

**Ordinances & Administration Committee**  
Monday, November 20, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Council Conference Room – City Hall**  
**-Minutes-**

**Present:** Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Vice Chair, James O’Hara; Councilor Sean Nolan

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Councilor Lundberg (left the meeting at 6:21 p.m.); Joanne Senos; Jim Destino; Jonathan Pope; David Dow

**The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.**

1. **CC2017-033 (Cox) Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” by ADDING “Prospect Street, parking prohibited on the northerly side of Prospect Street from its intersection with Friend Street in a westerly direction to Taylor Street, from utility pole #976 to #978 (Cont’d from 10/16/17)**

**Councilor LeBlanc** advised that Councilor Cox was unable to attend due to her work schedule. He said that in speaking to Councilor Cox today she informed him that she wasn’t going to have a Ward meeting on the matter, that it had been postponed long enough, and asked that the Committee move this matter to public hearing. **Councilor Nolan** confirmed the same, saying that he had also spoken with Councilor Cox who conveyed she wanted this matter to move forward.

**Jim Destino**, CAO, recounted for the Committee that Councilor Cox had previously asked to postpone this matter as she was going to hold a Ward meeting, but hadn’t. **Councilor LeBlanc** confirmed Councilor Cox hadn’t held a Ward meeting but felt comfortable moving the matter forward to public hearing. **Mr. Destino** noted he’s heard that from Rev. James Achadinha of Our Lady of Good Voyage Church and neighborhood residents. **Councilor LeBlanc** said the Committee can send the amendment to public hearing and hear from residents.

**Councilor Nolan** added that in speaking to some folks it appears this is an idea that doesn’t make sense. If they take away all the parked vehicles it will become a speedway from Rogers Street upward, he said. As this is a ward issue, he pointed out, at the public hearing the Council will hear from Rev. Achadinha, from the DES Club and the neighbors. He said personally he didn’t think it was a good idea to make this change as it’s been this way for some time. He pointed out that there are other streets in the city that are more narrow with parked cars on either side, He recounted several other examples of streets as narrow or narrower with similar situations. He said he also would like to hear more at the public hearing before making his final decision. **Councilor O’Hara** expressed his agreement with Councilor Nolan.

**Councilor LeBlanc** expressing disappointment that there had been no Ward meeting, he recounted his experience with bottlenecks in this area with parking on both sides of Prospect Street, especially when there are events at the DES Club and Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. He said just recently he sat in traffic from Warner before getting to the church. He noted a traffic situation he encountered when traveling down Taylor Street that was concerning. He said he had supported the change in parking there several years ago; acknowledging parking in that area is difficult. The DPW had recommended the street divider line be adjusted when that change was made, and he suggested that may help. He said he would vote to have it go to public hearing but wouldn’t support the initiative.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 0 in favor, 3 (Nolan, O’Hara, LeBlanc) opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” by ADDING: “Prospect Street, parking prohibited on the northerly side of Prospect Street from its intersection with Friend Street in a westerly direction to Taylor Street from utility pole #976 to #978.”**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

2. **CC2017-041 (Gilman) Request that the Stage Fort Park Tennis Courts be dedicated in honor of Avis Murray**

**Councilor LeBlanc** advised that the Committee was in receipt of an email (on file) from Councilor Gilman who was unable to attend this meeting and that he spoke with her on this matter. He said he didn’t have an issue naming the tennis courts in Avis Murray’s honor. Referencing a memo (on file) from the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee

expressing concern for the tennis courts' condition, he asked if there was money in the budget to repair the tennis courts. **Mr. Destino** said the fence at the tennis courts could use redoing, but it is exposed to the weather, and reminded the Committee that new nets were donated. They don't have any capital plans to do anything at that location, he said, and advised that the tennis courts at the high school are in far worse condition, badly needing repairs.

**Councilor LeBlanc** said that before the Committee is the Council Order to name the tennis courts in Ms. Murray's honor. The Committee won't be voting on any improvements, he noted.

**David Dow**, Chair of the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee (SFPAC) said that his Committee was in favor of the tennis court dedication in honor of Ms. Murray. A second motion, he recounted, was to have the tennis courts resurfaced, noting that the fence was in "pretty good" shape.

**Councilor LeBlanc** reiterated all that was before the Committee is the dedication of the tennis courts. Any improvements that came out of the SFPAC (November) meeting he suggested perhaps that Councilor Nolan could put in a Request to the Mayor on the repair of the court surfaces.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council dedicate and name the tennis courts at Stage Fort Park in honor of Gloucester tennis professional Avis Murray.**

- 3. CC2017-013 (O'Hara) Request that O&A & the Traffic Commission review the beach no parking areas for possible expansion; and that Sec. 22-176 "Penalties for parking violations" "Prohibited area (beach district)" be amended to increase the penalty to the maximum penalty permissible by law (Cont'd from 09/18/17)*

**Councilors O'Hara** said he's meeting with the Chair of the Traffic Commission, Robert Ryan, the following day on the expansion of the beach district, and would ask this matter be continued.

**This matter is continued to December 4, 2017.**

- 4. CC0217-039 (Cox/Orlando): Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-274 "Two-hour-parking – Between certain hours" & Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-277 "One-hour parking-Generally" re: Commercial Street for a distance of 27 feet from its southerly intersection with Beach Court (Cont'd from 11/06/17)*

**Councilor LeBlanc** explained he'd touched base with Councilor Cox on this matter. He noted that the Traffic Commission recommended the change from two-hour parking to one-hour parking in the vicinity recounting briefly the difficulties of parking in the area of Commercial Street and Beach Court. It was noted that both Councilors Cox and Orlando spoke with the dental office and café who are agreed on the change in parking rules in front of their businesses.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 274 "Two Hour Parking-Between Certain Hours) by DELETING: "Commercial Street, for a distance of 27 feet from its southerly intersection with Beach Court."**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 277 "One Hour Parking-Generally) by ADDING: "Commercial Street, for a distance of 27 feet from its southerly intersection with Beach Court."**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

- 5. CC2017-043 (Gilman) Request the Traffic Commission perform a speed study on Gee Avenue (Cont'd from 10/16/17)*

**Councilor LeBlanc** said that the Traffic Commission did conduct a traffic study on Gee Avenue; as a result the Commission's recommendation is that the speed limit be lowered to 20 mph, and expressed his agreement.

**Councilor Nolan** noted curiously that more cars drive into the dead end than drive out through the traffic study.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council petition MassDOT to request approval of a speed limit of 20 mph on Gee Avenue for its entire length from a 30 mph prime facie speed limit.**

**6. CC2017-049 (Nolan/Lundberg) Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-276 “One-way streets-Generally” re: Concord Street (Cont’d from 11/09/17)**

**Councilor Nolan** advised that they are going to ask that this matter be postponed.

**Jonathan Pope**, School Committee Chair, recounted that the School Committee held a public hearing last Thursday night at the West Parish Elementary School and gathered new information at that time. He pointed out that the school administration has discovered 57 students are eligible for free bus transportation but don’t take advantage. He advised they’ll do outreach to learn why these families don’t take advantage of this program. They’ve also explored possibilities to waive bus fees to improve the situation and want to explore those options before changing the traffic patterns on Concord Street by a vote of the Council.

**Councilor LeBlanc** suggested that if the Committee moves this initiative forward that they have a trial period first. **Councilor Nolan** expressed his agreement that they can try to obtain more information to see what more can be added. **Mr. Pope** said they need to look at a long-term solution -- this is just a short-term stop gap.

**Councilor Lundberg** said they discovered at the public hearing that there are a lot of people driving their students to and from school and weren’t sure why. He said the issue is all the additional cars picking up students at the end of the school day. If they can eliminate some of those cars on the road as opposed to making the street one way it would be a better solution, he pointed out.

This matter is continued to December 4, 2017.

**7. CC2017-050 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-279 “Thirty-minute parking” re: Cleveland Street & Maplewood Avenue**

**Councilor LeBlanc** explained that the owner of the former Uncle Moe’s restaurant has purchased the property and turned the first floor into living space. There is currently thirty-minute parking on either side of the street at that location, and he’s asked it be removed. It was noted there won’t be another business in that location. The Traffic Commission approved this ordinance change, he reported.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-279 “Thirty-minute parking” by DELETING:**

**“Cleveland Street, northerly side, beginning at a point 20 feet from the corner of Cleveland Street and Maplewood Avenue for 37 feet in an easterly direction.”**

**AND**

**Maplewood Avenue, easterly side, beginning at a point 20 feet from the corner of Maplewood Avenue and Cleveland Street in a northerly direction for a distance of 40 feet.”**

**8. CC2017-052 (Cox, O’Hara) Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-284 “Service or loading zones” and Amend GCO Ch. 22- 280 “Fifteen Minute Parking” re: Main St., southerly side, beginning at its intersection with Mansfield Way**

**Councilor LeBlanc** pointed out that the owner of Virgilio’s had reached out to him and in turn he reached out to Councilors O’Hara and Cox to remove the loading zone in front of Virgilio’s (29 Main St.). The loading zone is rarely used in front of the store, and there is a loading zone on the same side of the street where the former Mike’s Pastry was located which is still in place, he pointed out. He noted that there could be two parking spaces installed by removal of the loading zone with the space ahead of it that is currently unmarked. **Councilor O’Hara** said it is tight quarters in the West End and parking is at a premium so that this is a good change.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-284 “Service or loading zones” by DELETING: “Main Street,**

**southerly side, beginning at its intersection with Mansfield Way for a distance of 22 feet in an easterly direction.”**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-280 “Fifteen Minute Parking” by ADDING, “Main Street, southerly side, beginning at its intersection with Mansfield Way for a distance of 22 feet in an easterly direction.”**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

**A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Dana C. Jorgenson*  
Clerk of Committees

**DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.**