

Public Safety Committee
Councilor Chambers
April 15, 2015
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Jake Collins
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor Donald Hamann

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Peter Lachapelle (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilor James Gray
Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer/Acting PW Director
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.
Daniel Fitzpatrick, City Manger
Peter Cutrer, Deputy Chief, Fire Department
Krzysztof Kozlowski, 9 Academy Street
Diane Bergeron- Rochester resident

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Public Input

Krzysztof Kozlowski of 9 Academy Street was present to discuss the parking issue on Academy Street. He stated that there was no signage so vehicles can park anywhere they want which could cause a problem for emergency vehicles. He suggested that "no parking" signs be installed or the planters be eliminated. Deputy Chief Dumas said the planters were a good idea at the time when there was a neighborhood coalition, but when that fell apart they weren't maintained. **Councilor Hamman made a motion to install "no parking" signs on the left side of Academy Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.** Councilor Walker stated that getting the planters removed should go through the Public Works Committee. **The motion was amended to "no parking" signs should be installed at each planter on Academy Street. Councilor Gates made a motion to install "no parking" signs at each planter on Academy Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

Looking to Form a Coalition Against Thieves

Diane Bergeron, a resident of Rochester for 12 years, was present to discuss issues she is having with thieves in Rochester. She stated that the apartment that she lives in, other tenants stole from her and then changed her locks and were smoking in her room as well. She wanted to form a coalition against this sort of problem. Deputy Chief Dumas said that it would not be a coalition but that he would talk to her and get her information and let the ward sergeant know about the situation.

2 Timing of Lights at Airport Drive/Rt. 108-Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson stated he had a call into NHDOT to get the status on when this traffic light would be repaired. He said the loop detector for the turn arrow is operational, but if no one is waiting to exit the Granite State Business Park the light is still changing on a timer. He also stated that there is a driveway apron at the intersection that was paved last year. Construction of this driveway apron may have damaged an existing loop detector.

3. Municipal Parking Lot Signage

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that at least 2 of the municipal parking lots have the "municipal parking" signs: Portland St./Columbus Ave. and City Hall municipal lots. He said DPW has one sign in stock and can order more. **Councilor Hamann made a motion to install "municipal parking" signs like the ones at Portland St./Columbus Ave. and City Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

4. Sprinkler System-Former NAPA Building-Hanson Street

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Peter Cutrer of the Rochester Fire Department was present to discuss the sprinkler system. He also stated that it was the old Robbins Building not Napa. He said beginning in February, Mary Jane Ferchette called the Fire Department to go over the specifications of the building they thought about purchasing. Mr. Cutrer said that they can't do anything if the person is not the owner of the building. He also stated that when decisions are made they are put in writing. There was no word for a while and then a building permit was received for a 6,100 square feet structure. Councilor Walker stated other auto stores do not have sprinkler systems. Councilor Walker thanked Mr. Cutrer for coming to explain this issue regarding sprinkler systems.

5. Police Department Update-Stillwater Circle

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas apologized for not being at the last two Public Safety Committee Meetings. He stated that from December 1, 2014 through the end of March 2015 there have been 24 burglaries in Rochester, 7 in Stillwater Circle. He stated sometimes it's hard to find the people responsible. They think it is someone in the area that know the comings and goings and have made 1 arrest tied to two of burglaries. Deputy Chief Dumas said they have 100 man hours into extra patrol into the robberies. It's an ongoing investigation so there is not much more information that can be given at this time.

6. May Street-Permanent One Way Change-Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that last July a presentation was made to the Public Safety Committee, which included a discussion of May Street becoming a one-way street from Columbus Avenue to Charles Street. At the time The Public Safety Committee was in favor of

May Street becoming a one-way street. Questions were subsequently raised at the Public Works Committee related to traffic counts, direction of one way traffic, and resident notification. Traffic counts were completed last fall and there is very little traffic volume. The direction of the one way was recommended primarily to improve safety of the Columbus/Upham/May intersection. Councilor Walker asked Mr. Bezanson if neighbors have been advised of the one-way, and Mr. Bezanson said yes. The residents were notified of the proposed change to one way last fall and there have been no complaints received to date that Mr. Bezanson was aware of. Mr. Bezanson stated that DPW is recommending making May Street one-way during construction and that this would be a permanent change once construction is complete. **Councilor Hamann made a motion to make May Street a one-way street as proposed by the Public Works Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

7. Other

There were no other items to discuss.

Councilor Gates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Hamann. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Miller
Secretary II, DPW