

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Ordinances & Administration
Monday, June 6, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Committee Room – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Vice Chair, Anne Mulcahey; Councilor Greg Verga (Alternate)
Absent: Councilor Tobey
Also Present: Councilor Hardy; Linda T. Lowe

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Items were taken out of order.

1. Continued Business:

All items under Continued Business are from the 5/16/11 O&A Meeting:

A) CC2011-016 (Hardy) Amend GCO Sec. 22-292 “Fire Lanes” re: Munsey Lane

Councilor Hardy explained that she has been unable to devote the time to speak with the residents and do more research on the matter due to the budget review and asked that the matter be continued.

This matter is tabled until Councilor Hardy is ready to move forward on this matter.

B) Emergency Order (Tobey) Amend GCO §22-242 “Parking Prohibition, Towing, Immobilization, Signs” by ADDING sub-part (14) re: Magnolia Woods

Councilor Theken explained there had been a site visit on Saturday, June 4th by the Committee with a group of interested citizens, and City staff, along with a consultant from Weston & Sampson. She stated there is a consensus that temporary no parking on the left side going in is now in place appropriately. Councilors Hardy, Tobey and herself were there at the site visit with the soccer coaches, lacrosse coaches, members of a model airplane group, Jane Porter and Jim Cooke, members of a neighborhood watch of Magnolia Woods and Mark Cole of the DPW. She related that Councilor Tobey will draft an ordinance for an advisory board for Magnolia Woods. She felt this would be a good working board. She hoped Councilor Tobey would quickly draft this new ordinance amendment. She felt there would also be more parking made available. The gates are being locked at night; Chief Lane would see that more police would be in the area. **Councilor Verga** suggested with 45 days left on the emergency ordinance passed at City Council to prohibit parking on the cap, to see how far Councilor Tobey gets with the order first, and then they can look at an extension of the emergency order. **Ms. Lowe** noted that if they didn't think the ordinance would be in place in time they could extend the emergency order. **Jack Hill**, 528 Essex Avenue expressed that now his model airplane group cannot use the field originally designated by Mayor Bell, with the Committee noting that the fields are not just for sports but for recreation as well, and this is such a group that should be able to use the area but in a safe manner and in a field that is accessible. **Councilor Theken** didn't think it fair they get pushed off the field they had been using due to the vast expansion of youth sports at Magnolia Woods. She asked if Councilor Verga would take that challenge on. **Councilor Verga** discussed the matter briefly with Mr. Hill. The Committee suggested **Councilor Verga**, who agreed, speak with Mark Cole to seek a solution on the matter. **Mr. Hill** noted the soccer season was ending soon and also expressed it is an elderly group of gentlemen in the model airplane club and is difficult for these folks who can't carry their equipment from the upper parking lot. **Councilor Theken** noted Mr. Cook and Ms. Porter were very open to suggestions of how to accommodate this group. She also offered her help.

This matter is continued to June 20, 2011.

C) CC2011-021 (McGeary) Amend GCO Sec. 22-270 “Parking Prohibited at all times” re: Eastern Avenue

At the Traffic Commission's May 26th, the Commission agreed with Councilor McGeary that this order and the one following will keep the area safer and improve visibility for cars on Eastern Avenue as well as vehicles

entering/exiting Neptune Place. **Councilor Theken** acknowledged an email from Councilor McGeary, the proposer of the two orders and the following Council Order, with his endorsement (email on file), the text of which is below:

“Dear Colleagues: I will not be able to attend tonight’s meeting of the Council’s Ordinances and Administration Subcommittee as I have a prior commitment. However, I wish to be recorded as favoring the two orders, CC2011-021 and CC2011-022, which I filed. I believe these ordinance changes will enhance the safety of those traveling the stretch of Eastern Avenue between Route 128 and Williams Court and will also improve traffic flow in that area. I have walked the neighborhood recently and spoken with neighbors and, among those I spoke with; I found no opposition to the proposed changes in the City ordinance. The Traffic Commission has also voted to support these changes. Paul McGeary, City Councilor, Ward 1 (East Gloucester).”

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Verga, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to Amend GCO §22-270 (Parking Prohibited at All Times) by ADDING “Eastern Avenue, southerly side, in an easterly direction, from the intersection of Route 128 to the intersection of Williams Court” AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

D) CC2011-022 (McGeary) Amend GCO Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones” re: Eastern Avenue

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Verga, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to Amend GCO §22-291 (Tow-away zones) by ADDING “Eastern Avenue, southerly side, in an easterly direction, from the intersection of Route 128 to the intersection of Williams Court” AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Mark and Mary Beth Osborne, 55 Eastern Avenue who entered the meeting after the votes had been taken by the Committee inquired about the motions passed by the Committee and were advised that there was going to be a public hearing on the matter and encouraged them to come to the City Council meeting when it would be taken up, likely at the first Council meeting in July, and to check with the City Clerk’s office to affirm the date.

E) CC2011-008 (Hardy) Creation of language for ballot question re: recently enacted Water Ordinance and Pending Home Rule Petition related to same

Ms. Lowe related that they need to write the explanation of the ballot question. The vote the Committee and the Council took was just on the question. **Councilor Hardy** noted the summary is a very important piece of the ballot itself. **Ms. Lowe** stated the format has to be what a “yes” vote means and what a “no” vote means.

This matter is continued to June 20, 2011.

2. *CC2011-024 (Whynott/Ciolino) Request that the Harbor Patrol Boat be named after Patrolman Stephen J. Amaral*

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Verga, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council that the Police Harbor Patrol Boat be named in honor of Patrolman Stephen J. Amaral.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.