

Protection and License Committee

Chairman Infurna, Forbes, Brodeur,
Seaboyer, Medeiros
Attending: Conn, Wright, Boisselle
In attendance: Fire Chief John
O'Brien; Police Chief Mike Lyle

Protection and License Committee called to order by Chairman Infurna at 7:30 p.m.
Alderman Forbes motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor. No one comes forward. Alderman Forbes motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order No. 09-117, GRANT Amount: \$4,464.62 From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To: Fund #2542 – SAFE Grant Account These funds will be used to train firefighters in education techniques at the elementary school level

Alderman Forbes motions to suspend the rules to allow Chief O'Brien to address the committee, 2nd by Alderman Medeiros. All in favor.

Alderman Medeiros moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Forbes.

Chief O'Brien says this State grant is for student awareness for fire education. It hasn't been funded for a few years. He will send one captain to a fire education course which targets grades 1-5. The grant will also cover staffing at the Victorian Fair and coloring books for fire prevention.

Alderman Brodeur asks if the grant pays for staff time for the captain to go out. Fire Chief John O'Brien says yes, and to pay his replacement if he's on duty.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Order No. 09-118, TRANSFER Amount: \$761.00 From: A/C #012111-511000 - Police - Salary & Wages To: A/C #012112-527700 - Police – Building Maintenance These funds will be used to pay for plumbing repairs to the Police Station.

Alderman Forbes motions to suspend the rules to allow Chief Lyle to address the committee, 2nd by Alderman Medeiros.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend, 2nd by Medeiros.

Chief Lyle says the transfer is to pay a bill to repair the water line to the cellblock area. The Department is required by law to provide water for detainees. He says it was an old pipe with no shutoff valve. The water had to be shut off to run the pipe 45 feet to the boiler room.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Order No. 09-119, APPROPRIATION Amount \$125.00 From: A/C #29062-590000 – Parking Receipts To: A/C #012112-535500 – Police Uniforms

Alderman Brodeur moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Alderman Brodeur motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Protection and License Committee adjourns at 7:40 p.m.

Public Works Committee

Chairman Seaboyer, Infurna,
Brodeur, Forbes, Medeiros
Attending: Conn, Wright, Boisselle
In attendance: City Engineer Bob
Beshara

Public Works Committee called to order by Chairman Seaboyer at 7:40 p.m.

Order No. 09-088, Requesting certain parking prohibitions and fines as set forth herein.
(AL-2)

Alderman Medeiros motions to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Beshara to address the committee, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Alderman Conn says he filed the order because over the last several months he felt there was a problem with construction vehicles being left on City streets. Since he filed the order he has spoken with Mr. Beshara and he is satisfied that Public Works will deal with the matter when construction season begins again.

Alderman Brodeur motions to place the order on file, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Order No. 09-097, Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 202, Article III- Streets by adding: Section 202-25.1 – Reconstructing or resurfacing streets as set forth herein. (A-3)

Alderman Infurna moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Forbes.

As the maker of the order, Alderman Wright says he has spoken with Mr. Beshara, and to some extent this codifies what is already being done by the Department of Public Works. This proposal requires notification from DPW to utility companies so that when the City is doing street work they will also do it. That is what DPW is doing but he would like to put teeth into it; the utilities would have to wait 5 years to do roadwork unless it's an emergency. He says when W Wyoming Avenue was last paved, it was dug up within 6 months; he doesn't want that to happen again.

Mr. Beshara says the gas company is notified in the fall of a list of streets the City anticipates doing work on in the following year. They meet in the spring and summer to review work scheduled for the fall. He looks to them to replace old gas lines and they make an analysis of leak history as to whether or not the lines are replaced. Often times he is comfortable with what they decide to do. As far as issuing a moratorium on roadwork done on new streets, Mr. Beshara says that gas leaks happen and homeowners look to change service from oil to gas and he generally lets that happen. There is a moratorium on road openings in the winter unless it's an emergency. He tries

to work with residents; if there is a significant reason to open the street he allows it but generally they have to wait until spring.

Alderman Medeiros asks Mr. Beshara if he thinks the proposed ordinance change puts undue burden on the utilities and residents. Mr. Beshara says no; the ordinance is clear, and judgment cases don't fall under the ordinance.

Alderman Brodeur asks what kind of permit a utility company needs to do roadwork; Mr. Beshara says a street opening permit. Alderman Brodeur asks if the City operates now on a 5-year time period. Mr. Beshara says yes; that is what is currently in the ordinance and what state law allows. Alderman Brodeur asks if 30 days notice is enough for a utility to take action. Mr. Beshara says it typically takes 3-4 months for them to be able to act, which is why they meet with the City the previous year.

Alderman Infurna asks if historically there was any occasion that he denied a utility a street opening permit. Mr. Beshara says he denies them in the winter months. Alderman Infurna asks if there are any other occasions; Mr. Beshara says typically when there is a new street; if they didn't replace a gas line and they detect a gas leak they'll monitor it. Alderman Infurna says he is already doing what Alderman Wright has brought forward. Mr. Beshara says yes, but things are a bit different now that Keyspan has been bought by nationalgrid; more negotiation is needed.

Alderman Forbes says the intent of the proposal is good but he thinks it will tie the utility companies' hands. He asks if there is a different set of rules for utility companies and subcontractors. Mr. Beshara says the rules are the same. Alderman Forbes says he would like to see a clause that if a trench becomes a pot hole that the responsible party repairs it. Mr. Beshara says they are responsible for two years; typically the gas company is good.

Alderman Infurna asks the maker of the order through the Chair if he is looking for any amendment or substitution; it is her understanding that this is already being done. Alderman Wright says the proposal is codifying what is being done.

Alderman Conn says he is not a member of this committee but would like to make a brief comment. In terms of ordinances and ordinance amendments he is a minimalist. He likes to put in what the City needs and nothing more. He is not convinced the City needs this.

Alderman Brodeur motions to send the matter to the full board without recommendation.

Chairman Seaboyer says there is already a motion to recommend on the floor made by Alderman Infurna and seconded by Alderman Forbes.

On a Point of Information Alderman Medeiros asks if this would have to go to Legal and Legislative Matters. Chairman Seaboyer says it will if it is recommended from this committee.

Mr. Beshara says if there is an issue with amending the ordinances he would certainly welcome a resolution from the Board of Aldermen. There is a moratorium on excavating streets from November 15 to April 15; a resolution would be helpful to his department.

Alderman Brodeur says if there are things that aren't covered by this proposal that may be more helpful to the department, perhaps Mr. Beshara, the City Solicitor and the Board of Aldermen could work on it.

Alderman Infurna withdraws the motion to recommend; Alderman Forbes withdraws the second, saying he can't support it.

Alderman Brodeur motions to place the matter on hold, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Alderman Brodeur motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Public Works adjourns at 8:05 p.m.

There are no orders in the Health, Education and Welfare Committee to be acted on.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees