

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
February 21, 2018
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, P.E., City Engineer
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Katherine Burnett, Tangles Hair Salon
Carol Fabian, Tangles Hair Salon
Members of Rochester Main Street
Councilor Sandra Keans

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from December 20, 2017

We moved on to item #2 on the agenda.

2. Public Input

The members of the public present were there for items already on the agenda.

3. Summer Street-2 Hour Parking Signage Request in Front of Hair Salon

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Katherine Burnett and Carol Fabian from Tangles Hair Salon at 15 Summer Street was present to discuss the parking issues in front of the Salon. Ms. Fabian discussed the issue with the cars parking in front of the hair salon near Daniel Court. Also the neighbors do not shovel the area out and one of the cars stays there all day since she works at night. Ms. Burnett stated 3 cars can park in a line if you're talented at parking.

Three people work at salon, at any given time there can be 9 people in the salon. There is also a car abandoned on the side of the road. Councilor Walker said they could install a "No Parking here to Corner" sign on Summer Street. Councilor Hutchinson asked how the 2 hour parking would be enforced. Ms. Fabian and Ms. Burnett stated that the people that go to the hair salon would not be there more than 2 hours at a time. Councilor Hutchinson asked what the citation would be. Deputy Chief Boudreau said it was a \$15.00 ticket for the first offense. Councilor Hamann asked if this area was part of the downtown district. Councilor Walker said that he thought it was. **Councilor Hamann made a motion to place "no parking" signs at the corner of Daniel Court and Summer Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hutchinson. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

4. Colby Street-Crosswalk Visibility/Lighting (kept in committee)

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. He stated that he did visit the area and it is pretty dark; no street light at the crosswalk. Mr. Bezanson said that there is a new LED street light on the opposite corner. Councilor Walker asked if there was a way to direct the light towards the crosswalk. Mr. Bezanson said that they have made the maximum adjustment on the angle of the LED fixture, but they could talk to Eversource about adjusting the angle of the arm. He also stated that the new LED lights do well casting light down on the street. Councilor Walker asked Mr. Bezanson if it was still approximately \$300.00 to install or move a light. Mr. Bezanson said that he believes so, however it maybe a little cheaper now that the City pays for the LED fixture upfront and currently has several in stock. Councilor Hamann said he would like to see the other street lights that are near Main Street before a decision is made. Mr. Bezanson stated that on Main Street there are street lights on every other pole. Fire Chief Klose said you cannot see children in the crosswalk. Councilor Hutchinson asked if the Committee usually lets the folks know when they install a street light near their residence. Councilor Walker said they do not usually contact the residents; as long as it doesn't shine into their house, they should be happy they have a street light.

Councilor Gates made a motion to place a street light on pole #6/47 near the Colby Street/Main Street crosswalk. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hutchinson. The motion passed 3 to 1, with Councilor Hamann opposed.

5. Downtown Crosswalks (kept and committee)

Item # 5 was included with item # 6 of the agenda.

6. Downtown Striping

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Councilor Walker invited Rochester Main Street and the Historic District Commission to the meeting to discuss downtown signage and roadway striping. Mr. Bezanson stated that it had been decided that DPW would install a couple of pedestrian warning signs at the crosswalks on North Main Street near George and Ed's as an example of what could be install in the downtown. The signs are a fluorescent yellow diamond pedestrian walking sign with a fluorescent yellow rectangular arrow pointing down sign right at the crosswalk. These are the MUTCD standard signs for pedestrian warning at crosswalks. Councilor Walker said the most dangerous crosswalk is by the Lilac City Grill. Mr. Bezanson went over the different crosswalk and striping options for the downtown area. He presented three relocation options for the Lilac City Grill crosswalk on North Main Street: Option One was closer to the bridge,. Option Two would place the crosswalk directly in front of the Lilac City Grill, and Option Three would be place the crosswalk directly in front of the Papaya Thai restaurant. Currently the crosswalk goes driveway to driveway and is not ADA compliant. With options Two and Three there are downtown street lights that would need to be moved during construction of the new ramps. It is recommended that street lights are located at least 10 feet ahead of crosswalks. Councilor Walker said he was not on board with moving the downtown street-lights. Mr. Bezanson said a favorable aspect of the crosswalk being placed closer to the bridge (Option One) is that there would be no on-street parking blocking the view of the crosswalk as you approach it coming over the bridge; there also would not be a need to move any of the downtown street lights. Councilor Hamann asked if there was a reason why the crosswalks need to me moved. Mr. Bezanson stated that eventually all the crosswalks will have to be ADA compliant. Councilor Walker asked about the GAP project. Mr. Bezanson said that this project was not currently funded. Councilor Walker said he likes the idea of lights installed in the roadway at crosswalks. Councilor Hamann said he is not in favor of moving crosswalks and wanted to know where the money would come from. Mr. Bezanson said there are two funding sources: Crosswalk Safety Improvements and the Pavement Preservation Program. Councilor Walker asked Rochester Main Street if they had any opinions on the diagonal parking. The representatives that were present from Rochester Main Street said they had no opinion at this time. They did not know what the plans were prior to the meeting and that is why they came. They would take the information back and discuss the options at next week's Board meeting. Councilor Keans said she feels the biggest problem is that striping

needs to be done more often. She said she doesn't want all that signage downtown and that the Committee should look at using solar powered lights. She said she wants the downtown to look good. Councilor Walker asked how she likes diagonal parking. She said she thinks that the dual lane traffic in one direction is a problem. Fire Chief Klose said that the signs need to be big enough because of all the parked cars on North Main Street. Councilor Hamann wanted to know what brought the sign issues to the Committee. Fire Chief Klose said a child was struck by a vehicle on North Main Street in a crosswalk. Councilor Walker would rather have the movable pedestrian pylon signs that are placed in the middle of the crosswalks. Mr. Bezanson continued to explain the options for angled parking and parallel parking, and how they worked with dedicated bike lanes or sharrows (a shared lane for motorists and bicyclists marked with a painted bicycle symbol in the lane). Councilor Walker asked if there was enough bike traffic to warrant bike lanes. Councilor Hamann thinks that there is enough bike traffic, but doesn't like how the lanes are shown. Councilor Walker asked Mr. Bezanson to find out how much the solar lights would cost and bring a cost estimate back to the committee next month. Councilor Gates asked if the Committee would be making decisions about the angled and parallel parking, and if so could Deputy Chief Boudreau could research accident data related to the different parking types. Councilor Keans asked why Hanson Street is one way, she said it is been that way for about 14 years. Councilor Walker said it is wide enough to be a two-way street. Deputy Chief Boudreau said for the 20 years he has been with the City he remembers Hanson Street as a one way. Councilor Hamann asked Mr. Bezanson if he could email the downtown crosswalk and striping information file that was shown at the meeting. Mr. Bezanson said it was a large file and he would put on the City's webpage and send a link to the Committee. Councilor Hutchinson asked how many parking spaces there will be with the proposed configurations vs. the current parking situation. Mr. Bezanson said that there would actually be a slight decrease in the number of parking spaces with the angled parking options, but he thought that there may be an increase with better defined parallel parking downtown. Councilor Walker said as they get closer to making a decision they will have a public input meeting.

7. Hazard Mitigation Plan Updating

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Fire Chief Klose said that this plan needs to be updated every 5 years and they are a little behind the eight ball. The last time it was updated was 2013 and needs to be done for March 2018. The Strafford Regional Planning Commission worked on the previous one and that

they will follow the same practice this time. Fire Chief Klose said that this plan takes care of the infrastructures within the City, such as DPW, Fire, Police and Economic Development departments. He said they have to form a committee with department heads and there is a grant involved. He said it is quite a large plan. He said he spoke with emergency management and as long as they are working on it they can apply for federal grants. The plan needs to be approved by the Committee. Councilor Walker asked if the plan would be ready for the April Meeting. Fire Chief Klose said he would try, it all depends on schedules. He said it cost \$3,336.00 to write the grant and one plan works off the other.

8. Other

Regenerate E911 Committee

Deputy Chief Boudreau and Fire Chief Klose said that the E911 Committee has been re-established. Deputy Chief Boudreau said they had their first meeting yesterday. Eastern Avenue has a numbering problem- a complaint came to the City Manager's office. The numbers start out odd on left side and then change to even and skip backwards. Another meeting is needed with the post office. A public hearing is not needed on a numbering issue unless they are non-compliant. Fire Chief Klose said if a street name is changing you need to have a public hearing. The Committee hasn't been active for 4 to 5 years. Councilor Walker wanted to know if Eastern Avenue could be renumbered in one month. Both Deputy Chief Boudreau and Fire Chief Klose said no. Fire Chief Klose said it is a long process. Councilor Haman asked if Columbus Avenue street numbers were fixed. Deputy Chief Boudreau said yes. Fire Chief Klose said there are 64 homes that need to be renumbered. Councilor Walker said that he wanted an E911 Update on the Public Safety Committee Agenda every month. Councilor Gates asked how many more streets have problems and how come the committee stopped. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he was not sure.

Councilor Hamann made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Councilor Hutchison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.