

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND CONTRACT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12.04.2012 AT 12.00 NOON IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, CHANDIGARH.

PRESENT :-

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Smt. Raj Bala Malik | Mayor |
| 2. | Sh. V.P. Singh, IAS | Commissioner |
| 3. | Sh. Rajesh Kumar Gupta | Councillor |
| 4. | Sh. Subhash Chawla | Councillor |
| 6. | Smt. Harjinder Kaur | Councillor |
| 7. | Sh. Lalit Siwach, HCS | Secretary |

OFFICERS PRESENT :-

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Sh. T.P.S. Phoolka, PCS | Additional Commissioner-I |
| 2. | Sh. S.S. Bida | Chief Engineer |
| 3. | Sh. Mukesh Anand | S.E.(B&R) |
| 4. | Sh. Vishal Gupta | XEN (Roads-I) |
| 5. | Sh. Ashok Gautam | Law Officer |

The Secretary welcomed the Mayor, Commissioner, Members of the Committee and officers in Special meeting of the Finance and Contract Committee.

All the members/officers/officials of the Committee were concerned about the health of Ms. Neha daughter of Sh. Pardeep Chhabra member of the Committee and prayed to Almighty for her early recovery.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Regarding directions of Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh in CWP No. 7500 & 18390 of 2010 titles as Court on its own Motion Versus state of Punjab & Others.

The Secretary put up the agenda before the Committee for approval.

The Commissioner apprised the Committee that in the last Special meeting of F&CC held on 16.3.2012 it was unanimously resolved that the Department of Urban Planning Chandigarh Administration is primarily responsible for the layout of the different Sectors of Chandigarh including Sector 17, therefore final decision /policy formation is to be done at the level of Administration. Accordingly the decision of the Finance & Contract Committee was also intimated to the Secretary Local Government, U.T., Chandigarh for further necessary action at their level. Subsequent to it a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor of Punjab and Administrator, U.T., Chandigarh to discuss the various issues in making Sector 17 a "Vehicle Free Zone". In the meeting it was desired by His Excellency that since the Sector 17 falls under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, therefore, Municipal Corporation is to take decision and file reply accordingly in the Hon'ble High Court. He further apprised that the matter is now fixed for 20.4.2012 in the Hon'ble High Court.

Sh. Subhash Chawla stated that Sector 17 is not within the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation and the decision is to be taken by the Administration only. He further asserted why the Vehicle Free Zone for Sector 17 only, there are other congested market areas in Chandigarh like Sector 19, 22, 34 and Sector 35.

The Commissioner clarified that the parkings have been transferred to the Municipal Corporation by the Chandigarh Administration and therefore the Corporation can take decisions as far as management of parkings is concerned. Similarly the pedestrian area (Plaza) of Sector 17 is also under the control of the Municipal Corporation.

The members further desired that a clear cut view regarding the modalities and role of Municipal Corporation is to be presented in the High Court.

Sh. Rajesh Kumar Gupta was of the view that to declare Sector 17 a “Vehicle Free Zone” if some of the parkings are to be closed down then we should first find alternate sites for parking. Otherwise this will create a major parking problem.

The Commissioner stated that the Corporation does not have any alternate parking sites at present and almost all the parkings of the Sector 17 are utilized to the fullest extent. In view of this it is not possible for the Municipal Corporation to have an alternate sites for around 500 vehicles.

The Chief Engineer added that we are already in the process of execution of the work of Multi Level Parking in Sector 17. We are already finding it difficult to accommodate around 800-900 vehicles of the Gurdev parking area since it is to be closed during the construction of multi level parking.

Smt. Harjinder Kaur and other members were of the view Sector 17, Chandigarh has much more pedestrian space in comparison to the other cities, which could probably be the highest in the country. The spaces/area meant for the parking are utilized to the maximum extent and to increase the pedestrian space, Corporation may explore the possibility of providing Elevated Walk Ways with glass tunnels along with aquarium etc. This will not only enhance the pedestrian space, but shall also add to the beauty of the city beautiful.

The Chief Engineer informed the F&CC that Sector 17 has been designed in such a way that pedestrian traffic and vehicular traffic are segregated from each other. Inside Sector 17 there is a huge plaza (marked yellow on the map) which is a no vehicular zone. The levels of parkings and the plaza have been kept different so that no vehicle of any kind can interfere with the pedestrian movement. In fact the vehicular traffic in Sector 17 is on the peripheral road from where vehicles can enter into designated parkings. Thereafter the person has to alight and move on foot on the pedestrian plaza. The only hurdle in this is between Anand Theatre and the TDI mall where the Corporation has already taken

up construction of an over bridge. After this the pedestrian will be able to move from Madhya Marg to Neelam Cinema unhindered by any kind of vehicular movement.

The Commissioner stated that we may write to the Department of Urban Planning, U.T., Chandigarh to design some over bridges to facilitate the pedestrians.

All the members were of the view that one time solution for the issue is to have an underground parking, but the Corporation is not having sufficient funds for the same and at this stage Corporation should expedite the work of construction of the 2 Multi Level Parkings in Sector 17.

The Chief Engineer apprised the Committee that the Corporation has already approved the construction of a multi level parking in front of Gurdev Studio. The construction will be taken up very shortly. The multi level parking shall accommodate about 930 vehicles and will alleviate the problem of parking in the sector. However, for the duration of construction of about two years the Gurdev Parking will have to remain closed. He further apprised the F&CC that construction of another multi level parking behind Sahib Singh was allotted on PPP basis. This work can be taken up next as per the availability of funds.

The F&CC deliberated at length regarding the options available before them. After long deliberations it was decided as under:

- 1) *The F&CC felt that it would not be practical/feasible to close any of the designated parking sites because of non-availability of alternative parking sites to accommodate the vehicles which would have otherwise parked in the designated parking. The Committee further noted that the construction work of multi-level parking in front of Gurdev Studio is to be commenced shortly and therefore, the Gurdev parking will have to be closed during the construction period. Because of this there will be added pressure on the remaining parking*

sites. If any of the other designated parking site is also closed, this will compound the problem. In view of above, the F&CC is of the view that it is not feasible to close any of the existing parking areas.

- 2) The F&CC noted that the shopping area in Sector 17 is concentrated more towards the south of the sector surrounding Neelam Cinema. As a result the parkings marked at 1, 2, 8, 5, 7 and 6 have more rush in the evening hours. The F&CC felt that hourly slap system should be introduced for parking fee in busy parkings so that the vehicles which come inside the parking lots also leave the parking in a time bound manner.*
- 3) However, the F&CC felt that the requisite infrastructure i.e. fully automated gates with automated ticketing system have to be put in place before hourly rates of parking could be imposed. Accordingly it was decided that the Engineering Department of the Municipal Corporation should immediately start working towards installation of fully automated gates in the Empire Store parking (marked (1) in the map) and the Sahib Singh parking (marked (7) in the map). The remaining busy parkings could be taken up in the next phase.*
- 4) Once the gates are installed proposal for the hourly parking rates should be brought before the F&CC for approval. It was further decided that no parking passes of any type will be honoured in these two parkings once the hourly rates are implemented.*
- 5) The F&CC further felt that though the pedestrianization in Sector 17 is quite adequate, some pedestrian passages could be provided across the parkings to facilitate the pedestrian movement through the parkings. It was decided that the Engineering Wing of the Municipal Corporation should take steps to implement this.*

- 6) *The F&CC noted that the Corporation officials keep checking the working of the parking contractors occasionally, yet we need to have more rigorous enforcement for parking of vehicles in their designated boxes, which have already been marked on ground. It was decided that the assistance of Traffic Police be sought to impose fines on the vehicles parked outside the designated parking areas. Simultaneously Corporation officials should also pay special attention towards these two parkings.*

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

With the permission of the Chair the following issues were also discussed:-

1. The members desired that there should be proper schedule for holding meetings of Finance & Contract Committee and General House. The agenda should not be put up at the eleventh hour and the proceedings of the House should be conducted strictly in accordance with the Municipal Act.
2. The members also asked the Secretary to explore the possibility of having a Study Tour in attractive and constructive development in developed cities so as to bring Chandigarh at a higher status.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Secretary,
Municipal Corporation,
Chandigarh.**