

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021
6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

Members Present

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair
Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice-chair
Councilor Palana Belken
Councilor Chris Rice

Members Absent

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Gary Boudreau, Deputy Police Chief
Tim Wilder, Assistant Fire Chief
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Tech

Councilor Hamann brought the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00PM 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 may 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, with the Public Safety Committee 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 (*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).

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

1. Approve Minutes from April 21, 2021 Public Safety Meeting

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to approve the minutes from April 21, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. **A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion.**

Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes

2. Public Input

There was no members of the public present.

3. Crosswalk Request Linscott Court Apartments across Columbus Avenue

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said currently there are crosswalks north of Linscott Apartments at the Columbus Avenue/Wakefield Street intersection. There are also crosswalks at the Columbus Avenue/Summer Street intersection, but the sidewalk on the Linscott Apartments side of the road does not formally extend to this intersection. There is no crosswalk to cross Columbus Avenue at Linscott Court; however, there is a paved ramp to the roadway that looks like it might have been meant for a crosswalk (there is a small asphalt bump in the area). The residents use services offered across the street, and there is no crosswalk right there, so they are crossing illegally. Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to place a crosswalk at the location in question. Councilor Hamann asked to hold off on the motion so Mr. Bezanson could add to the discussion. Mr. Bezanson said there is a project that will start soon at the intersection of Columbus and Summer Street; they will be looking at sidewalk connections in the area. They will include a review of the potential for a crosswalk at this location. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if they needed a curb cut in the area. Mr. Bezanson said yes that it had to be ADA compliant; it is not as simple as painting a crosswalk. Councilor Lachapelle retracted his current motion. Councilor Rice asked the timeline of the project. Mr. Bezanson said there is some funding now and that they are hoping to define the full scope of work with an engineering consultant as early as next month. This was kept in committee and Mr. Bezanson will bring back information next month regarding the progress of the scope of work and design.

4. Janet Street and Elizabeth Street-Speed Limit Signs, Reduced Speed or Children at Play signs

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. He stated that Janet Street is in a neighborhood and probably shouldn't have a "speed limit" sign installed. He states that "Children At Play" signs are not recognized standard signs. There are portable signs that the City has allowed residents to place along the side of the roadway in the past at their own expense. Mr. Bezanson reiterated that the Councilor is correct; "Children At Play" signs are not recognized sign by the MUTCD. Councilor Lachapelle said that if they put one here that every dead end and no outlet would want one throughout the City. Councilor Hamann said he would reach out to the person that requested this and tell them that they could buy a sign on their own for their property. Councilor Rice offered to reach out to them and Councilor Hamann accepted the offer.

5. North Main Street Removal of One Parking Spot at Crosswalk by Bridge

Councilor Hamman summarized the issue. Councilor Rice said he might have misunderstood which parking spot was proposed for removal. After checking the area, he realized that if a box truck were parked in the parking space just after the crosswalk heading toward downtown, motorists driving out of downtown cannot see people entering the crosswalk from the left or south side. Councilor Lachapelle agreed that this is the parking space being proposed for removal and reiterated that you cannot see anyone entering the crosswalk when a large vehicle is parked there. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to remove the one parking spot**

near the crosswalk on North Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion.

Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes

6. E911 Update

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Assistant Fire Chief Wilder said they are continuing with the Tebbetts Road renumbering; it went to Public Hearing and there was a procedural issue. There will be another Public Hearing for this; then it will go to full City Council for approval. Councilor Rice wanted to know the timeline for the next streets they will be working on. Assistant Fire Chief Wilder said that, going forward with the E911 Committee, there will be a more proactive approach to addressing street renumbering issues.

7. Emergency Management Update

There was no update this month.

8. Covid-19 Statistics Update

Assistant Fire Chief Wilder said there was no update. The City of Rochester is working on updating the City's Covid-19 policy and that should be done in the next week or so.

9. Other

Speed Limit Sign Trinity Circle

Councilor Hamann said there was a request for a "speed limit" sign on Trinity Circle. Councilor Lachapelle asked if there was any information about the request. Councilor Hamann asked how big the street was. Councilor Lachapelle said there is one road in and out. Councilor Hamann will call the requestor and explain the City policy on "speed limit" signs.

Fence on Flagg Road

Councilor Lachapelle asked if Mr. Bezanson had a chance to look at the site plan regarding who is responsible for repairing the fence. Mr. Bezanson said that the installation of the fence was part of the site plan approval for the Trinity Circle development; however, now that the fence is installed it has become the property of the owners of 127 Flagg Road and it is now up to them to repair or take down the fence as they wish at this point. The City has taken ownership of the Trinity Circle road and right-of-way.

Speeding on Sampson Road

Councilor Lachapelle said that when you take a right from Route 202A onto Sampson Road, Sampson Road begins as a little curvy then straightens out to Four Rod Road.

There have been a couple of complaints from residents in the condos on the road regarding speed along that straight stretch. Councilor Lachapelle asked if the speed trailer could be placed on Sampson Road and maybe some directed patrol. Deputy Chief Boudreau said it could be placed there as early as tomorrow.

Speed Trailer Question

Councilor Hamann asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if the speed trailer was ever placed in the direction towards Farmington. Deputy Chief Boudreau said people like to go faster down hill into town then out of town.

Speed Trailer Updates

Deputy Chief Boudreau said the speed trailer was placed downtown by the Square, but the data will not download. If it cannot be pulled, the trailer will be placed downtown again. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the speed trailer is currently on Ten Rod Road and has been in place since May 13, 2021. There is an average of 2,838 cars a day coming into town with the average speed being 40 mph; the 50 percent was 40 mph and the 85 percent 45 mph. There were high speeds throughout the 24 hours, but the highest was from 4 am to 8 am timeframe. Councilor Rice asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if the data was going to be placed on the web site. Deputy Chief Boudreau is still working on it and will be sending the information to Matt Wyatt, but wanted to bring it to this Committee first. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the speed trailer was placed on Charles Street in the area of Woodman Square and Granite Street for a little over a week and the average speed was 23 mph. It was also placed on Flagg Road and the average speed was 25 mph; it was placed towards the beginning of the road by Cemetery Road where the complaint of speeding was.

Striping Plan on Old Milton Road

Mr. Bezanson wanted to follow-up on an issue that was discussed by the Committee toward the end of 2020 regarding safety concerns along Old Milton Road near the Dunkin Donuts. DPW has discussed a striping plan for the Old Milton Road right-of-way in this area including double yellow lines, edge lines, and crosshatch markings near the driveways to better define travel lanes and driveways near the Dunkin drive-thru lane. The Dunkin owners are in agreement with the plan and DPW will be moving forward with the striping in the coming weeks. The plan is to have the DPW's striping contractor paint the long lines; the other markings will be completed with an in-house crew.

Councilor Hamann adjourned the meeting at 6:39 PM.

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

