

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
June 15, 2016
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann
Councilor Ray Barnett
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor James Gray
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Owen Friend-Gray, PE, Assistant City Engineer
Deputy Chief Toussaint, Police Dept.
Peter Tessier, 5 Hannsonville Road
Doug Knutsen, 7 Gerrish Court

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from May 18, 2016

The first order of business was to approve the May 18, 2016 minutes. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to approve the May 18, 2016 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

2. Public Input

The public that were present were there for items already on the agenda. Those items were moved up on the agenda.

3. Hansonville Road-Gravel Pit traffic (kept in committee-update)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Peter Tessier from 5 Hansonville Road was present to discuss the weight limit issue on Hansonville Road. He stated he was contacted by Officer Harding of the Rochester Police Department regarding operating his truck on Hansonville Road which is posted "No Thru Trucks Over 26,000 G.V.W.R.". He has a business that he operates out of his 5 Hansonville Road property in Rochester. He also owns a small gravel pit at 94 Hansonville Road in Barrington. He works by himself, so he is generally the only one driving a truck to and from his gravel pit. He has operated his business for over 27 years and has had no issues with his neighbors regarding this. Councilor Lachapelle said that Mr. Tessier has no access to his pit if he is

not allowed to utilize Hansonville Road because it is posted on the Barrington side as well. Mr. Tessier stated that the Barrington Road Agent has understood about traveling on the posted road on the Barrington side. Councilor Gray said when Rochester Truck had an issue with Flagg Road they were an exception because their business was on the posted road. Deputy Chief Toussaint said they have done numerous patrols, and there is minimal truck traffic. He also said the ordinance does not except people living on the roads from the law. Councilor Gray wanted to know the condition of the road. Mr. Bezanson said it isn't in the greatest of conditions and that it is making its way up the paving priority list. Councilor Lachapelle stated that original reason that the signs were put up was to restrict truck traffic from the much larger gravel mining operation that was proposed a few years ago in Barrington. That larger gravel pit is no longer being considered, so the signs are no longer needed for that purpose. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to remove the "No Thru Trucks Over 26,000 G.V.W.R." signs on Flagg Road and Hansonville Road. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

4. Gerrish Court- No Parking Sign, Move to Other Side of Road (resident request)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Doug Knutsen was present to discuss the safety concerns on Gerrish Court. He said the road is narrow and fire trucks cannot make it through the way the parking is now. Councilor Hamann had checked out the area and said there isn't much of a sidewalk. Deputy Chief Toussaint said an engine cannot get through. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to post "no parking" signs on both sides of Gerrish Court. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Non-Public Session, Reputation, RSA 91-A:3, II (c)

The Public Safety Committee went into non-public session at 7:24 PM. Current codes were discussed due to a recent fire. Roll call was taken; Councilor Lachapelle, Councilor Barnett, Councilor Gates, Councilor Gray and Councilor Hamann were present. Non-public session adjourned at 7:40 PM.

5. Nadeau Drive/Pickering Road-Brush Removal (business request)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Archie Griffin, General Manager of Liberty Turned Components at 7 Nadeau Drive, sent an e-mail requesting that the City remove brush between their driveway, Nadeau Drive, and Pickering Road. He referenced a recent accident in which both vehicles involved could not see each other. Deputy Chief Toussaint confirmed that the recent accident in this area was due to a line-of-sight issue.

Mr. Bezanson stated that this portion of Pickering Road is a state-maintained road. He said that DPW could coordinate with the property owner and NHDOT to clear roadside growth and improve the line-of-sight in this area. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to have DPW coordinate with NHDOT and Liberty Turned Components to remove brush in the area. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*** No City Council action needed.

6. Horse Crossing Signs-Ten Road Road/Blackwater Road

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mayor Caroline McCarley sent an e-mail to Councilor Hamann regarding Horse Crossing signs. It was brought to her attention that there are horse crossing signs on Ten Rod Road, but there may no longer be horses in that area. There are horses on Blackwater Road, however, but no horse crossing signs. This was kept in committee to get more information.

7. Tebbetts Road-Speeding

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle stated he had a complaint on the stretch from Pickering Road/Old Dover Road in both directions. He asked if the speed trailer could be placed in the area. The speeding is happening all times of the day, morning and night. This was kept in committee for an update next month.

8. Pine Street- On Street Parking Striping (resident request-kept in committee-further information needed)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. A request came in to stripe for parking on the two-way portion of Pine Street between Waldron Avenue and Wilfred Street. Mr. Bezanson said this portion of Pine Street has pavement that is generally 22 feet wide, which allows for two 11-foot wide travel lanes. There is no curb in this area. There is a sidewalk on the west side, and one portion has sidewalk on both sides. Mr. Bezanson said that maintaining two-way traffic on this portion of Pine Street will not allow striping for parking. No action taken.

9. River Street-No Parking Striping (kept in committee)

Councilor Haman summarized the issue. He stated he has been to this area at different times of day and he has not seen an issue. Deputy Chief Toussaint said he has been in the area as well and does not see an issue. No action taken.

10. Intersection Salmon Falls Rd/Rt. 202-Traffic Signal (kept in committee-update)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Gates said it was not clear what the problem was. Mr. Bezanson stated that he thought the issue raised was related to the timing of the traffic signal, however when he observed the signal timing he did not see an issue. He also mentioned that this is a state-maintained traffic signal. No action taken.

11. City Hall-No Parking Signs (kept in committee-update)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. He said he had asked around to see whether anyone remembered why the signs were posted no parking until 9:00 PM on Fridays near City Hall. Businesses use to be opened until 9:00 PM. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to change the no parking signs near City Hall to 2 hour parking Monday-Friday 9 AM-5:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

12. Other

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. A call was received from Cheryl Gannon, an Orientation & Mobility Specialist with Strafford Learning Center. She works with a man who is legally blind. He does not drive but has enough eyesight to walk the City's sidewalks to public transportation. He walks along Franklin Street and makes the crossing at Corson Street. There is currently no painted crosswalk. She is requesting a painted crosswalk across Corson Street at the Franklin Street intersection. Mr. Bezanson stated that DPW would take care of painting a crosswalk in this location. No action taken.

Autumn Street/Main Street-Trash

Councilor Hamann said a resident said there was trash left in the small City-owned park at the corner of Autumn Street and Main Street in East Rochester. The Director of City Services wanted it brought to the attention of the Public Safety Committee for discussion of whether some signage was necessary to make it known that this is public property and dumping of rubbish is not allowed. No action taken.

Heritage Street-Roadside Parking

A message was received from Diane Burke of 29 Lupine Lane that several vehicles are parking at the Corner of Heritage Street and Whitehall Road waiting for the school bus in the mornings during the school year. Vehicles will park on the side of the road right up to the stop sign on Heritage. She said it is very hard to pull into Heritage to get to her

street because the vehicles are parked all along the side of the road. The issue is around 7:45 AM-7:50 AM. She is requesting no parking signs on each side of the opening of Heritage Street between Whitehall Road and Lupine Lane. The Patrol Division will assess the issue and Deputy Chief Toussaint will report back to the committee on this issue.

Estes Road/Washington Street (Route 202) Intersection

Councilor Gates asked Mr. Bezanson whether he had sent a letter of appreciation to the NHDOT yet thanking them for the great job at the intersection of Estes Road and Washington Street. Mr. Bezanson said that he has not sent a letter yet, but that he would.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.