

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
April 20, 2016
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann
Councilor Ray Barnett
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor James Gray

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Peter Lachapelle (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Deputy Chief Paul Toussaint, Police Dept.
Kristine Connor, 11 Gagne Street

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from March 16, 2016

The first order of business was to approve the March 16, 2016 minutes. ***Councilor Gates made a motion to approve the March 16, 2016 minutes. the motion was seconded by Councilor Gray. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

2. Public Input

Kristine Connor of 11 Gagne Street was present to discuss some safety issues near the Gagne Street area. She said that there are vehicles parking by the sidewalk near the Catholic School, St. Elizabeth Seton. When vehicles are parked there it's hard to see when coming around the corner. She said there are no yellow lines on the road in this area. She also stated that people use the property where she lives as a cut through from Lafayette Street to Gagne Street and that Gagne Street is a much different neighborhood compared to Lafayette. Her landlord recently put up a "no trespassing" sign to help with the issue. Councilor Hamann asked Ms. Connor if it was the school side that was the issue with vehicles parking near the sidewalk. She said yes. Deputy Chief Toussaint asked if people were in the vehicles when they were parked or were they leaving them there. Ms. Connor said they were leaving them there Monday through Friday during school hours. Deputy Chief Toussaint said that one resolution would be to make this area "no parking". Councilor Gray said that he thought school employees were supposed to park at the old church and if they are school employees parking there then the school can be contacted about this. Deputy Chief Toussaint said the first step should be a directed

patrol done during school hours to see if there are any parking issues and he will get back to the committee next month. Councilor Gray said he would like to see no parking stripes on River Street so vehicles will be away from the "stop" sign. He also said that the issues with trespassing and safety on the streets would be good issues for the Ward 4 meeting on Monday April 25, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Rochester Police Department. Deputy Chief Toussaint said the meetings are supposed to take care of quality of life issues. Councilor Hamann asked if the road could be painted by the crosswalks so no vehicles would park too close to them. Mr. Bezanson said he would have to look at the width of the road. This was kept in committee until next month. Some directed patrols will be done and Mr. Bezanson will look at the width of the road.

3. Strafford Square Intersection Signage

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Hamann received a phone call from a gentleman that had concerns with vehicles coming off Walnut Street and people turning left on to Washington Street. He said he had almost gotten hit coming off Walnut Street. He would like a sign on Walnut Street saying yield to left turning traffic. Deputy Chief Toussaint stated that a sign will not clarify all of the issues at this intersection. Councilor Hamann will give the gentleman a call back to say it will be impractical to put up a sign. The road is planned to be under construction by next year, so things will be changing.

4. Highway Safety Grants-Discussion

- Sustained Traffic Enforcement Patrols
- DWI Patrols
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

Deputy Chief Toussaint said that the grant application rules have changed; the Public Safety Committee no longer has to sign the grant application. There was a short discussion regarding the grant. The deadline to have their grant in is May 1, 2016.

5. Other

Estes Road/Washington Street

Councilor Gates commented that there is work being done on Estes Road and Washington Street for the line of site issues. Tree work on both sides of Estes Road is being done. Mr. Bezanson said that there is a permit restriction on removing trees, so the contractor had to have them down by April 15th. Councilor Gates asked why there are restrictions. Mr. Bezanson said that it is linked to protecting the habitat of the Northern Long-Eared Bat.

Oak Street and Route 125

Councilor Hamann said he received a request to have a delay in the traffic signal timing to allow left turns from the side streets at the intersection of Oak Street/Colby Street and Route 125. Deputy Chief said there are rules of the road to cover these issues, but that he actually went to the location and said if you are on Colby Street turning South onto Route 125 you need to go deep into the intersection before you take a turn. Mr. Bezanson said he can make a request to District 6 to check the traffic light out, he will send a letter to them.

Traffic Signal at Home Depot/Hannaford on North Main Street

Councilor Hamann said he received a request to change the timing of the traffic signal at the North Main Street intersection for the Home Depot/Hannafords and Cumberland Farms/McDonalds. The light changes too quickly to red to allow much traffic out of the businesses. Mr. Bezanson will have DPW take a look at the timing of the lights and will get back to the committee next month.

Signs on Utility Poles

Mr. Bezanson said the question had come up regarding signs on utility poles. First the City (or the State DOT, depending on jurisdiction) will issue a pole license for utility poles located in the Right-of-Way to the utility company that owns the pole (usually Fairpoint or Eversource in Rochester). The utility company owns the poles and technically there shouldn't be anything attached to the pole without a licensing agreement; without one it is illegal to have anything on the pole.

Salmon Falls Road Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Project

Mr. Bezanson gave an update on the Salmon Falls Road HSIP Project. Trees were also taken down in this project area due to the same Northern Long-Eared Bat permit restriction mentioned earlier in the meeting. Mr. Bezanson will submit final paperwork to NHDOT this week; it is normally a 2-3 week turnaround time to receive approval to bid. He stated that the project may go out to bid in May. This project includes improvements at the two curves on Salmon Falls Road between Whitehall Road and the entrance to Tara Estates.

Cumberland Farms/ Milton Road Parking Signs

Mr. Bezanson stated that the "no parking" signs have been installed in front of the Cumberland Farms on Milton Road.

Farrington Street and King Street - Stop Bar

Mr. Bezanson said the stop bar has been painted on Farrington Street.

Farmington Road (Route 11)/Nashoba Drive Intersection

Mr. Bezanson stated that he made a formal request to the State for a traffic signal at the intersection of Farmington Road (Route 11) and Nashoba Drive.

Councilor Gates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. Councilor Barnett seconded the motion. the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.