

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021
6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

Members Present

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair
Councilor Palana Belken
Councilor Peter Lachapelle
Councilor Chris Rice

Members Absent

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Tech
Gary Boudreau, Deputy Police Chief
Tim Wilder, Fire Marshall

Councilor Hamann brought the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00PM and he read the following statement:

Good Evening, as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, State, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of City government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting may be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

a.) **Public Input:** Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the City of Rochester will be taking extra steps to allow for public input, while still ensuring participant safety and social distancing. In lieu of attending the meeting, those wishing to share comments, with the Public Safety Committee are encouraged to do so by the following methods:

- Mail: Public Safety Committee, Rochester DPW 45 Old Dover Road Rochester, NH 03867 (*must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date*)
- Email: laura.miller@rochesternh.net (*must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date*)
- Voicemail: 603-335-7569 (*must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed*)

Please include with your correspondence the intended meeting date for which you are submitting. *All correspondence will be included with the corresponding meeting packet (Addendum).*

In addition to the above listed public access information, the City Council will be

allowing the public to enter Council Chambers and speak in person during the Public Input portion of this meeting. In an effort to adhere to CDC guidelines: enter only at the front Wakefield Street entrance and exit on the side closest to the Police Department and adhere to 6-foot social distancing while inside. Hand sanitizer and facemasks will be available at the Wakefield Street entrance. Participants will be admitted into Council Chambers one at a time to speak, and will exit directly thereafter. Please note; the seating in Council Chambers will not be available for the public during meetings.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting by phone. The public can call-in to the below number using the conference code. This meeting will be set to allow the public to “listen-in” only and there will be no public comment taken via conference line during the meeting.

Phone number: 857-444-0744 Conference code: 843095

b.) **Roll Call:** Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name (and/or ward), also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law.

(Additionally, Council members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak).

Councilor Peter Lachapelle	Ward 3 Present
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson	Ward 1 Absent
Councilor Chris Rice	Ward 5 Present
Councilor Palana Belken	Ward 2 Present
Councilor Don Hamann	Ward 5 Present

1. Public Input

There was no members of the public present.

2. Nottingham Lane-Speeding Issue-Requesting Speed Limit Sign (kept in Committee)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau sent an email to the councilors regarding Nottingham Lane speeding issues and attached a few videos that a resident had taken with the speeding problems. The speed trailer was placed on Nottingham Lane back in 2019 and the average speed was well below the 30 mph. The speeding issue seems to be associated with a couple of residents. He stated he spoke with one of the residents and the neighborhood would like the speed limit lowered to 25 mph. Councilor Hamann said he really doesn't want to start a precedent with lowering the speed limits. Councilor

Lachapelle said one of the reasons this was held over was so they could look into the site plan to see if a speed limit sign was in the site plan specifications for this area. He stated he does not want to start a precedent on the dead ends, cul-de-sacs as other will want the same. Councilor Rice does not want to set a precedent. He stated if all the cul-de-sacs are reduced to 20 or 25 mph, they may be doing 15 mph but in this environment it might look faster, and he suggested this would put an added work load onto the Police Department and Patrol Officers. Councilor Hamann stated that he lives on a cul-de-sac and there are kids on it. He stated that the Police are keeping an eye on this and in the future if it becomes an issue it can be revisited and the citizens and if needed the residents could pay for the sign cost. Councilor Hamann asked how much a "speed limit" sign would cost. Mr. Bezanson said he didn't know the exact cost but would be under \$100.00. Councilor Rice said this item should be removed from the committee and turned over to the Police Department as they are the experts.

3. Streetlight Request Intersection of Chestnut Hill Road & Elmo Lane (kept in Committee)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that this was kept in committee from the last meeting to get the cost for installing the pole and cobra head light install. He further stated that there is a pole at the intersection already. Mr. Bezanson stated that he received the cost estimate from Eversource and it is really a 2 step process; first the cobra and wring will cost about \$200 this particular pole has the right powering cable, if it wasn't it would be extra, and second the LED fixture that the City provides. He stated that there are different wattages, usually the City uses 25 or 60 watt bulbs, occasionally 40 and 100. They range between \$100 and \$150 so the full cost is estimated at \$500.00. Councilor Rice asked if the streetlight policy was 3 poles in between each of the lights. Mr. Bezanson said yes, it is 3 poles between lights and at intersections. He stated that this policy had been in effect for many years. Councilor Rice asked if anyone has talked to the people in the house on the corner about the light being installed to see if they wanted one. Councilor Hamann said he hasn't heard anyone complain about a streetlight being installed. Councilor Lachapelle asked if this City Street or a Class 6 road. Mr. Bezanson said yes it is a Class 6 road which is owned by the City but unmaintained. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson what would be your recommendation. Mr. Bezanson said it is an intersection and the policy is silent on Class VI Roads. He stated he could recommend a light in this location.

Councilor Rice made a motion to recommend DPW install a streetlight at the intersection of Chestnut Hill Road and Elmo Lane. The motion was seconded by Councilor Belken. Councilor Lachapelle asked if the motion was for the requestor to pay for the streetlight or the City. Councilor Rice stated it was for the City to pay.

A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion

Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes

4. Near 201 Chestnut Hill Road-Signage Request-“Blind Driveway” & “Deer Crossing” Signs or Similar Signage

Councilor Hamann summarize the issue of the Blind Driveway sign & Dear Crossing request. Councilor Hamann stated that he had not been out to the location. He further stated that “Blind Driveway” signs are typically paid for by the requestor. Councilor Rice stated that there is an existing blind driveway prior to the curve near the new DPW Facility on Chestnut Hill Road. He stated that the driveway does sneak up on you. Councilor Rice said he is not in favor of removing that “Blind Driveway” sign. Councilor Hamann asked if there was one in the other direction and stated he did not think one was needed coming the other way. Mr. Bezanson said Councilor Rice was correct there is a sign out there. He also said that similar to the “Children at Play” sign the MUCTD doesn’t provide a warning sign example for a blind driveway, but many states set their own standard. He further stated that the preferred text for this type of signage is “Hidden Driveway”. Mr. Bezanson stated that prior to installing this type of sign every effort to clear the appropriate sight distance should be made and all appropriate speed limit signs should be installed. He stated that speed is not a reason to install a “Hidden Driveway” sign. Mr. Bezanson stated he is recommending the sign be reinstalled as a “Hidden Driveway” sign as there is limited sight lines at the location and he recommends that the cost be paid by the City as there was a previous sign that was struck by a vehicle and removed. Councilor Rice said that in the last 6 months he has had 3 complaints for speeding on Chestnut Hill Road. He stated he had discussed this with the Chief as he is concerned that when the new DPW Facility is up and running there will be Police getting fuel at the new facility so there will be more Police patrol on the road. Councilor Rice asked if there was a plan to have the speed trailer out there in the interim. Deputy Chief Boudreau said Chestnut Hill Road has always been an issue with speeding. He stated that they can put the speed trailer out and will try to get more Police to spend time on the upper end by the connector. ***Councilor Hamann made a motion to recommend installing a “Hidden Driveway” sign at the expense of the City Chestnut Hill Road. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion.***

Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes

5. Portland Street-Safety Concerns Near Curve, Portland, Pearl and Cocheco Avenue

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue stating that he believed this was the area of the triangle area of East Rochester. Mr. Bezanson that the traffic is coming from the south where there is a lot of pavement width he thinks the motorist are losing where the edge of the road is supposed to be and end up on the sidewalk. Councilor Hamann suggested striping it. Mr. Bezanson said maybe a dash line

where the edge of the road way is. Councilor Rice asked Mr. Bezanson if a "Slow Intersection Ahead" is a recognized sign according to the MUCTD. Mr. Bezanson said yes it is a typical orange diamond sign. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if there was any plans for reconstruction for this area. Mr. Bezanson said there is not a plan in the CIP. He stated he does not know if there has been any significant crashes in the area. He said he was going to bring this up under "Other" as it may be an area to consider for a road safety audit if this meets the criteria. Councilor Rice asked if it was possible to close one entrance off Portland Street, since there are 3 legs to Cocheco Avenue. Councilor Hamann asked if there were any driveways in the area, it is just the Old Fire Station. Councilor Hamann said as a starting point to put the dash lines in there. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend installing dash lines down Portland Street to delineate Portland Street as it rounds the corner. Councilor Rice seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken on the motion.***

Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes

6. Willey Street-Removal of "Deaf Person" Sign

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. The deaf person has not lived on Willey Street for about 15 years and a resident would like the sign removed. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend the removal of the "Deaf Person" sign on Willey Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rice. A Roll Call vote was taken.***

Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes

7. E911 Update

Fire Marshall Wilder said that there are a handful of lots from a recent subdivision off from Tebbetts Road that were not numbered as of yet as there was not a way to do it with an understood consistency. He stated that the E911 Committee has been working on renumbering that road. The project is in the process of going to City Council and Public Hearing.

8. Emergency Management Update

No information was given on this.

9. Covid-19 Statistics Update

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue and stated that in general people have been good about wearing masks. Councilor Rice asked the Deputy Chief Boudreau

if there has been a spike with people requiring masked inside their buildings, and asked if the PD has had to field any of those calls. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there has not been a spike in calls. If a business calls and they have asked someone to leave, it is criminal trespass and is handled in that manner, He stated there has been no arrest people and he stated that the public has been pretty compliant with masks when required.

10. Other

Maple Street and Sylvain Street-Stop Sign Request

A request came in for a "Stop" sign at the intersection of Maple and Sylvain Street. Councilor Rice said he is not opposed to a stop sign on Sylvain as you approach the intersection heading toward Washington. He stated the house on the corner does impede line of site, and he suggested it could be made a 4 Way stop. Councilor Hamann mentioned there are several 4 Way stops in the area and he noted that he hadn't seen any problems since Maple was made a one way street.

Councilor Rice made a recommendation to make the Intersection of Maple Street and Sylvain a 4 Way Stop. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. Chief Boudreau suggested a 3 or 4 Way stop. Mr. Bezanson stated concern to keep the traffic moving in the school zone. Councilor Hamann said that most vehicles go to Sylvain Street and out to Washington. He said the biggest back up is in the afternoon as they are sitting in a line waiting for kids, the morning is just dropping off the children and moves quickly.

A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion.

Councilor Belken	Ward 2 Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5 Yes
Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3 Yes

Trinity Circle-School Bus Stop

Councilor Lachapelle said he talked to a resident in the area, and he was told that the school bus is no longer going into Trinity Circle. He stated a safety issue for the kids near Flagg Road, which is a busy street and the kids are raising havoc on this nearby resident's property. Councilor Lachapelle also mentioned the privacy fence that is near Trinity Circle is starting to fall apart and he asked if it is on the City or the Developer to repair. Mr. Bezanson stated he would look into it. Councilor Hamann thought maybe the school board should be contacted about the bus. Councilor Lachapelle stated he would follow up with School Department.

Road Safety Audit

Mr. Bezanson said there are 2 opportunities for Road Safety Audits offered by NHDOT. The first deadline is June 1, 2021 and the annual deadline is December 1, 2021. Any intersection that has history in the last 10 years of significant serious injury crashes or fatalities. Mr. Bezanson told the committee if they had any intersections in mind to let him know. He said the most recent one was completed at the Old Dover Road and Tebbetts Road intersection.

North Main Street Beacon

Mr. Bezanson said that the North Main Street Beacon was brought up for discussion during the Public Works Committee (PWC) meeting held on 4/15/2021. The project to install this beacon had gone out to bid and there were no bidders. The City had requested a quote from our Contracted Services Company and the price was significantly over budget. Mr. Bezanson stated that there is a solar powered beacon that is within budget and the PWC has recommended installing this option. Councilor Haman stated that this decision was based on the cost and he stated it can be revisited with the Gap Project that is just a couple years out. Councilor Lachapelle stated he was in favor of the North Main beacon and light moving as planned and he is still for it, but he believes if you lose 1 parking spot going out of town toward Strafford Square it would improve the line of sight. Councilor Hamann said the lights are in the wrong place illuminate the crosswalk. Councilor Lachapelle stated again that using LED and losing 1 parking spot will make a significant difference and he will bring it up at the full City Council Meeting. Councilor Rice reiterated that the cost of moving the LED is what prohibited the project as planned with the current funding leve.

MUCTD Standard

Mr. Bezanson said this the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices sets the standard for signs and line striping on roadways. He stated that is has been adopted as the standard for NH and it is used nationwide. It was last updated in 2009 with some revisions in 2012. Mr. Bezanson stated that there are some revisions currently proposed, those are out for public comment right now. He stated that currently there are no time frames for compliance; meaning that changes are made as they come up or as you are making roadway improvements. He stated that they are looking at mandatory 5 year compliance timeframes for low clearance areas and high-profile grade crossings. He said the low clearance may pertain to the railroad bridge on Haven Hill Road and he did not believe we had any high-profile crossings. Mr. Bezanson stated the issues for the 5 year mandatory compliance is for traffic signals at grade crossings (railroad crossings). He said the City definitely has one of these at Summer and Columbus intersection and maybe one at the Wakefield Street and Chestnut Hill Road Intersection and the possibly the Columbus Avenue and Portland Street Intersection. Mr. Bezanson stated that the comment period ends 5/15/2021 and he did not plan on making any comments. Councilor Rice asked if there were already plans for upgrades at the rail crossing on Haven Hill Road. Mr. Bezanson he was not aware of any. He also stated that the MUTCD 5 year compliance deadlines would only be for signage updates. Councilor Lachapelle suggest that the City look at the Whitehall Road rail crossing. Councilor Rice suggested looking at the one on Cross Road and Betts Road. Deputy Chief Boudreau mention the Franklin Street crossing.

Speed Trailer

Deputy Chief Boudreau said he has started a list of where they will place the speed trailer. If the committee has any to add they can email him. He also state that last fall Councilor Rice mentioned putting something on the website about this. Deputy

Chief if working with Matt Wyatt to get this done.

Councilor Hamann adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. Miller, Admin Assistant II