

Protection and License Committee

Chairman Infurna, Forbes, Brodeur,  
Seaboyer, Medeiros  
Attending: Conn, Mortimer, Boisselle  
In attendance: Liquor Licensing  
Commission Chairman Leo  
Colborne

Protection and License Committee called to order by Chairman Infurna at 7:30 p.m.

Alderman Forbes motions to open Public Participation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor. No one comes forward. Alderman Forbes motions to close Public Participation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order No. 09-137, Fees to be established for Liquor Licenses in accordance with Section 1.05 of the Administrative Code of the City of Melrose.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer.

Chairman Infurna invites Liquor Licensing Commission Chairman Leo Colborne to address the committee. Alderman Seaboyer asks when the new rates will take effect. Mr. Colborne says they will take effect January 1, 2010. Alderman Seaboyer asks if there is any change to the 1-day licenses. Mr. Colborne says not at this time; most one-day licenses granted are for non-profit organizations and they are having a tough time in this economy. Alderman Seaboyer asks when the rates were last changed. Mr. Colborne says they have not changed in 30 or more years.

Alderman Brodeur says the Liquor Licensing Commission and the City Solicitor put together a nice analysis of surrounding communities; the proposed fees are in line with them.

Alderman Medeiros asks which licenses have been increased. Mr. Colborne says the only changes made were for all liquor restaurants and retail food establishment.

President Boisselle says the license for the retail food establishment \$1500 and the application fee for the retail food establishment is \$1500. Mr. Colborne says the application fee will be applied to the license if it is approved. President Boisselle asks if the total fee will be \$1500; Mr. Colborne says yes.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Forbes motions to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Protection and License adjourns at 7:36 p.m.

Public Works Committee

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

Public Works called to order by Chairman Seaboyer at 7:37 p.m.

Order No. 09-139, Parking Control Devices Requesting information from the Department of Public Works on credit card payment, parking control devices that could be utilized at the three City owned commuter train parking lots. (AL-4)

Alderman Brodeur motions to join Orders 09-139 and 09-123, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Forbes. All in favor.

Order No. 09-123, APPROPRIATION Amount: \$5,625.00 From: A/C #29062-590000 - Parking Receipts To: A/C #014222-527310 - Train Station Maintenance This transfer is necessary to pay for the annual service contract of Schumberger machines at the train stations.

Mr. Beshara says as the Board of Aldermen knows, he has asked for appropriations of funds to make repairs to the Schumberger machines at the commuter lots. He was asked to look into upgrading the system. Chief Lyle contacted vendors and received proposals on machines that are debit and credit card capable. The current rate to park is \$2, or 8 quarters; he will be looking to increase the rate to 10 or 12 quarters. The debit/credit card machines could also accommodate City issued cards. He says he sent the Aldermen a memo regarding the upgrade and the possibility of increasing parking permits and fees. The MBTA has increased its daily parking fee to \$5.75 and Wakefield is over \$3.00; Melrose is still \$2.00 from 6 a.m. to noon. The new machines cost \$35,000 installed and come with a one-year warranty. Maintenance is minimal as they are plug and play machines. Monthly costs would be \$165 or \$55 per machine, and includes paper receipts, remote monitoring service and credit card authorization. The machines could also take coins, which he suggests doing. Upgrading to solar power would increase the cost by \$1000 per unit. The communication system is cellular and could be powered by solar energy; he thinks it's the appropriate thing to do. Installation could be done in one day. DPW would remove the existing machines and the new ones could be installed on the existing concrete platform. These machines may be programmed for multiple rates; he is looking to increase the 6 a.m. to noon rate to \$3.00 and charge \$1.00 after 12:00. An overnight parking rate could also be programmed. These machines give the City a lot of options while staying current with technology. The Schumberger machines are old and parts are hard to find. The \$5600 annual maintenance fee is for basic maintenance only.

Alderman Brodeur asks how long the City has had the current machines; Mr. Beshara says they have to be at least 12 years old. Alderman Brodeur says the new ones will work the same – insert money, receive a ticket and place it on the dashboard. Mr. Beshara says that is correct. Alderman Brodeur asks if the vendor would have to be called if the City decides to change the rate. Mr. Beshara says they come with software but he doesn't know if it covers changing the rate. Alderman Brodeur asks if he has spoken with the IT Director about data security. Mr. Beshara says no, but no data is stored in the machines. Alderman Brodeur asks about vandalism and how much of a beating the machines can take. Mr. Beshara says they are pretty tough and as far as he knows there haven't been any issues with vandalism. Alderman Brodeur asks about instructing customers on how to operate them. Mr. Beshara says he assumes there will be an education piece with signs posted at the lots saying the new machines will be coming. He could also advertise them on MMTV and put a notice in the newspaper.

Alderman Brodeur asks if the solar powered machines need backup power. Mr. Beshara says no, but if there is a very long period without sun they may go down.

Alderman Infurna says the present machines are sheltered by a roof and asks if the solar powered machines would work there. Mr. Beshara says they aren't blocked from the sun. Alderman Infurna says she likes the idea of them being coin-friendly; not everyone uses an ATM card. Mr. Beshara says the City could also issue a card like the Charlie card.

Alderman Forbes says Mr. Beshara estimates the new machines will cost \$2500 per year to maintain plus the cost of receipts; he asks Mr. Beshara how often he has to buy the receipts. Mr. Beshara says he buys 5 rolls per year. Alderman Forbes asks what's included in the \$2500; Mr. Beshara says it includes \$55 per machine per month for credit card authorization. Alderman Forbes asks what would happen if the machines need repair. Mr. Beshara says the City could take care of it.

President Boisselle says these machines are in operation near the Hynes Auditorium in Boston and are very easy to use. He asks if the solar powered units have a backup battery. Mr. Beshara says he'll have to ask.

Alderman Medeiros says it's an interesting idea but she is concerned about the cost right now. The City is on a tight budget. It seems it will take 3½ years to make up any savings and that's contingent on raising fees. She asks if anything has been done to ask the opinion of current users. Mr. Beshara says no. This money goes to a special account which currently has about \$50,000 in it. Parking receipts total \$122,000 each year so there is enough money in that account to pay for the machines. He says the parking lots should pay for themselves. The upkeep of the machines, repairing potholes, painting lines and snow plowing all come out of the DPW budget, not this one. Alderman Medeiros asks about the solar capabilities when it snows – it looks like the solar panels are on top of the machine. Mr. Beshara says the snow would likely have to be removed. He says he could have a company representative come in or he could get the answer. Alderman Medeiros suggests the order be held in committee so that outreach could be done with current commuters and let them know that changes are being discussed. Mr. Beshara says he wants to warn the Aldermen that the City is not currently under a maintenance agreement with the current machines.

Alderman Infurna asks if any of the current machines are broken. Mr. Beshara says no.

Alderman Mortimer asks what the daily take is. Mr. Beshara says he doesn't know that number. The report through February 19 has a \$51,500 balance. Last fiscal year \$122,000 was deposited into that account. Some money is used to pay for the armored cars, tickets for the Parking clerk and paper rolls.

Alderman Conn says daily receipts are \$476.19.

Mr. Beshara says the account covers all parking lot receipts and revenue for parking permits. Alderman Mortimer asks if he knows the number of parking lots there are. Mr. Beshara says he will get that information. Alderman Mortimer asks Mr. Beshara about the increase being discussed. Mr. Beshara says he is looking at a 30% increase for parking lots and permits. Alderman Mortimer asks if the date on the receipt is

prominent. Mr. Beshara says it is. Alderman Mortimer asks if the police patrol for receipts. Mr. Beshara says yes. Alderman Mortimer asks Mr. Beshara if he has any idea of how many tickets are written. Mr. Beshara says he doesn't but Jack Higgins would have that number. Alderman Mortimer asks if he know the average dollar amount of a ticket. Mr. Beshara says no.

Alderman Conn asks who other than Boston is using the new machines. Mr. Beshara says there are two other cities. Alderman Conn says he'd be interested in knowing how long they last. He asks how long they've been in use. Mr. Beshara says at least 15 years. Alderman Conn asks if there is any way to ask the cities that operate them for their input. Mr. Beshara says yes.

Alderman Forbes asks if the City owns or leases the current machines. Mr. Beshara says the City owns them. Alderman Forbes asks what will happen to them once they're dismantled. Mr. Beshara says they could be used somewhere else or he could sell them. Alderman Forbes asks if parking fees are lifted during snow emergencies. Mr. Beshara says police don't ticket on snow days. Alderman Forbes says \$2 per day to park is a good deal. He asks what people pay when they go to a Bruins game. Mr. Beshara says they park for free after 12:00 noon but there could be a new rate starting at 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Brodeur says there are statutory restrictions as to what these funds may be spent on. This would be an appropriate use of funds. The issue of a rate increase is separate from whether or not the City purchases these machines. Buying these would not necessitate an increase in rates.

Alderman Medeiros says we're decreasing maintenance costs from \$12,000 to \$2,000 but it would take three or more years to recoup the initial cost.

Mr. Beshara says the Traffic Commission is looking at increasing fees on sticker parking. He and Chief Lyle have met with the City Auditor and think a 30% increase is appropriate. He doesn't want the Traffic Commission to move forward without the Board of Aldermen's approval.

Chairman Seaboyer says he likes the idea of the solar powered machines but is not comfortable with them depending on solar power. Mr. Beshara says they could be connected to the power sources that are already available at all three lots. Chairman Seaboyer asks if maintenance could be done in-house. Mr. Beshara says that IT could replace the computer boards and the paper receipts are the same as the ones being used now. Chairman Seaboyer asks if the customer could program the machines for different times. Mr. Beshara says the City would have the option to sell different types of tickets.

Alderman Medeiros motions to hold both orders in committee. There is no second.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend both orders. There is no second.

Alderman Brodeur motions to divide the orders.

Order No. 09-139, Parking Control Devices Requesting information from the Department

of Public Works on credit card payment, parking control devices that could be utilized at the three City owned commuter train parking lots. (AL-4)

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Infurna.

On a Point of Order, Alderman Brodeur says the order is only seeking information. The next step would be an order to fund it.

On the motion to recommend, motion passes 3-2.

Order No. 09-123, APPROPRIATION Amount: \$5,625.00 From: A/C #29062-590000 - Parking Receipts To: A/C #014222-527310 - Train Station Maintenance This transfer is necessary to pay for the annual service contract of Schumberger machines at the train stations.

Alderman Infurna motions to give the matter Leave to Withdraw.

On discussion Alderman Forbes says the City is not currently under a contract agreement and asks Mr. Beshara if giving this order Leave to Withdraw would put the City in jeopardy. Mr. Beshara says there is a three month lead time.

Alderman Conn suggests both order be moved along to the full board.

Alderman Infurna withdraws the motion to give the matter Leave to Withdraw.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Infurna. Motion passes 3-2.

Alderman Brodeur motions to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Public Works adjourns at 8:18 p.m.

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

Maribeth Harrington  
*Clerk of Committees*