

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
April 18, 2018
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Gary Boudreau, Deputy Police Chief
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Robert Montgomery, Rochester Resident

Minutes

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

1. Public Input- Downtown Crosswalks and Striping

Mr. Montgomery spoke about downtown pedestrian safety. He referred to an email that he had sent to the City Manager and made several suggestions. He spoke about issues at crosswalks including faded street markings, lack of signage, poor lighting, lack of snow clearing between sidewalks and crosswalks, and the “excessive” number of crosswalks in the downtown area. He also felt that the temporary signs that are placed in the middle of the road distract drivers from looking toward the sides of the road for pedestrians. Mr. Bezanson put the new downtown striping plans up on the display. Mr. Bezanson was able to show Mr. Montgomery that many issues he mentioned will be addressed. Mr. Bezanson informed the Committee that he had added the red brick stamped crosswalk patterns as well as some additional parking spaces on Wakefield St. and S. Main St. into the plan. Councilor Lachapelle asked when this work might start. Mr. Bezanson stated it was scheduled to be completed in conjunction with the Wakefield Street paving when school is out, but the contractor is suggesting that they might do this work at night, which means it might be sooner.

2. Blind Drive Sign- Lowell Street

Chairman Walker summarized the issue as a request for a blind drive sign from Emily Butler at 148 Lowell Street. Mr. Bezanson displayed the area on the large screen. There was a discussion regarding safe sight distance and

the width of the driveway.

Councilor Hamann made a motion to recommend that the full City Council deny the request for a blind driveway sign at 148 Lowell Street. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Dead End Sign- High Street**

Chairman Walker summarized the issue as a request from John Card for a Dead End sign on the entrance to Creteau Street from High Street. Mr. Card had concerns due to much confusion when there was a detour in the area. Mr. Bezanson displayed the area on the large screen. Councilor Hamann stated that he could understand that at the time of the detour there could have been some confusion but did not see that a sign was required.

Councilor Hamann made a motion to recommend that the full City Council deny the request for a Dead End sign at High & Creteau Street. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **No Parking Striping-crosswalk at High School Wakefield Street entrance**

Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that a car parked in the area adjacent to the crosswalk on Wakefield Street at the front entrance of the High School makes it difficult to see a pedestrian in the crosswalk. He stated that he is requesting that we paint the white hash lines that delineate that area as no parking. Mr. Bezanson displayed the area on the large screen. Councilor Hamann suggested that those lines were there previously. Councilor Lachapelle asked the distance recommended for no parking near crosswalks. Mr. Bezanson stated it is twenty-five feet.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend that the full City Council approve the hash lines to be painted in the area at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Hamann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Washington Street/Sylvain Street- no parking here to corner signage**

Mr. Bezanson stated that this sign request comes from the DPW staff. He stated that when a car is parked near this intersection there is not safe sight distance for a car to pull out onto Washington Street from Sylvain. Mr. Bezanson displayed the area on the large screen. Councilor Haman stated that he believes that this area was also with the white hash lines that delineate no parking.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend that the full City

Council approve the hash lines to be painted in the area at the DPW discretion. Councilor Hamann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. E911 update (to be kept in Committee)

Deputy Chief Boudreau stated the first notification letters went out to the properties in the area to be affected by the renumbering of Eastern Avenue. He stated that the second notifications would be going out within the next week. Chairman Walker asked when the Public Hearing should take place. Councilor Lachapelle suggested having the hearing just before the City Council Workshop in June. Chief Klose stated that the third mailing would include language that will inform property owners of the hearing to be held on June 19, 2018 at 7PM just prior to the City Council Workshop.

7. Downtown Crosswalks and Striping (*kept in committee*) addressed above

8. Other

Emergency Management Update – Chief Klose stated that the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) was discussed at the recent Finance Committee Meeting and the submission approval and funding will be discussed at the Regular City Council Meeting to be held May 1, 2018. Chief Klose stated that he recently attended a meeting on MACE (Multi-Agency Coordination Entity) He noted that Rochester is the primary response leader and Dover is the second. He stated that this is more of a health officer type of planning situation and that he would be discussing with the City's Health Officer. He stated that the Emergency Operation Center at the Fire Station would be used and that his team would assist with operations of that.

Chairman Walker suggested that Emergency Management Updates be added to the Committee Agenda going forward.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any other items for the Committee. Seeing none,

Councilor Hamann made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, City of Rochester Administration and Utility Billing Supervisor.