

**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2021  
6:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

**Members Present**

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice Chair  
Councilor Palana Belken  
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson  
Councilor Chris Rice

**Members Absent**

Councilor Don Hamann (excused)

**Others Present**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Tech.  
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD  
Mark Klose, Fire Chief  
Brian Brown, Crossing Guard  
Tony Harland, 24 Nottingham Lane  
Sarah Giberson, 34 Nottingham Lane  
Micha Proulx, 28 Nottingham Lane

Councilor Hamann brought the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM and he read the following statement:

**Good Evening, as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, State and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of City government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.**

**a.) Public Input: Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the City of Rochester will be taking extra steps to allow for public input, while still ensuring participant safety and social distancing. In lieu of attending the meeting, those wishing to share comments, when permitted, with the Public Safety Committee (Public Hearing and/or Workshop settings) are encouraged to do so by the following methods:**

- Mail: Public Safety Committee, Rochester DPW 45 Old Dover Road  
Rochester, NH 03867 (*must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date*)**

- Email: [laura.miller@rochesternh.net](mailto:laura.miller@rochesternh.net) (must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date)
- Voicemail: 603-335-7569 (must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed)

Please include with your correspondence the intended meeting date for which you are submitting. *All correspondence will be included with the corresponding meeting packet (Addendum).*

In addition to the above listed public access information, the City Council will be allowing the public to enter Council Chambers and speak in person during the Public Input portion of this meeting. In an effort to adhere to CDC guidelines; enter only at the front Wakefield Street entrance and exit on the side closest to the Police Department and adhere to 6-foot social distancing while inside. Hand sanitizer and facemasks will be available at the Wakefield Street entrance. Participants will be admitted into Council Chambers one at a time to speak and will exit directly thereafter. Please note; the seating in Council Chambers will not be available for the public during meetings.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting by phone. The public can call-in to the below number using the conference code. This meeting will be set to allow the public to “listen-in” only and there will be no public comment taken via conference line during the meeting.

Phone number: 857-444-0744      Conference code: 843095

b.) Roll Call: Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name (and/or ward), also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law. (Additionally, Council members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.)

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name and ward, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law. Additionally, Committee members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.

Councilor Peter Lachapelle	Ward 3 Present
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson	Ward 1 Present
Councilor Chris Rice	Ward 5 Present
Councilor Palana Belken	Ward 2 Present
Councilor Don Hamann	Ward 5 Absent

### **1. Public Input**

Brain Brown the crossing guard for Chamberlain and Franklin Street was present to discuss the issue with vehicles blocking the intersection, making it dangerous for children, and blocking emergency vehicles from proceeding through the intersection. He is requesting "Do Not Block" intersection signs.

### **2. Nottingham Lane-Speeding Issue-Requesting Speed Limit Sign**

Tom Harland of 24 Nottingham Lane was at Council Chambers to discuss the issue of speeding on Nottingham Lane; there is no speed limit sign and they would like the speed limit lowered if possible. Sarah Giberson sent an email stating her concern with a neighbor and her newly licensed son that drive fast down the road. They have been asked several times to slow down and the police have been called regarding the issue. She said that they have been asked several times to slow down for the safety of the 20 plus children that play outside at the dead end cul-de-sac. The 11 neighbors signed a petition requesting a speed limit sign and lower speed. Micha Proulx said this has been going on for a while and the police have been called, she said the neighbor does not care she has no young kids and just wants to get home. The speed trailer was put out but it is large and she will slow when she sees it. Councilor Lachapelle asked if Ms. Proulx if there was any street markings at the beginning of the Nottingham Lane like a "Dead End" sign and Ms. Proulx said there was not. Mr. Harland asked if the speed limit could be under 30 mph and some signage. Deputy Chief Boudreau said this was brought up back in 2019 Public Safety Committee by Councilor Hutchinson, the speed trailer was out on Nottingham Lane back in 2019. Councilor Rice said something needs to be done for the neighborhood. Councilor Lachapelle said they don't usually post "Speed Limit" signs on dead end roads such as this because it would open up the issue for many streets throughout the City. He stated that posting a sign isn't going to slow people down; police presence is going to help. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there are some open complaints in the area; officers are investigating those complaints. He said that he will check with the Planning Department to see if any signs were requested on the site plan. This was Kept in Committee until Deputy Chief Boudreau can check with Planning on the site plans for this area. Councilor Rice stated that if the teenage boy is speeding on Nottingham Lane he is probably speeding on other streets and if he is under 21 will lose is license when caught.

### **3. Airport Drive Traffic Control Concerns**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau and DPW resolved the issue and talked to both construction companies and they will talk to the employees.

### **4. Streetlight Request Intersection of Chestnut Hill Road and Elmo Lane**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Rice believed that the issue was raised by a resident of Elmo Lane and that a streetlight was requested as there is a T-intersection and currently no streetlight. Mr. Bezanson said the nearest streetlight is 2 poles to the north. Elmo Lane is a Class 6 Road. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson his recommendation. Mr. Bezanson said there

are 2 driveways, a business, and another structure that is accessed by Elmo Lane. Class 6 means the road is not maintained by the City, but Elmo Lane is a City street. Councilor Rice stated that the terrain is hilly and windy and asked if the current streetlight two poles to the north could be moved to this intersection. Councilor Lachapelle did not recommend moving an existing streetlight. Councilor Rice asked Mr. Bezanson how much it would cost for a new streetlight. This was Kept in Committee and Mr. Bezanson will get back to the Committee with a cost estimate for streetlight installation.

**5. E911 Update**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. There was no update as the E911 Committee has not met recently.

**6. Emergency Management Update**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Chief Klose said that Rochester was hit pretty hard with the ice storm. The Reservoir Water Treatment Plant lost power from the storm and was running on generator power, but it is now back up and running normally; it took a specialized crew from Eversource to make the repairs at the Plant. The Willand Drive Warming Center in Somersworth will be open until Friday, but will close on Saturday and Sunday as temperatures will be warmer.

**7. Covid-19 Statistics Update**

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Chief Klose said there are 100 people on the COVID-19 list for the City of Rochester, 17 of them are juveniles ages 4-17. He stated that the State has stopped giving out a lot of information and he also said he was at a COVID-19 testing facility watching for an hour and no one entered to be tested. Stacey Price from the Housing Authority has been working with DHHS and the first shots for the residents were given last week. Next week the Housing Authority will be going door-to-door for each apartment offering shots.

**8. Other**

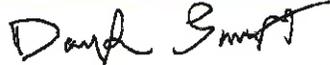
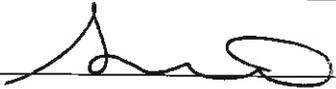
There were no other agenda items for discussion.

Councilor Lachapelle adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. Miller, Admin Assistant II.

**Petition to** Lower Speed - Nottingham Lane

Petition summary and background	Request to lower speed limit and enforce with signage
Action petitioned for	Ward 1: Nottingham Lane East Rochester 03868

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Douglas Smith		13 Nottingham Lane		2-17/21
Richard & Laurie Verville		14 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Susan Williams		19 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Darrin & Melissa Maggy		20 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Zeke & Amanda Lapierre		23 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Tony & Laura Harland		24 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Christopher & Micha Proulx		28 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Tyler & Michelle Lebs		29 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Bradley & Karri Grinnell		33 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Gonzalo Tapia & Sarah Giberson		34 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Sarah & Matthew Haberkorn		37 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21
Josh Beal & Amber Smith		45 Nottingham Lane		2/17/21

February 17, 2021

Dear Safety Committee,

Our street, Nottingham Lane is in the Ward 1 district. The road contains 12 single family homes and is just outside of the Rochester city limits. There is presently no posted speed limit sign. Our street is a non through way, straight and relatively short distance with a grass filled common area inside the roundabout at the very end of the cul-de-sac.

Although there are some instances where drivers who are unfamiliar with the street drive to fast, our main concern lies with one neighbor and her newly licensed teenage son regarding the speed in which they are driving. This has been an ongoing concern for a few years. They have both been asked numerous times by street residents to slow their speed to an appropriate level based on the surroundings. Unfortunately, the police have been called several times due to her lack of cooperation and common sense.

The driving poses a great danger to the residents and twenty plus young children (under 10) who live and play here.

We would collectively like to address the issue as the warmer weather approaches and before it escalates further or results in a tragedy. Please consider our request to add an appropriate speed limit, possibly 15mph based on size of street and demographics of the residents and enforce it with the appropriate signage.

Attached we have signatures from each of the other 11 households all in agreement that this matter should be addressed and is of great concern.

Sincerely,

Sarah Giberson