

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
September 20, 2017
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann, Chair
Councilor Ray Barnett
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor Jim Gray
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Owen Friend-Gray, Assistant City Engineer
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Tim Wilder, Fire Marshall
Andrea Mitrushi, Prosecutor
Kelly Elliot, 41 Prospect Street
Glen Towne, 41 Prospect Street

Minutes

1. Public Input

The public present was for item # 6 Prospect Street. Councilor Gray made a motion to move around the order of the agenda to accommodate the audience there for item #6. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

2. Prospect Street-Neighborhood Watch Signs-Resident Request

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Kelly Elliot of 41 Prospect Street was present to discuss concerns in the neighborhood. She stated she has lived at 41 Prospect Street since 1981. She said there has been an increase of drug activity, speeding and stealing from vehicles in the area. She said the apartment building is where a majority of the activity comes from. She stated that she held a meeting at her house last week with the concerns in the neighborhood and 21 people attended to voice their concerns. She would like some neighborhood watch signs installed on the street. Councilor Gray said that Rochester is not a neighborhood watch community. We are a united neighborhood community. He also said they have Rochester United Neighborhood meetings (run) at the Community Center that they could attend and they also have ward meetings to voice your concerns with the police officers that attend the meetings. Deputy

Chief Boudreau said that the meetings will let you know how you can take action. By getting the license plate and a specific time and day that will help the most. Ms. Elliot asked if she can post her own signs. Councilor Gray said technically no because they would be in the City's right-of-way and that Rochester is not a neighborhood watch community. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that the data suggests that signs are not very effective. Councilor Hamann stated that awareness is better. Councilor Gray said they hold the ward meetings January through October, every 4th Wednesday of the month. Ms. Elliot also wanted to know if the street sign for Prospect Street can be changed to the big reflective letters like the other signs in the nearby area. DPW agreed to get signs ordered and installed. Glenn Towne of 41 Prospect Street wanted to know if they could get a speed limit sign. Deputy Chief Boudreau will put Prospect Street on the list for the speed trailer.

3. Approve Minutes from August 16, 2017

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to approve the August 16, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

4. Printing of Monthly Fire Incidents-HIPAA Violation?

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mark Klose the Rochester Fire Chief and Tim Wilder the Fire Marshall were present to discuss printing of the monthly reports. When the reports are printed they show a summary of all the calls, with detailed printouts of each incident. Fire Chief Klose said that this current practice has been taking place for over 15 years, but should stop due to changes in the HIPAA laws. The secretary has to void out the names which is time consuming and has a high potential for error. Councilor Gray said that a couple of years ago he had asked for a summary broken down by wards. Fire Chief Klose said that it would be time consuming to break every call down; they do not have software to do it at this time, but are looking into one. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that the police department might be able to do it by the dispatched calls, he could look into it. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend to Full Council to stop the practice of printing the call details out. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*** Fire Chief Klose brought up that Neil Bilodeau, the forest ranger for this area, has retired. The new forest ranger will be coming out of Concord; this will affect the time in receiving burn permits. On-line burn permits might be an avenue to look at since there will not be a fire ranger in the area for months. Chief Klose

estimated that over 100 New Hampshire communities have already switched to the online permits, and that the paper permits will not be readily available in the near future. There is a cost for the online permits.

5. "No Thru Trucks" signage-Olde Farm Lane/McKinley Street

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Gray said this request was at the planning department. Signal Street Variety is moving into the Cocheco Equipment Building resulting in an increase of delivery vehicles in the area.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install 2 "No thru Trucks" signs one on Olde Farm Lane at the intersection of Signal Street and one on McKinley Street at the intersection with Portland Street at the developer's expense. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gray. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

6. "Children at Play" signage-Ashwood/Watson Drive

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny the "children at play" signs, they are not a recognized sign by MUTCD. The motion was seconded by councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*** Councilor Gray stated that the original request was for a stop sign, but that he was not present for the last meeting. He said this will have to be revisited in the future.

7 No Parking-Charles & McIntyre

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. He said that he spoke with the gentleman that requested the "no parking" signs and the issue is on McIntyre. The vehicles are digging up his lawn encroaching on his property, and narrowing the roadway. Councilor Lachapelle asked if one side of the street was already posted no parking. Councilor Hamann said yes. It was noted by Fire that they require a 20' wide clear fire lane per code; DPW noted the pavement is only approximately 16' wide in this location and the ROW is only approximately 20' wide. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install two "no parking" signs on the side that is currently not posted from end to end of McIntyre Court at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

8 Other

Ledgeview Drive-Lower Portion-Speed Trailer Update

Deputy Chief Boudreau said that the speed trailer was placed at the lower portion of Ledgeview Drive for 1 week. There were a total of 4,847 vehicles in the course of the week. 35.5 percent were going 11 to 20 mph, 60.9 percent were going 21 to 30 mph, 0.9 percent were going 31 to 40 mph and 0.1 percent were going 41 to 50 mph. Councilor Lachapelle would like to see more directed patrols in the area.

Twombly Street-Speed Trailer Update

Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that there were 22,847 vehicles that traveled this street in a week. 2.5 percent were going 11 to 20 mph, 33.1 percent were going 21 to 30 mph, 61.7 percent were going 31 to 40 mph, 2.5 percent were going 41 to 50 mph and 0.1 percent was going 51 to 60 mph.

Deputy Chief Boudreau also stated that the speed trailer that was hit was determined to be totaled and another will be purchased.

Next Month's Public Safety Committee meeting-Owen Friend-Gray

Owen Friend-Gray the assistant City Engineer invited the Public Safety Committee to the Public Works Department for next month's meeting. The Public Works Department will do a presentation on the progress of the GIS division and to provide a display of the recent technology upgrades. The committee agreed.

Fire Service Emergency Management

Fire Chief Mark Klose discussed the Emergency Management grant. He said it could be a 50/50 match or in-kind match. He said new equipment can be purchased with the grant.

No Camping Ordinance

Owen Friend-Gray brought up a suggested no camping ordinance. There has been an issue with camping near the pines. Councilor Lachapelle said this may be an issue for the Codes and Ordinance committee. Councilor Gray said the same ordinance could be used to post the city maintained parks to restrict the times of usage. This was kept in committee.

***Councilor Lachapelle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.
Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.

