

Public Safety Committee  
Council Chambers  
September 19, 2018  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor David Walker  
Councilor Robert Gates  
Councilor Geoff Hamann  
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson  
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Gary Boudreau, Deputy Police Chief  
Dan Camara, GIS/Asset Mgmt. Technician  
Mark Klose, Fire Department  
Sandra Rowley, 2 Front Street  
Peter Merrick, 2 Front Street  
Ray Wood, 13 Violet Court  
Carl Bergstrom, 8 Violet Court  
Bob Dicarlo, 737 Salmon Falls Road

Minutes

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

1, Public Input

Sandra Rowley and her son, Peter, live at the corner of Front Street and Cocheco Avenue. They were present to discuss the safety issues in their area. Ms. Rowley said that her 8-year-old granddaughter is legally deaf; even with her hearing aids she can only hear 30 percent. The main concern is that there is a lot of traffic with speeding vehicles. They are requesting a “deaf person” sign to make people aware that there is a deaf child in the area. Another concern is DPW only plows from the end of the sidewalk to the pole and the children have to walk in the streets. Her son Peter put a stonewall up where the steps meet the sidewalk. Councilor Hamann asked what the approved sign was for a deaf person and Mr. Bezanson said DPW could install a “deaf child” sign. Councilor Walker said it should be a “deaf person” sign. Councilor Walker also noted that there are lots of roads and sidewalks in Rochester to plow. Mr. Bezanson said he would make sure the full length of the sidewalks in her area are on the plow route. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install 2 “deaf person” signs near the poles suggested and at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Ray Wood of 13 Violet Court and Carl Bergstrom of 8 Violet Court were present to request getting a “no outlet” sign or a “dead end” sign. Mr. Wood who is the president of the Grandview Association said there is a lot of traffic that comes down Betts Road and they would like a “no outlet” or “dead end” sign. Councilor Walker said that a “no outlet” sign would be used if there were multiple streets, it would have to be a “dead end” sign. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to place a “dead end” sign on Violet Court at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

2. 737 Salmon Falls Road-Blind Drive Concerns

Robert Dicarlo was present to discuss the line-of-sight issue in this area. He said you cannot see vehicles coming; it’s dangerous even if you are doing the speed limit. Councilor Lachapelle said a “blind driveway” sign may be needed, as well as trimming back the brush in the area. Mr. Dicarlo said he did some trimming, but when he was doing it he had a close call with a vehicle. DPW also did some trimming last week. Mr. Bezanson said the City does have an easement for line-of-sight behind the rock wall that they can trim. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install a “blind driveway” sign at the discretion of DPW and for DPW to trim the brush on the curve and in the easement. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

3. Sylvain/Washington Street-Line of Sight Issue (kept in committee)

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he looked at the accident data for the past year for this area and there was 1 accident and it was ice related. He said the van was legally parked, it moves and is registered. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to extend the no parking crosshatch area on Washington Street to the end of the retaining wall. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hutchinson. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.** Councilor Hamann wanted it noted that it is not about the van being parked there; it is about the line-of-sight that is being restricted.

4. Annex-Temporary Parking in Back-Signage

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. He recalled the discussion about limiting the installation of sign posts in the City Hall parking lot because of the

impact to snow removal operations, but now there are handicap parking sign posts installed. Mr. Bezanson stated that the “handicap” signs are required in addition to the painted symbol on the pavement. Mr. Bezanson said that City staff have requested 2 to 3 “30 minute Parking” signs for those conducting business at the City Hall Annex; he said the whole parking lot is currently posted for 2-hour parking Monday to Friday 8am-5pm. Mr. Bezanson proposed that the signs be placed on the fence closest to the door of the Annex. Councilor Hamann said 2 hours is short enough and that the 30-minute signs are not needed. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to place 2 temporary 30 minute parking signs on the fence closest to the Annex. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Councilor Hamann opposed.***

5. Other

NH State Fire Mobilization Plan

Chief Klose said The City of Rochester went to the City of Lawrence, MA to help out. It was the first time that the City of Rochester participated in the NH State Fire Mobilization Plan. They were part of NH Task Force 4, the city sent an engine and Assistant Chief Wilder and Deputy Chief Dube also went and they responded to calls while they were there. While that was going on the fire department covers Rochester, Somersworth and Dover. Chief Klose said that is something to be very proud of.

Chief Klose said The Emergency Preparedness Grant will be ready to submit by the end of the month.

Chief Klose said there was an attempted River Rescue on Sunday and they had to deploy the boat. Unfortunately the person was under the influence of some kind of substance. The police were able to get the person when he walked out of the River but the incident used a lot of resources. There were multiple calls that day and they had to have a fair detail leave to take calls and the city had to utilize mutual aid.

## E911 Update

Chief Klose and Deputy Chief Boudreau talked about the E911 hearing and they are moving forward had the public hearing last night. It was brought up about renaming Main Streets.

## Comcast Fiber Optic Cable Installation

Councilor Gates said he noticed flaggers while Comcast was installing the fiber optic cables he asked if police officers were supposed to help. Deputy Chief Boudreau said generally it's up to the Chief of Police, but usually flaggers are sufficient.

## Old Dover Road/Tebbetts Road

Deputy Chief Boudreau updated the committee on the Old Dover Road/Tebbetts Road Intersection. The speed trailer was out in the area for 35 days with 90,282 vehicles passed in the area. The average speed of north and south bound combined is 35.2 mph. South bound the average speed is 40.9 mph and north bound the average is 40.81 mph. There is no real speed issue, it mostly line of site issue. Councilor Walker asked Deputy Chief Boudreau to have the data available to the State, if they requested it.

## Downtown Data

Deputy Chief Boudreau gave an update on the downtown area. The streets that are being focused on are Commons, Lafayette Street, George & Eds, Chestnut, Pine, River, Wakefield to Signal Street. Not just North Main Street. Raw numbers since mid-July 944 officer initiated contacts. This includes bicycle patrols directed patrols, extra patrols, foot beat, and patrol. 149 arrests for these areas. The arrest have been public intoxication, public urination, stalking, protective custody, previous warrants, possession of liquor, fugitive from justice, and driving while intoxicated. This is a fairly good number of arrests for this area. Police have been extremely active, when they have extra time they are in this area making contact and there has been a lot more police presence; they are more visible.

Councilor Hamann asked if the parking spaces down town are the correct size, they didn't have lines before now they do. Mr. Bezanson said yes they are sized based on a standard.

#### Cross Road Line of Site Issue Update

Mr. Bezanson said DPW have been out doing the clearing and moved the stop sign and stop bar. They have cleared the rocks and put grass seed down and will keep this area on the list for keeping up with.

#### Bickford Road

Mr. Bezanson said the stop sign passed through councilor and he met with reps of Dustin Homestead for line of sit. Some clearing was done of lower brush and trees were tagged to be taken down.

#### Installation of Crosswalks Downtown

Mr. Bezanson said that the company is working on the installation of crosswalks downtown, it will take about 6 days. Chief Klose said they were in front of the Fire Department and they were very good to work with and explained the process to them. Councilor Gates asked the longevity of the crosswalks. Mr. Bezanson said with the product being used, he hoped to get many years out of them.

#### Sherman Street-speed Issue

Councilor Lachapelle said there is a speeding issue and that residents are requesting a 15 mph sign. Councilor Walker said you can only do 15 mph in a school zone. Councilor Lachapelle said maybe a directed patrol may help. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there wouldn't be much to do for a directed patrol in that area, that the speed trailer would help more without the display on.

#### Disc Golf – Squamanagonic Recreation Area - Gate Issue

Councilor Lachapelle said the gate has been left open and people are partying in the area. Councilor Walker said it may be in the lease to lock it every day, and to check with the City Manager.

#### Collins Circle - Streetlight

Councilor Hutchinson asked Mr. Bezanson about the status of the streetlight for Collins Circle. Mr. Bezanson said they have hired an electrician; they had to get 3 quotes and they went with the lowest bidder. The parts are on order and this is moving forward.

#### Signs Downtown

Councilor Walker said there is sign pollution downtown and people are paying attention to the signs and not the road and would like the signs removed.

***Councilor Hamann made a motion to remove the crosswalk signs and arrows downtown. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. The vote passed 4 to 1 with Councilor Lachapelle opposed.***

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.