

COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

JULY 27, 2022

A meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure was held Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom teleconference.

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

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

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

Members of Infrastructure Committee present:           Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
  Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Vice Chair  
  Alderman Alex Comeau  
  Alderman Tyler Gouveia  
  Alderman Ernest A. Jette

Members not in Attendance:

Also in Attendance: Dan Hudson, City Engineer

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ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-22-021**

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

**ESTABLISHING NO PARKING AREAS DURING SCHOOL HOURS NEAR THE FRANKLIN STREET SCHOOL**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

After consultation with Police, Fire, DPW, and the architects, we have indicated that for all types of safety reasons that there should be no parking during school hours only on the streets listed from Charles Street, from Franklin Street, to Winter Street, on Franklin Street north through Locust Street. The Charles Street – there's actually no parking there now anyway. Locust Street, on both sides, the entire length; and Winter Street north from Charles Street to Locust Street. Those streets can have parking during the summer, school vacations, holidays, weekends. It's just during school hours and that's to facilitate the parents dropping off and picking up, and the buses dropping off and picking up, and the handicap on Winter Street dropping off and picking up. But also if there heaven forbid was ever a fire or emergency, that the emergency vehicles would have easy access to the school. So it was determined that as listed, the no parking during school hours should be put in effect. I don't know if Engineer Hudson wants to add anything.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Hudson, feel free to join us. Welcome.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dan Hudson, City Engineer. No, I don't have much to add other than just to affirm that we've reviewed the legislation and support it for the reasons noted.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good, thank you. Did you have something more to add Mr. Hudson? Okay, thank you. I just want to make sure I didn't cut you off. Chairman Dowd so the public will know, what are the school hours that they can anticipate no parking in that area?

Alderman Dowd

The school hours, I believe, are like seven in the morning and I think they get out around four but I'm not entirely sure. I'm not sure what the legislation says but they will be part of the signage, correct Mr. Hudson?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

I'm not sure. We'll have to review what we've done in other locations. I think this language is similar to what we've approved elsewhere. We could include specific hours as determined. It's just that we include hours, you know, we might want to include not weekend, not holidays but then the sign gets kind of extensive. So we'll have to review the specifics of that.

Alderman Dowd

I think that we'll let all the neighbors know what the school hours are and that they can use the – I talked to Alderman Klee who's the Ward 3 Alderman. She's telling people that, you know, when the school hours are she'll probably put it out on her weekly noticed to all the people – it will also be posted around the school the school hours. There was some concern about somebody playing basketball on Winter Street. Well the people playing basketball should be in school during school hours. So it's not an issue. They can play basketball outside of school hours.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Hudson, the Chair just has one follow up. That's basically we do have websites - the city website, I'm sure that could be added somewhere in there as well.

Alderman Dowd

Well it would be on the school's site.

Chairman O'Brien

The school's website? Perhaps that might be a better deal. Correct, Alderman Dowd and that may help out the people in the neighborhood.

Alderman Dowd

As I think of it putting the times on the signs might not be a good thing because if they ever change the time slightly on school, then all the signs need to be changed. You don't have to do that.

Chairman O'Brien

Yeah, it's just a new concept and that's where we're going with that until the people get used to it.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you. My only question was going to be about the signage, whether it was going to say no parking during school hours or whether it was going to have specific dates and times but that's been answered so that's fine.

Chairman O'Brien

Oh good minds think alike.

Alderman Jette

So my mind was thinking along the same ways.

Chairman O'Brien

Equally great minds.

Alderman Jette

I don't have a solution. I don't know what the answer is but when you say "school hours", I would imagine you'd want to prohibit parking before school starts.

Alderman Dowd

That's why the timing will be indicated maybe an hour before school starts. When we first implement this, there's going to be police there to make sure that people aren't going the wrong way on one street and a park of it. The parent drop off in front of Franklin Street, there's no parking there now because it's so narrow. So that won't be an issue. You can't park there all day. So it's the other streets that will be just during school hours and everybody will know the school hours. Probably even an hour before school starts and maybe an hour after the last people get picked up. But if somebody parks there the last 15 minutes or something, I'm sure the police aren't gonna be there to give him a ticket. I think it will work with the public in the area.

Alderman Jette

Can I follow up? I understand what you're saying and I understand the problem, I'm just thinking of making - if you're going to prohibit somebody from doing something, it should be clear what it is that you're prohibiting from doing and when. I don't know how you would word this to clarify that but.

Alderman Dowd

So as I said, the school hours will be posted on the School Board's website, probably the city's website as well, and it will be posted on a sign on the site of the school. We'll get that sign Dan, don't worry. It will tell with the school hours are and it's a very small neighborhood around the school. So I'm sure they'll all know.

Alderman Jette

Can I follow up? I'm just pointing out that, you know, when you say that the school hours will be posted, well if school starts at eight o'clock, I think you want to prohibited parking there like you said earlier than that.

Alderman Dowd

Definitely.

Alderman Jette

So that people dropping off – they're dropping kids off before school starts and they're picking them up after school ends. So I'm just pointing out that making it school hours someone could argue that well I didn't park there during school hours. I parked there before and what we're trying to do is make sure people have access for the drop offs and pickups I think.

Alderman Dowd

It'll be clearly posted on the school and from our observations already during school hours, there's nobody there. There are no cars parked there but we just want to make sure that people know that - we don't want a huge truck coming in and parking there for delivery of something. If they work with the school and it's in school hours but not pick up the drop off, the school can probably say okay if they come in at this hour, they can drop off their stuff. Other than pickup and drop off, the main thing is not having cars parked there that could block police or fire from getting into the school because we're talking about four year olds, kids, tots on two floors. We gotta be very careful to protect them.

Chairman O'Brien

All set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yeah.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question through you to either Mr. Hudson or Alderman Dowd. I think I heard my answer there but right now, how often are people parking in these - during these hours or not during these hours? Are these used spots that are being taken away or are we just kind of marking something where nobody's currently really parking?

Alderman Dowd

The only people that are parking there right now is the construction people that are working inside the school or Director Hudson, and myself, and whoever school people parking there when we're doing the walkthroughs. The people from lot 34 have their own assigned parking spaces in the parking lot. Then there's parking on Franklin Street in front of lot 34. Nobody parks around - there are people that park at night in their home. They're all gone early in the morning even earlier than I've ever been there.

Alderman Gouveia

So this sounds really more of a clarification. It's not really used during the day, but it's just to clarify it can't happen during the school hours. Okay, thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Yeah, thank you. If I may follow up too and Alderman Dowd help me out if I'm incorrect or Mr. Hudson. I think that area now is not under overnight parking because of the size of the streets and stuff like that. So it's really not eliminating anybody, it's just at daytime during the school hours that that's going to become to effect so. Follow up?

Alderman Gouveia

Yeah, please. So currently right now is there overnight parking there?

Chairman O'Brien

No.

Alderman Gouveia

There is not. Okay. That was going to be my question is if you parked there, and then you left your car there, then we went into regular school hours what would happen there? Okay. No it makes sense.

Chairman O'Brien

Yeah like I said, the neighborhoods - Locusts, Terrace, kind of congested so it's not really...

Alderman Gouveia

There's not a lot of room there. No, I get that.

Chairman O'Brien

Exactly. It was built in the horse cart era.

Alderman Dowd

And working with the Fire Department, we've adjusted to markings so that their large trucks can make the corner loader without an issue.

Alderman Gouveia

Perfect.

Chairman O'Brien

Further questions by any members of the Committee? Seeing none, I will call for the vote.

**MOTION CARRIED**

TABLED IN COMMITTEE – None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Dowd

I want to say that the new school is going quite well. The steel is up in area D and you go down there, things are moving along very quickly.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO ADJOURN**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:14 p.m.

Alderman Alex Comeau,  
Committee Clerk