of the petitions if anyone would like to collect those.

#### Chairman O'Brien

Thank you for doing this, if I may, we have looked at that, I have looked at that. We are going to discuss it when we get into it. But clarification while you are here and up at the microphone there, what percentile of the residents did you talk to at Prescott Street?

Mr. Hirsch I mean I only got one day to really do the questionnaires. So I'd say we maybe missed six houses between Putnam Street and Bruce Street that didn't answer their door. It's not going to be all the residences but we did, we were actually able to talk to a lot of the people who lived in the neighborhood. I can't exactly tell you what the percentage would be, I just know that there is support for it and there are enough cars that are crunched in or parked on lawns that it would make sense for a few of the residents to have on-street parking and you know maybe try to accommodate those while we also accommodate the people who may have concerns.

#### Chairman O'Brien

I do have another question. Are you familiar with the past history of Prescott Street and the parking?

Mr. Hirsch I mean other than knowing that there's just on-street parking on one side, besides for from 12:00 AM to 6:00 AM I am not familiar with any other history beyond that.

Chairman O'Brien

This is not the first time it has been before the Committee. It is a different Committee and we are going to pour over this and look at it but it did have a previous life before, just so you know.

Mr. Hirsch I brought it forth originally under ...

Chairman O'Brien

Even before that.

Mr. Hirsch Oh even before that, OK.

Chairman O'Brien

Yeah. No, the City never forgets, it's like an elephant, you know.

Mr. Hirsch I mean the demographics of the street have definitely changed, there seems to be a lot more renters now.

Chairman O'Brien

Yes it has.

Mr. Hirsch So it might get a little crowded on that street but we are hoping to work something out ahead of that.

Chairman O'Brien

OK, well thank you for doing the legwork with the petition it is most helpful. And I hope this Committee can call on you when we do have, down the road, if we have further questions about this.

Mr. Hirsch Yes and I am working with my neighbors too, for all of us that stay in touch.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you because I think we would be looking with you and Alderman Lopez, perhaps, as a suggestion to maybe to come to some conclusion on this. So thank you.

Mr. Hirsch OK thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Anybody else for public comment? OK seeing none.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

**There being no objection, Chairman O'Brien suspended the rules to allow for the introduction of a communication received after the agenda was prepared.**

Survey by Ryan Hirsch – “Would you support resident overnight Parking Permits on Prescott Street?”

**There being no objection, Chairman O'Brien accepted the communication and placed it on file.**

From: Wayne Husband, Senior Traffic Engineer  
Re: Recommendations for O-20-003, O-20-004, O-20-006 and O-20-007

**There being no objection, Chairman O’Brien accepted the communication and placed it on file.**

From: Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager  
Re: Recommendations for O-20-004, O-20-006 and O-20-007

**There being no objection, Chairman O’Brien accepted the communication and placed it on file.**

PETITIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-20-012**

**Endorsers:** Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Tom Lopez  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,100,000) FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION BUILDING RENOVATIONS**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman O’Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Tencza, Alderman Schmidt

Yea: 5

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-20-003**

**Endorsers:** Alderman-at-Large Bandon Michael Laws  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderdwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Tom Lopez

**AUTHORIZING STOP SIGNS ON BEACON, BEARD, HIGHLAND AND LOCUST STREETS AT THEIR INTERSECTION WITH AUBURN STREET**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

Thank you. These are streets within my Ward although Alderman Laws brought this forward. This is quite an intersection of many streets kind of converging all at once and I strongly support, strongly recommend. Anybody who has been there at any point in time, I'm hoping, I did read what Mr. Husband said relative to the pouring into a major, kind of an artery type of thing and it is a free for all. So to have something like this would really be helpful.

Alderman Schmidt

So if I may? This will become a four-way stop?

Alderman Klee

I believe yes, excuse me, yes I believe that there will be a stop sign on all four, it's really a three-way stop the way it is, because one of the streets is a one-way if I am not mistaken.

Chairman O'Brien

OK and we get – believe it or not this one of our first meetings getting ramped up for this Legislative Session. We are going to try something and what I would really like, is all Aldermen and particularly members of this Committee, when you bring Legislation up, such as in the case here, we do have traffic, we have parking, we have sometimes the Fire and sometimes the Police, need to get on board with these things. Just going to Legal and writing the particular Ordinance is not completing the whole full project. So on this one here, I did ask from Mr. Wayne Husband and also to Ms. Jill Stansfield who is in charge of parking, so Traffic and Parking. They did give us a synopsis, is what they are supposed to do, on their personal expertise and recommendations and what to do. And in this case, as mentioned by Alderman Klee, thank you, it had more under the jurisdiction of Mr. Husband and he has no complaints on the matter. So any other further comment?

Alderman Klee

I just want to add one thing. If you read what Mr. Husband wrote, he referred to it as being warrant and that means that there are certain legislative and kind of legality of that it has to truly warrant the need for it and there are certain criteria; the level of traffic, the level of angle coming into these and so on. And they literally sit someone there to look at and to monitor and so on. So when he says it warrants it, he means it by every letter of the law. So thank you.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**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**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND O-24-004 TO BE TABLED**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

OK thank you. The motion before us is tabling Motion for further study but because I wrote into it, tabling for further study, I imagine several of you may have some additional questions. So I will break the tabling motion rule of no discussion, it is usually a stand-alone. But basically Mr. Cummings is here and so I will allow some leeway. Now I would like to just to give you the Chairman's kind of overview of these matters. I would like and I hope it is the feeling of this Committee to realize when we get into overnight parking, it is sort of like a jewel of the City not to have cars all over the place. But once it gets out of the bag, try to retrieve it is extremely difficult, if at all, to get it back.

There is another thing, who can park where and what? We are now as part of our growing pains of this particular City, starting to get into something that is now other administrations or other legislative boards hadn't come up with. We are on the dawn of maybe, perhaps, maybe a recommendation out of this Committee to even get into permitted parking. So as you know, we do have a study that is coming up. And I would like to, if it is the flavor of this Board, I hear the good people of A Street, but I question A Street is a pretty long street, what is going to happen to Seventh, Sixth, Fifth Street? We've got to have the plan and to be prudent and to be very thoughtful with that.

So if you can entertain that with me, I would like to have a discussion by my fellow board members to look at this and for supporting the motion of tabling for further study to include it into the parking study. Any discussion on the pending motion.

Alderman Wilshire

I'm not on the Committee, but when is the parking study slated for, Mr. Cummings?

Tim Cummings, Director Economic Development

For the record, Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development; we have a tentative kick-off date scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be on your Finance Committee Agenda for next Wednesday and we are anticipating a three-ish, four-ish month process with it wrapping up in mid-summer. And we are pretty excited to get it underway, it has been a long time coming.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Cummings I would like to say Alderman O'Brien will be nowhere that meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Further comment?

Alderman Lopez

So obviously I am opposed to this. I think we have a responsibility to listen to our constituents when they make requests of us. We received a pretty lengthy petition from 8<sup>th</sup> Street. It was on the list of priority, most requested streets that the City Clerk had.

Some members of this Board weren't even aware that we had a list. There doesn't seem to be any continuity of treatment or attention to this issue. We did address this issue back in 2016 with the pilot program and at the conclusion of that and even in the process of that, we discussed a need for additional expansion and progress to be made. We had talked with Director Cummings to that effect, Director Cummings had agreed to continue working on it. We had decided, collectively as that Board at the time, I don't think I was the only member of the Board. Alderman O'Brien were you on the Board when we did that?

Chairman O'Brien

Yes.

Alderman Lopez

So we had agreed to take it up in the succession year which we didn't do. And I know I was on the Board, the Committee on Infrastructure during that year and I brought it up several times and as a matter of discussion that we do need to discuss on-street, overnight parking and no action was taken. And then the following year I brought it up again and we had discussions where we all agreed, there is a problem. There is more people living in the City now than ever before, maybe the Zoning Board needs to stop automatically granting subdivisions, but ultimately we do need to have conversations about parking. And we continued not to have those.

Last year I brought it up and up until this point, I believe, have been pretty polite in not issuing one Ordinance at a time out of respect for that discussion in 2016 where we said, "we should do this as a bundle, we should have a plan, we should look at how all the streets will work". I don't think my constituents were served by that at all. I think some constituents such as Ryan and the residents of Prescott Street attempted to submit their streets for discussion and were just quietly moved to the side. I think in the ensuing years nothing was done at all and the same can probably be said for 11<sup>th</sup> Street as well. So I am not in favor of abdicating our responsibility as Aldermen in favor of what constituents are asking us to do. I can understand the need for safety and confirming with the Fire Department, the Police and DPW that these streets are appropriate and I did that last year and I got favorable recommendation for 8 Street at that time. Just because 8 Street qualifies, doesn't mean I was going to put in 7 Street, 6 Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street because I haven't received petitions for those. And they wouldn't necessarily be wide enough or safe enough to admit those.

But there seems to be an intent to not take any action, whatsoever, on parking; whether it is daytime parking where businesses are being unfairly impacted by it and some are closing or whether it is overnight parking and residents can't park in front of their own house. There seems to be now will to actually take action. Now we have another start date of March, but if I remember this conversation from the fall, the start date was October, November, December, then next budgetary season I believe we tabled it because we'd be getting right on it. So we make a lot of promises but we are delivering nothing. So I don't think we should just wait. I think we should continue with studies that are relevant to areas that, you know, we need studies in, downtown parking. But I don't think we should be including every parking area in Nashua. I mean 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Street, those are not near the downtown area. The Prescott Street which I imagine will be the next conversation, that's not really in the downtown area. So are we just not going to do anything as Aldermen when constituents write up a petition and ask us to take action?

Chairman O'Brien

The Chair will answer this. Alderman Lopez I do not take any offense and I don't take any umbrage to what you say. But I think you got it wrong and I'll tell you why. If there's any Alderman in this City that should be concerned it should be you because this affects the majority of your Ward. I am trying to lead this particular Committee, to hold the fort, to have a quality of life and that includes parking. And most of it seems to be within your Ward. I wish we could share, but if you want to think that we are purposely doing this because you have the "kick me sign" on your back, which you don't. I want to work with you and have this Board work with you on this particular matter. But again, we need to do it prudently, delicately and for the future.

The problems that you bring up have been around since the 1700's. There has never been parking issues on Prospect Street the day that it got paved, or they ripped up the Cobblestone; but there is now. And what the problem is now is people are taking what was traditionally 2 ½ story, wood-framed homes and making them into four-unit apartments; where an apartment has 1.5 cars per City. Now why is 1.5 per car per apartment come down to a parking issue, comes down to the Infrastructure Committee? We are not the parking police. There seems to be a gappage whether it be in other particular Board or something like that. It is going to take us all working together. And I throw the branch or life preserver or try to drive the Titanic up to you to try to get you on-board. But the thing is, to say there it is not a "woe is me". I want to work with your Ward, Ward 9, because I also represent Ward 4. I am Alderman-at-Large. And when I do something such as this, we are Aldermen, we are City Fathers, we are supposed to take the time, do it methodically and correct.

And that is all I am asking, that we wait until we get the study to make an educated decision on what we are going to do for the future of parking. This is not going away; be prepared Alderman Lopez. It may be Prescott Street today, it could very easily be another street tomorrow. This problem is within the City so we need to come up with a plan and on the particular build-up we are talking about, you should go down and look at the streets in question. I know, perhaps maybe you have. But again, if we fix this one little segmented area without looking at the overview of the whole complete area, did we bite off more than we can chew? Can you tell me that? I can't say it because it is not in my crystal ball. So I want to digest each one that comes up. It kind of pains me, I would really like to please you Alderman Lopez, but I am going to do my due diligence of what I consider what I was elected to do and do it methodically on this particular Board. And I offer you, please come work with us on this. I think we can get this done. But we are talking a very short time, March 17<sup>th</sup> the start of this particular study. We are almost there and I think we should have, I'll refer to Director Cummings, when do we expect the terminus or the result of this particular study?

Mr. Cummings

I would say mid-summer.

Chairman O'Brien

Mid-Summer and as far as, you know, we have enough life in our terms to start adopting a lot of the recommendations that will come out this and address these issues. But it needs to be taken back, this is very serious. And in case you are wondering, Alderman Lopez, I lived it. I grew up in Boston, I seen where errant parking can go. We need to do this very slow and methodical particularly since we are holding no parking and we just, to me this is the prudent decision. And if you are offended I do apologize, but the intentions are not to offend you but to do my due diligence in what I was elected to do. Thank you.

Alderman Schmidt

I have a question for Mr. Cummings. Since we have two requests on the docket today, is there any opportunity for us to have those pulled forward on your study so that as soon as the study makes it clear that these will be appropriate that we could address these two?

Mr. Cummings

Thank you. I am going to answer your question with a qualified "yes" and the reason why is yes, mechanically there is no reason why we couldn't look at these streets in isolation. But the bigger issue and the reason why I would recommend to you to hold off on this Legislation is because of the lack of community input and outreach around developing the policy which is really important. Because how do you arbitrarily announce that you are going to issue parking on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and not on any of the adjoining areas? It's not contiguous with the rest of the overnight, downtown parking program. And so to have that community dialogue will take time and that's what I am hoping we can do. And the other issue here is, which we really haven't addressed, is having a set upon or agreed upon set of standards for a policy to actually be able to judge whether we should be actually doing this or not.

Let's have that policy level discussion, let's have that community input and then use that as your lens, because you will repeatedly moving forward, get these one-off type of requests. You will be able to more fairly, more equitably, be able to opine whether you want to move in that direction or not. Absent that due diligence, I'm afraid you'd be doing a disservice.

Alderman Schmidt

I am totally in agreement with you. I think that this study is essential and I don't think anything should be done until then. I just would like to know that these two issues can be brought up first, that you know that we are waiting for these and we will hold these until August. By then we should have been able to take care of all your requirements in the study and we will know that we can work on these at that point.

Mr. Cummings

Correct.

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

OK in the queue we have Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you for taking my questions and after my question to Director Cummings I do have one kind of comment that I want to follow up on that. Director Cummings, this parking survey it's not for the entire City it is for a very specific area. I know it goes partly in my Ward, Ward 3. Could you kind of just give a direction as to what is covered with it because as Alderman Lopez pointed out, he wasn't sure if some of those streets would be encompassed in that. So if you could kind of give us a broad outline of that.

Mr. Cummings

Absolutely, thank you Alderwoman Klee. During the procurement process, we held an informal scoping session which we invited interested parties, including members of this Board of Aldermen, to that meeting to have a conversation about where we would scope out this work. Alderman Klee, I believe you participated in that meeting. We essentially outlined a study area which we call "the downtown" which for rough landmarks we are going to be talking about you know Holman Stadium, just south of Holman Stadium down to the hospital or Globe Plaza. That north/south and then looking all the way as far east as essentially the middle of Crown Hill and then as far west to actually this area here, I would say the middle of the number streets, going back to the Elm Street Middle School, that corner of the City, that area of the Tree Streets.

And then going up on the other side of the river, north to about Baldwin Street. So that is the area, you know, that we are looking at, at a very magnified level. But we also have scoped into the conversation that this parking consultant who has a national reputation of being an expert in parking, to come help the community have a conversation about city-wide parking policy questions. So you can then have more of a city-wide approach as well. So you can, if there is city-wide parking policies you want to adopt, we can absolutely do that. But when we are having more of a paid parking type program and how we manage that, that would be more focused on that area I just described.

Alderman Klee

May I, OK, the reason I ask this question is I sponsored also this Bill that you are speaking of now. One of the reasons why I did it was because in the area that I serve, and as you serve and as all the Aldermen-at-Large serve and technically I think we kind of all serve the City in general. I have a lot of streets, much like what Alderman Lopez has. Sometimes they are narrow streets. But much of what you've said, our Zoning Board and Planning Board and everybody else and I am not pointing fingers at anybody, has taken these buildings, turned them into multiple apartments. I can tell you right now, I have people that are sitting there, bated breath on Beacon Street, Norton Street, Summer Street, Terrace Street, all wanting overnight, on-street parking. I can tell you the one on Beacon Street called me and said to me, "I have a multiple unit, one which has five bedrooms" and I was like, "OK" and he says, "I have enough parking for 3 or 4". And I'm like, "How did that ever happen", this 1 ½ per apartment, this is now being rented to BAE people, all which have cars. So he's got a five-bedroom unit and he wants all these parking spaces and I've worked with Ms. Stansfield and logically it just can't happen.

The people on Summer Street want this overnight parking and I look at what our laws say about the driveways. You can't park behind a driveway and block someone coming out or within so many feet of a private driveway and so on. So we have streets that this can't happen, but we do keep approving these multi-units and in-law apartments and all of these things without the adequate amount of street. It is very frustrating as an Alderman and what Alderman Lopez is going through because you want to help your constituents, you want to do everything and I think he has been working quite hard on it as I believe you have also Alderman O'Brien. But I am glad to hear that there is going to be some of those questions that are going to be asked because these are true and real problems.

I am going to tell you something very quickly about Norton Street relative to a young woman who called me because her car had been towed. We are doing a really good job and she pays over \$250.00 a month in parking fees. She kind of ran into not paying it right away and her car got towed. Ms. Stansfield worked very quickly with her, we got her car back but she had to pay these fees and so on. This is not a person of means. But it's part of the way her building is. Sometimes there is just enough parking to get everybody's car in but then you have to go knock on your neighbor's door to get them to move your car because your kid is sick and you've got to get out. This is a whole total picture we have to start looking at. While I want to come in with Beacon Street, Norton Street, Summer Street and Terrace Street and say we need this extra overnight parking, I can't do it, I can't do it until the survey is done and I also can't do it because I know how some of these streets are. But I don't know what we can do and I am kind of looking to you for guidance. Can we bring Zoning Board and Planning Board and say, "we have to have this joint meeting because we've got stop doing this". I think we need the apartments but I think we are hurting the City in the long run.

Chairman O'Brien

The Chair would like to acknowledge that Alderman Tencza was in the queue. I'm sorry I didn't see you waving down there. But please indulge the Chair just to the direct question from Alderman Klee. This is the beginning of a very healthy discussion that we are now really getting into. It is part of the growing pains. A lot of people think Nashua was built up; it isn't, we are still growing and that's healthy. We like to see the increase in density into the downtown atmosphere, that's going to enhance quality of life downtown. But when we have issues with parking, whose responsibility?

We have parking garages and other different things, but we probably may need to look with additional help as us as Aldermen, working with teams with our landlords and working with other Boards to come up. This is the beginning, it's not the end. This is a longer road I think once the due diligence of this traffic study will give us a compass heading on what road to start to go down, no pun intended, but will give us a direction on where we need to go and open up more discussions. I'll tell you, at this point, I see a multi-faceted approach to these solutions. So thank you Alderman Klee. Alderman Tencza?

Alderman Tencza

So just in defense of Zoning and Planning Boards, you know those Boards cannot make decisions just based on their preferences. They have standards that they need to follow, those standards are set by the Board of Aldermen. So when the Board of Aldermen you know approved the accessory dwelling units over the last couple of sessions, that's what allowed them, you know, they can't say, "Well I think we have too many accessory dwelling units so I'm going to limit this person" because quite frankly any Board that did that, an aggrieved party would be able to go to Superior Court and have that reversed. You know there has to be specific reasons why in a certain location someone is not granted the relief that they are seeking. So I think you know to have to say that it is those Board's fault is not necessarily – well if we want relief we should act as the Board of Aldermen and then they will follow our directions; follow what the Ordinances say and we will control development in that way.

But I mean I agree with both Alderman O'Brien and Alderman Lopez. I don't think we can act on this tonight because we can't take a piecemeal approach to this but I do think that the problem is greater than just the Downtown Parking Study. I think at some point, someone needs to suggest that we do a study, we get a Committee of Aldermen, Police, Fire and look at this collectively as a City and probably have to go street by street and determine what is possible and what is not possible. If we want to do overnight parking, then that is the only way to do it because we can't say 8<sup>th</sup> Street gets it, but Monica Drive doesn't. It is just can't work like that. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I would strongly encourage this Board to look at the past minutes of this Committee because we have had exactly that group working and doing things, that's how we ended up with the pilot study. And we've basically lost a lot of the knowledge that came out of that because there was no continuity of approach, there was no follow through. So the City Clerk continued to keep a list of people that were complaining about parking and nobody paid attention to it. The Fire Department and the Police used GIS to figure out which roads were not going to be objectionable to the point where one of the replies that I got back from the Fire Department was, "why do you keep on asking us for every single street, we will just approve it as long as nobody else has any problems". We've done this work before, we just need to actually follow through with it. That is what my biggest objection is. I'm not worried about a "kick me" sign, I don't even drive. So I don't care about overnight parking, I cannot stress that enough. I do care about my constituents who are getting towed and ticketed. And when I have an \$80 ticket on my Alderman desk with a list of people, it's a little hard to hear, "Well no one has really reached out to the constituents and really found out what they meant" because it seems pretty evident, like they know what they want.

I have been on Prescott Street at least 6 times in the last 3 months; I know the street pretty well. And I know a lot of the people on it want parking; they want the overnight parking. I think that maybe Economic Development or Parking might know that too because they keep ticketing them and somebody has created a whole forest of no-parking signs on an empty piece of land right next to Prescott Street, because people are parking there so they won't get ticketed. So I understand your frustration Alderman O'Brien, I wish we had started this two years ago, and I would prefer to keep it on a healthy dialogue, but from my perspective it seems like every definitive point we have just morphs into another one. We are going to look at Holman Stadium but we are also now going to move off into those neighborhoods too. And we are going to do the mid-point of the number streets but 8<sup>th</sup> Street is now the middle of the numbers. Every single goal and promise that we've had with regards to this, has not been definitively followed on. So as the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, if you keep cracking the whip and keep moving progress on this, then I am not going to have anything to be concerned about. I mean if I am not going to win the vote here, alright I tried, I talked to all of the residents, I've knocked on their doors, I spent my time doing that, you guys are the ones who voted it down. That's not going to hurt me politically, I'm not too concerned about that. But if no progress is being made as an aggregate for Ward 4, that is going to concern me, because I do represent that Ward and I want to make sure that collectively, their voices are being heard. I don't mind not submitting more individual streets, but as I started this by saying, I spent 2 years not doing that. And so no progress is being made.

Chairman O'Brien

And I thank the Alderman, the Committee Chair will just take a moment, again. I do too share your concerns, we all do, that's why we are Aldermen, I mean this is a city-wide problem. And I am glad and I hope from I heard because I look forward to working with you particularly, this is the majority of the downtown is your Ward and I look forward to working with you to try to try to come to resolve, but it's not going to be very a very speedy issue so I urge patience at all of us. Alderman Dowd, I do have you in the queue but I did get a flag from Director Cummings who may want to respond.

Mr. Cummings

No I don't think, thank you Mr. Chair, it probably behooves me not to respond at the moment. I was going to take the opportunity to correct some of the comments that were just made because I was part of the conversations in 2016 and I was here and I remember it very vividly but I don't know if that will be productive this evening. I think ultimately what we should do is we should try to focus our efforts and energy to be proactive and continue to work on this issue in a constructive manner. We have tangible goals in front of us; March 17<sup>th</sup> we will be getting together, we will start this process. This project took a while to get off the ground because we have a serious scope that we actually negotiated with Desmond Consultant and it is going to be about an \$85,000.00 study that we are undertaking and we are putting a considerable amount of resources because we want to get the correct data for you and we want to develop some policies that the City can be proud of. So it is taking a lot longer than maybe we would like but at the end of the day we are going to have a good deliverable and a great document that we should all be proud of.

Alderman Lopez

Can I just clarify one thing with regards to the timeline?

Chairman O'Brien

Yes you may.

Alderman Lopez

I do not believe that you are stalling or not doing anything. I think we are trying to do too much at once and it is not helping the individual person. So there's always going to be the people on Prescott Street versus the entire City. My problem is we are trying to do the entire City and the people on Prescott Street are still getting towed or ticketed. I understand the complexities involved and that there have been delays, but frankly being a pessimist I never believed we were going to do it very quickly in the first place.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Alderman Lopez and thank you Director Cummings for your choice of decorum, thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Just a couple things, random things maybe. You talked for a minute about bringing in the Zoning Board and the Planning Board. Before you do that, because they are an administrative board that is following the rules, if you want to find out what can and can't be done, I would suggest having a meeting with Director Marchant and Zoning Administrator Carter Faulk, before you bring in the Boards, so you know what their criteria and constraints are.

The other thing is the study that is going to come out will allow policies to be developed and adhered to. Alderman Schoneman started this whole thing with the parking back several years ago. It was a test case during the first year and sort of grew but there was no policy, it was this street, that street, no guidelines. The other thing is I've lived in Nashua for 74 years. The area that we are talking about? I'll bet is either zero or very few new streets in that area, but I can tell you the population has doubled or tripled since when I was younger. You are right, because I was the Chair of the ZBA for a while and there are certain constraints that they are under to allow people to use their property by law. So you need to have Carter and Director Marchant come in and explain to you what the constraints are.

They allow, they sometimes allow a three-unit and the next thing they know, Code Enforcement is down there, usually after a fire, because it is a five-unit now, they just made it that way and didn't get it approved. So there is a lot of Code Enforcement involved, there's a lot of things involved. If somebody has goes before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board and gets permission to have five apartments in their building, I'm pretty sure the rules say that you have to make sure they have parking adequate for those five apartments. So that's why I think you need to bring them in to get the true story.

#### Alderman Jette

I have several things to say, I mean, I am a little disappointed to hear that the parking, the scope of the parking study is limited, I guess I missed the invitation to talk about what the scope should be. But I suppose you are limited by the amount of money it would cost. But there are people in my Ward which is not, which is very dissimilar to downtown who have requested permission to have overnight parking on their street because they have got, you know, children haven't left like they are supposed to and they are still living in the house. So now you've got a driveway that's supposed to or is designed to accommodate two vehicles and now you've got four vehicles. So you know you end up with, because of the ban on overnight parking, you end up with people parking on their lawns. In the springtime those lawns turn into mud, so I have had people who have requested that they be allowed to park overnight on their streets. I and Jill Stansfield have been putting them off because we are telling them, Jill Stansfield and I are both telling them, you know, "I can't put in an Ordinance right now because we've got this parking study going on and we are going to wait and see what the parking study says". So I have talked about this before, similar to what Alderman O'Brien has brought out and Alderman Dowd. You know, the City has changed, the single family homes where you had one car, if any in a single family home, parked nicely in the driveway or the garage and a nice lawn and shrubbery and trees and everything. Well those buildings, the density of the City has increased. We are being told that we need to increase the density, these buildings cannot, you know, one family can't afford to stay in these buildings. They have to accommodate more than one family. But our laws that require parking, off-street parking, you know is having what I think is an unintended consequence of cars parked right up against the building, covering what used to be a nice lawn.

You travel around downtown and you see that. And I don't think it is the best look for the City; I'm not sure what the answer is. But there's a conflict I think between increasing the density and allowing people to park. I think we are going to have to allow them to park on the street. I think forcing them on to their lawns is not a good idea and they have more cars than can be accommodated on the lawns. But then you've got the outlying areas like Ward 5 where you've got some people who have requested permission to park on the street and I must say that Jill Stansfield and anybody who is listening, you know, she will accommodate people if they've got a temporary situation. They can call in and get a temporary permit to allow for parking. I'm always afraid of people having a guest over for, I don't know what occasion, maybe St. Patrick's Day and maybe they've had too much to drink and they should stay there, they shouldn't drive home but their car is on the street and they end up with a ticket. But there are also people who live in Ward 5 who don't want people parking on the street overnight, they like the idea that, you know, when I grew up, if there was a car parked on the street overnight, it meant trouble; there was something wrong. The Police knew to investigate that. I think that's what kind of led to the ban on parking so Police wouldn't have to check out these cars.

But I think that the City has to have an overall discussion about how we want to handle parking and maybe you know, areas in the inner City should be treated differently than areas outside the City. But I think we need to, whether if it's not part of the study, I think we as a Committee or we as a Board of Aldermen, have to wrestle with this issue about how to accommodate parking in a better way. I went out and I looked at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and I see one side of the street, there are multi-family apartment buildings and they have these extensive parking lots on the west side of the street and on the east side of the street there seems to be plenty of room to park cars overnight. But I think I guess the residents will decide what they want but it seemed like there were areas that could accommodate that and other areas that couldn't.

I also went out to Prescott Street and saw the situation there. So I am in favor, since the study is about to begin and will be over fairly soon, I support the motion to table for further study. But I think we need a larger scope of examining the parking issue.

#### Chairman O'Brien

At this time, the Chair would like, I have a couple of people in the queue, but if we look ahead on our agendas we see that there is another matter regarding streets which is very much the same. So I would kind of hope by the second time we get to the other items, much has been discussed, but I am looking for new material to bring up but right now I have Director Cummings, then our President Alderman Wilshire and I have Alderman Klee in the queue.

#### Mr. Cummings

Thank you Mr. Chair. I just want to clarify, it sounded as though some of what you were saying Alderman Jette is that you are under the impression that this scope of work won't have the conversation about whether overnight parking should be occurring out in Ward 5. From a policy level, from a community outreach standpoint that will be part of the conversation, that will be part of the study. Ultimately what comes about in terms of recommendations that are presented in the report for policies, is going to be up to this body to decide whether you adopt. It is ultimately a very political decision as to what you want to do but we have included that in the scope. So I just want to be clear about that. What I was referencing earlier is where paid parking is, because I don't want to confuse people and have people think that suddenly because we are studying parking out in Ward 5 that we are suddenly going to be putting up meters, right? That is not our intent, right and I could see that coming. We are not doing that. But yes we are from a non-paying for parking perspective at a very high level policy perspective and how you manage parking city-wide, we will be looking at very specific items including how we handle overnight parking as a policy matter.

#### Alderman Wilshire

Thank you, I agree with Alderman Jette, and Director Cummings – I think we need to do this in a well-planned, well-thought out manner. I understand that Prescott has some issues and that parking should be accommodated there to some degree. But not everybody wants it, there are a number of people that do want it, but what about the people that don't want it? You know? So we've got to take all that into consideration, we've got to know where it makes sense to do it and it probably makes sense to do some there. And maybe it makes sense to not do some on some portions of that street. But I think overall we need to get the input from everybody, you know what I mean? I think Mr. Hirsch did a great job getting the signatures, but what about the people that didn't want it? I mean I'm sure there were people, five years ago we had this same conversation about Prescott Street and there was a loud voice against it. And I am not saying that is true because he brought us 8 names of 8 people who want overnight parking, but I think it needs to be more well thought out and more well planned and if it comes to that, I'll support it. But I think we need a comprehensive plan.

#### Chairman O'Brein

Thank you. Alderman Klee and I hope this may be the last.

Alderman Klee

I really don't mean to beat this dead horse. I want to clarify when I said about the Zoning Board and Planning Board, I didn't mean bring the entire Board. The recommendation from Alderman Dowd about Director Marchant and Mr. Faulk, I think is brilliant. And those are the people that I think do need to come to this. But I know when the ADU's were passed and I think this is maybe Alderman Tencza can answer this question. When the ADU's came through and the parking – I mean I thought to the best of what I could find in our Zoning and so on that it was like 1 ½ to 2 parking spaces per unit. When we put that in, this is why I would like to speak to Director Marchant and Mr. Faulk about the implementation of we are allowing this particular one that I said about the five gentlemen living in that one, they have five bedrooms, they were approved to have five bedrooms per what he said. I have not looked that up but per what my constituent had told me and so on. The reason that I wanted to speak with them was because I wanted it to be known, OK if you have a three bedroom unit, we approve three bedrooms, do you have adequate parking for three bedrooms?

And I agree with what Alderman Jette said, parking on a lawn is not acceptable, I'm seeing it more and more in my Ward too and we have the beautiful historic district. As far as I am concerned French Hill is beautiful and I love it and so on but I am seeing more and more of that because as has been pointed out, some children will never leave home. And sometimes they rent it out and so on. I think this is a larger discussion. I think that the parking study, whether it is paid parking or whether it is the overnight parking, it is going to add to this conversation. But I think it's a conversation that we have to have because I, like many of the other Aldermen here, I have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 – 8 people waiting to find out if they can do it and one of them is a dead end with two people on that street that would be perfect and I haven't even brought that one forward, which I may do anyways simply because I can't keep holding them off. They are getting tickets and Ms. Stansfield has been incredible when people are doing emergency things as Alderman Jette pointed out. But sometimes these are children that are going to college and living at home. So thank you, thank you for listening.

Alderman Dowd

Two quick things – one, somebody parking a lot of cars on their lawns in Ward 2, there are restrictions of how many cars and what condition and all that can be parked on a lawn. If they don't meet them, the Police are going to have them towed if they don't get rid of them. The other thing is, who is giving out the tickets? I am liaison to the Police Department and I don't think they are giving out tickets.

Chairman O'Brien

Parking Enforcement.

Alderman Dowd

I know we have parking enforcement that works downtown and that's probably only certain hours. We have people all around the City 24/7?

Mr. Cummings

Not 24/7 but during select hours, you have parking enforcement throughout the entire City.

Alderman Dowd

How many people do we have, any night?

Mr. Cummings

Oh one per night.

Alderman Dowd

So the risk of you getting a ticket if you are out in Ward 2 or Ward 5 is ....

Mr. Cummings

Can I speak to that?

Chairman O'Brien

Go ahead I'll let you, then I'll follow up.

Mr. Cummings

Because that gets to an equitable issue and I just want to be very clear on that. So what, because I don't want to be ever perceived as managing a department that we are going to focus on the lowest, moderate income residents who can't actually afford parking because they are not going to go out to the outer skirts. So I have very clearly instructed parking enforcement to enforce the entire City. And until their policy changes, I have an obligation to that, because otherwise it would be unequitable to do that. So I don't want that to be blamed anywhere else but on me because I've made that abundantly clear to everyone.

Alderman Dowd

So do they get a ticket on the first offense?

Mr. Cummings

No.

Alderman Dowd

Ok so they get warnings; it is only people that do it on multiple occasions, right? Which has been the way with the Police Department before that. So unless you are a habitual offender, you probably have nothing to worry about if you are at a house and you were celebrating St. Patrick's Day and you didn't want to drive home, you may get a warning.

Chairman O'Brien

And if I may Director Cummings, I would like to follow up, in past history the Police Department had a gentleman that was in charge of parking enforcement. If you called up prior to when they start their shift, which is about 11:00 ish, you made the hot sheet, OK? And you were on that hot sheet and they put it out to every cruiser. But if you decided at 12:30 that you were a guest at somebody's house and you got the invitation to stay overnight, even though you may call the Police and tell the dispatcher, it may not have been referred to the hot sheet and we are dating in the old days when you actually had to write stuff down and no computers. I know we did live like that once, I know some people can't fathom that but that's basically the way it is. Now we have parking enforcement, it's almost a 24 hour/7 thing.

If one of our citizens is in a situation where they make the phone call, it'll go to a taped machine to which the lady or gentleman who is doing the parking enforcement for that particular shift, will review in a timely manner and check the tape. It may not be in the geographical area that they are on that particular patrol for that night, but if it is then they are prepared to get that. So it should not be like it was in the old days, as a matter of fact, it is a little bit better. And I know on a case by case basis, we have worked with people who are home from vacation on college and different things like that. So the parking situation is eons ahead of the way it was and Director Cummings would you agree with what I just said and everything? Thank you.

Alright we are still on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. So is there any other Alderman that is chomping at the bit with a comment? Seeing none, can the clerk read the number and the title please and the motion?

**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**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO TABLE O-20-004 FOR FURTHER STUDY  
MOTION CARRIED**

**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**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND TABLING O-20-006 FOR FURTHER STUDY**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

Would you like to speak to your motion?

Alderman Schmidt

I think I could just play back everything we just talked about. I think the same issue, of course.

Chairman O'Brien

As the Chairman I would recognize that. But I would like to give the Committee Members their opportunity to speak as such. Does anybody want to be recognized for comment?

Alderman Lopez

Prescott Street is not 8<sup>th</sup> Street, so I think it is worth at least commenting that there are people there who can't park in front of their own home, they are being ticketed or have to park in an illegal area. Each area is its own problem for the people who are living in it and I don't think we should be so blasé about it to just say, "we'll do it later". I get that we are working on the study and I get the arguments that we need to come up with a comprehensive new policy for the entire City. But I don't represent the whole City.

Chairman O'Brien

OK thank you. The Chair would at this time like to tell a member in our audience, Mr. Hirsch, we appreciate what you did in getting that petition. I think you heard the comments from Alderman Schmidt that we are going to wait until the study and give it somewhat of a Committee prioritization. We are going to be working with Director Cummings and other Committee Members including the bill sponsor, Alderman Lopez.

Give us some time with this, I think you can agree we are trying to do it right, please be patient and please bear with us.

Mr. Hirsch Would it be of help if I were to try to get more community input from my neighbors?

Chairman O'Brien

The Committee would love to hear from you; thank you. Thank you so much.

Alderman Lopez

So March 17<sup>th</sup> is going to be a meeting where we kick off the original part of the study. Is that open to the public?

Mr. Cummings

Thank you, no the kick off meeting is just an organizational meeting to start the project and then we will be having our first public forum, tentatively I would say something like April 8<sup>th</sup>, that time frame. Then from there, and I want to be clear, we have a couple public forums scheduled which would be entire public invited to like a town hall to discuss parking. But then from there, we have 10 scoped out stakeholder meetings, where we are going to go and meet with individual stakeholders like the Library, like the Mill Yard, Great American Downtown, Downtown Improvement Committee, PEDC and Infrastructure, Planning Board. So we will have very specific, you know, we have scoped out and that will occur during the month of April and May. We have two surveys scoped out that will actually be city-wide surveys that will be released to the public. Survey One will be released the same time we do the public forum one; and then we will do a second survey after public forum number two, which we would think would occur in somewhere around the May to probably beginning of June-ish timeframe. Then we will have a final presentation which I hope is to this body for end of June, July-ish timeframe with a report.

Alderman Lopez

Just a follow up. So the meeting that we are having on the 17<sup>th</sup> is probably not appropriate to have minutes done, but can a summary be posted for the Board of Aldermen at least?

Mr. Cummings

It's part of the scope that they have to give us minutes.

Alderman Lopez

OK that makes it easier then. And this will be on the Economic Development page?

Mr. Cummings

There's going to be a whole dedicated web page to this study, again that was part of the scope.

Alderman Lopez

Ok.

Chairman O'Brien

Any further comment or anybody with a question on the Board? Seeing none, can the Clerk read the number/title and motion?

Alderman Schmidt

Certainly, Ordinance 20-006 allowing permitted overnight, on-street parking for a portion of Prescott Street. I would move to recommend tabling this for further study.

**MOTION CARRIED****O-20-007**

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**REMOVING THE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 7-9 LEMON STREET****MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**ON THE QUESTIONChairman O'Brien

Thank you. We do have the prime sponsor, Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much, I know I came in front of the Board not too long ago requesting a handicap spot for a resident within my Ward. This is a prime example of why we shouldn't necessarily do that, but I am glad that you all did and did approve that. This is a case where this has been a handicap spot for a very long time and no one has been using it. I don't know if the person has moved or passed on or what the situation is but the residents had contacted me and asked if we could have that removed so that they could use the parking space. They've been very diligent in not parking in a handicap spot, but when you have a spot that's not being used, so I would appreciate the removal of this.

Chairman O'Brien

The Chair would like to note for public relation purposes out there, many of you probably drive in your own particular neighborhoods, the citizens do and they see these signs. If it is a situation where a handicapped child or by some means or marking or devices and now that child is grown up and raising a family of her own in another neighborhood, or his own, the sign is no longer legitimate and the City will come out and take it down if it has served its purpose. Perhaps as we move farther along in the age of enlightenment here as we are looking at parking issues; probably put some form of time stamp on these so we are not – but the issue isn't anything that really to lose sleep over, we are not littering the sidewalks with these things. But I can see where something stays up past due. So I do encourage if the people know it, probably Public Works would be the one to notify and they can bring in petition and we can take a look at it at that time.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much. Yes and I am glad you brought that up. In this particular case they did go to Public Works and they referred them to me in order to be able to do the Ordinance and so on. But you are absolutely right when we do see these, I think they are few and far between, but we have just been talking about inadequate parking. So when there is a situation like this, even if it is a single parking space that is not being used yet it is a parking space, a legitimate parking space, I would encourage the residents to contact Public Works or contact your Alderman or so on. And Ms. Stansfield has been great when I have contacted her on this; they drive around and they check.

And as Director Cummings has said, we do have people that are driving around the overnight parking space, and during the daytime and so on and they are making note of it when they are doing it. They may seem like they are unordinary in a particular place for too long but it might be because somebody like me has asked, "could you go and just kind of keep an eye on it and report back to me". Then if they do see someone parking they are going to give them a ticket. So thank you.

Alderman Lopez

First I just, in reference to your first comment I'd like to assure my neighborhoods that I am not driving around in them. But I also wanted to point out that sometimes people, if a handicap parking space is intended for one person's use and that person moves on, it is probably a good idea to make sure that nobody else is using it who is also handicapped. Not everybody is like sitting in those because they don't need them, sometimes somebody is like, "OH I will move into this apartment because there's handicap parking".

Alderman Dowd

Just real quick if this handicap spot was allowed by Ordinance, you should take that Ordinance and rescind that Ordinance or is it Resolution.

Chairman O'Brien

It's an Ordinance.

Alderman Dowd

Because now you pass a new Ordinance to take this out, the other Ordinance is still in the books and believe me our books are cluttered enough as it is. It would help from an administrative standpoint, look up the Ordinance that created it. And by the way, if it wasn't created by an ordinance we don't need an ordinance to take it down. So that's the kind of research I think he was talking about earlier.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Alderman Dowd. And when we get this transcribed, the minutes, the Chair will look in that and ask that specific question and refer to our administrative assistant, perhaps maybe discuss it briefly with Legal and go by their recommendation. Thank you for that suggestion.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much. I did work with Public Works to find out if it was something that they could just take down and they came back to me and told me that it was an Ordinance. I did not follow up to find out what the Ordinance number was, when it had been approved and so on but I did know it to be an Ordinance. You are absolutely right, we should be finding out which Ordinance it is, rescinding that and have this rescind that one and so on. So I have no problem with following up finding out what it was and put in a rescinding request. I think it's a great idea. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

OK very good, further comments on the motion. Can the Clerk please read the number and title and the motion?

Alderman Schmidt

Ordinance 20-007, removing the handicap parking space in front of 7-9 Lemon Street and I would move to recommend final passage.

Alderman Jette

I just want to point out that the Ordinance ....

Alderman Klee

I just found it. Yeah.

Alderman Jette

Does point out that the Ordinance authorizing this handicap spot is Section 320-72 Handicap Parking and under paragraph A it lists Lemon Street, one parallel in front of 7-9 Lemon Street. The Ordinance that we are recommending passage of specifically eliminates that. So what you are suggesting by done was in fact done.

Alderman Schmidt

Perfect, thank you for finding that.

**MOTION CARRIED**

TABLED IN COMMITTEE – None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Hirsch if you wish you may come up again.

Mr. Hirsch No thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Mr. Hirsch.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairman O'Brien

The Chair will take the liberty that this was one of the more better discussions. I think we worked on trying to get, or exactly wrap our minds around what we are trying to do here with the parking. I guess the first part of coming up with any type of solution is first recognize that we have a problem. I think we took leaps and bounds in that department, already discussing possible solutions. I thank everybody here for their comment and input tonight – because I think the debate tonight was both informative and will go a long way in helping us come to a resolution on this. So I thank you all for your attendance. Thank you very much.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:45p.m.

Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Committee Clerk

