

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
May 16, 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
Jason Thomas, Police Captain

Minutes

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

1. Public Input

There were no members of the public present for public input.

2. E911 Update

There was no member of the E911 Committee present to provide any updates.

3. Emergency Management Updates

There was no member of the Fire Department present to provide an emergency management update.

4. Downtown Crosswalks and Striping (kept in committee)

Chairman Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson showed photos of the pedestrian signs that have recently been installed on North Main Street. The signs have been placed on 2 crosswalks and are double-sided signs. Councilor Hamann asked if the signs are mandated by law. Mr. Bezanson stated they are not mandated by law, but recommended by the engineer that completed the Downtown Crosswalk Study. Chairman Walker said it looks like too many signs. Councilor Lachapelle said the newly installed signs are very visible; however, the temporary movable pedestrian warning signs are not as visible. Mr. Bezanson

also showed photos of the existing pedestrian warning signs on Union Street and at Parson Main. Chairman Walker said that the sign on the square as you approach from South Main Street looks ugly and the Committee may want to recommend replacing with a temporary movable sign in the area instead. Chairman Walker said that the Committee would re-evaluate the need for pedestrian warning signs at downtown crosswalks after the area is re-paved and the crosswalks have been repainted. Mr. Bezanson stated that the engineer has recommended signs related to the planned bike lanes as well. Councilor Hamann wanted to make sure that there would be no more signs added downtown right now. Mr. Bezanson next discussed lighting as it relates to visibility of pedestrians in crosswalks; he showed a map of all the existing and proposed crosswalks in the downtown area as well as the existing downtown streetlights in the area. Councilor Hamann asked if this was done with the GIS software that was purchased. Mr. Bezanson said yes, the downtown lights are now a layer that can be added by our GIS Technician to maps for discussions such as this one tonight. Chairman Walker said lighting needs to be added to the dark crosswalks, such as the one on North Main Street where he personally had an incident as a pedestrian. Mr. Bezanson said rather than simply flooding the downtown with streetlights everywhere, contrast is the key for pedestrian visibility. Mr. Bezanson cited a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) technical report that noted for proper contrast, and to adequately illuminate pedestrians, streetlights should ideally be located at least 10-feet ahead of crosswalks in the direction of travel and, if possible, at least 10 times farther away behind the crosswalk. Chairman Walker wanted to know what the light would illuminate. Mr. Bezanson said a light 10-feet ahead of a crosswalk would illuminate down on street and on the approach side of the pedestrian. Councilor Lachapelle said that once the crosswalk on North Main Street is moved he would like to see how visible it is with the existing lighting. Mr. Bezanson said that the pattern on the crosswalks would be brick pattern with white lines; and his understanding is that only the white lines will be retroreflective. Chairman Walker said when everything is completed the Committee will revisit lighting; he likes the idea of a small pole with a solar light directed straight down on the sidewalk. Councilor Hamann said fresh paint makes a difference. Chairman Walker wanted to know if Mr. Bezanson had found some lights to present to the Committee. Mr. Bezanson said he done some research but struggled with mixing lighting types downtown and how that would appear. Mr. Bezanson also wanted to introduce the possibility of "shark tooth" yield line painting and associated signs at crosswalks. In situations where there are two or more travel lanes in the same direction, MUTCD recommends these yield lines ahead of unsignalized midblock crosswalks to help with visibility of pedestrians in the crosswalk. Chairman

Walker was not sure how it would work with too many signs and asked Captain Thomas if it would be a ticketed offense if they did not yield. Captain Thomas said if the signs were up yes. Finally, Mr. Bezanson informed the Committee that the downtown re-striping effort would include ADA accessible parking spaces. Chairman Walker wanted to know how many currently exist and how many are required. Mr. Bezanson said that based upon the total number of parking spaces in the downtown 5 ADA accessible spaces will be needed. There are currently two in the project area: one on North Main Street not near a curb ramp and one near the Chamber of Commerce on South Main Street. Councilor Hamann asked if they needed to be distributed evenly. He also said no business will want one in front of their business, and they should be designated in front of public buildings (i.e. City Hall). Chairman Walker said putting them up in front of public buildings would work; no one will complain in front of a city building. Councilor Hutchinson said that he thinks putting up near public buildings would work. Councilor Lachapelle agreed that in front of public buildings was a good idea, but ultimately they should be positioned at the discretion of Public Works.

5. Other

Nutter Street Speed Limit Sign

Chairman Walker said that John Ryea of 36 Nutter Street had contacted City staff concerned about speeding on Nutter Street and requesting a speed limit sign. There was some discussion regarding the location and length of Nutter Street. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny the speed limit sign. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Collins Circle Streetlight

Councilor Hutchinson said there is a light pole on Collins Circle with no light on it. He said that the neighborhood has had vehicles broken into a couple of years ago and the area gets dark. Chairman Walker said that they have a streetlight policy. According to the policy, you can install a streetlight at an intersection, every fourth pole, or at the end of a cul-de-sac. Councilor Hutchinson said this area has underground power. Chairman Walker said the City had pulled the surety to finish this development project. Councilor Hamann asked if there were any other lights there and Councilor Hutchinson said at the intersection there was. This request was kept in committee to get more information and to see if the pole is wired correctly.

City Hall Parking Lot

Mr. Bezanson shared the proposed new parking layout for the City Hall Parking Lot and noted that the proposed layout would be discussed further at tomorrow night's Public Works & Buildings Committee meeting. Mr. Bezanson said they were planning to begin drainage work in the parking lot immediately after the Memorial Day holiday.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Councilor Haman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II, DPW.