



*City of Rochester, New
Hampshire*

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 Wakefield Street □ Rochester, NH 03867

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May 10, 2023

TO: Public Safety Committee

REGARDING: Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting **May 17, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from April 19, 2023 Public Safety Meeting pages 1-5
2. Public Input
3. Salmon Falls Road Speed Limit Issue and Electronic Sign Placement (kept in committee)
4. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion
5. Quarry Drive Requesting Additional Speed Limit Sign
6. Street-light Request-53 Gear Road (kept in committee)
7. Crowhill Road-Requesting “Dead End” or “No Outlet” Sign (kept in committee)
8. Meadow Lane- Requesting Warning Signs
9. Other

cc.

Mayor and City Council
Chief Gary Boudreau
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas
Fire Chief Dennis Dube
Mr. Michael Bezanson
Mr. Timothy Goldthwaite
Ms. Lisa Clark

**Public Safety Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair
Councilor Dana Berlin
Councilor Alexander de Geofroy
Councilor Skip Gilman
Councilor Amy Malone

Others Present

Councilor Ashley Desrochers
Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician
Lt. Jeremy Aucoin, PD
Todd Radict, Skele-Tone Records
Jeff Bisson, Rochester Main Street
Chuck Grassie, State Representative

Councilor Lachapelle brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Approve Minutes from Public Safety Meeting

Councilor de Geofroy MOVED to approve the minutes from March 15, 2023. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

Todd Radict owner of Skele-Tone Records was present to discuss the speeding issues in the downtown area. The closest speed limit sign is over by Burger King, the speed limit was recently reduced to 25 mph, he still thinks 25 mph is too high, and is still enough to hurt a small child if hit. He stated 10 years ago that the downtown was desolate but now the City has grown, when he crosses the street he has to look more than once and he said he shouldn't have to do that. Last week he was walking to City Hall and was near Parson Main and he had to jump out of the way, a lady was driving while on her cell phone. He is requesting flashing lights, more police present, a speed reduced to 15 mph and more speed limit signs. Jeff Bisson is the current president of Rochester Main Street was also present to discuss the speeding issue. He stated someone was hit near Parson and Main. Rochester Main Street would like 25 mph speed limit signs or less and flashing signs by crosswalks. Councilor Berlin asked Mr. Bisson if Rochester Main Street would be interested in a raised crosswalk speed table. Mr. Bisson said he is not authorized to speak about anything the board hadn't previously agreed on. He said personally he thinks its great idea and would be happy to bring it up to the board, in general they are looking for anything that will slow down traffic. Councilor Lachapelle said that a couple of months ago it was voted on to reduce the speed limit by where the roundabout is going to be, down to near Care Pharmacy and up by the High School. Mr. Bezanson said they may not be up yet. Councilor Desrochers said that she lives over near Burger King and that there is only that one speed limit sign and the speeding is bad there and it just extends to downtown. Councilor Lachapelle said that the raised tables is next on the agenda, but will also be brought up at Thursdays Public Works Committee meeting. Chuck

Grassie, State Representative of Ward 4 and was also a US certified safety inspector and traffic planner and he was present to discuss the need for raised crosswalks, which would be better than flashing lights. He said that one of the problems in the policy is that the distance would not allow for one to be downtown, the cost runs around \$10,000 but no maintenance after that. Pedestrians can see better. Councilor Berlin said he measured distance to middle of crosswalk to downtown. Some of the numbers were to limit when could become a problem, everyone would want one. Councilor Lachapelle said that Councilor Berlin wrote this to limit certain sections want to, but one might not be enough downtown. Mr. Grassie said maybe make a flexible policy. Councilor Desrochers said if you take a comprehensive approach because if it is working people are going to want one. Councilor de Geofroy said cost alone will make you think and would limit how many were installed. Councilor Lachapelle said that this is going to the Public Works & Buildings Committee tomorrow night, to get input from Police Department, Fire Department and Frisbie.

3. Salmon Falls Road Speed Limit Issue and Electronic Sign Placement (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin said unless there is a more important location that is worth the cost of removing and relocating he disagrees with moving the sign. There is a utility pole further in the yard than where the sign is. The sign is just off the pavement the pole is further back. Councilor Gilman said that a couple of residents did say the flashing light is working. Mr. Bezanson said that Deputy Chief Thomas did send a candidate list of locations for the flashing light. Lt. Aucoin listed off the 8 streets where the flashing light may be warranted.

1. Whitehall Road before the hospital
2. Portland Street area of Flower Street heading in to town
3. Washington Street coming into town before Lowes
4. Portland Street in East Rochester at the bottom of the hill by the East Rochester School
5. Ten Rod Road coming into town by Industrial Way
6. Eastern Avenue coming into town
7. Walnut Street by Twombly coming into town
8. North Main Street by Poulin's heading into town

(kept in committee)

4. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion

The Public Works & Buildings Committee will be discussing this tomorrow night at their meeting. Councilor Berlin said see what they say at the meeting and invite someone from the meeting to discuss with the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

5. Quarry Drive Requesting Additional Speed Limit Sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. An email came into Mr. Bezanson last month about additional speed limit signs on Lowell Street. Lt. Aucoin said the speed limit is 30 mph. The resident said it is like a raceway between the Catholic Church and Tebbetts Road. Lt. Aucoin said that the speed trailer was scheduled to go out

tonight, and that they can make an adjustment to the location of the speed trailer. Kept in committee to get the data from the speed trailer.

6. Salmon Falls Road Requesting “Deer Crossing” sign-(email sent to City Manager)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. A resident of Salmon Falls Road said there are 2-5 deer every night that cross from Kinsale Road by the cul-de-sac. **Councilor Berlin MOVED to recommend to full Council to install “deer crossing” signs on each end of Salmon Falls Road, 1 near Kinsale and 1 coming off from Highland at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

7. Street-light Request-53 Gear Road

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue and he will look at the area to see if this area meets the streetlight policy. Kept in committee until next month.

8. Autumn Street “No Thru Truck” Signs or Other Measures (Councilor Lachapelle)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. The resident had been to the committee about a year ago regarding sidewalks and which would go to the Public Works Committee. Mr. Bezanson said they are about 3 or 4 years out for the sidewalk CIP project, they could apply for the same kind of program the TAP grant assistance. Mr. Bezanson stated that there is signage posted now stating “no thru Trucks” 26,000 gvw and above. **Councilor Gilman MOVED to recommend to full Council to install “no thru trucks” signs on Autumn Street. Council Malone seconded the motion. The MOTION CARRIED 3 TO 2.**

9. Speeding Issue near 6 and 7 Magic Avenue

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said the crosswalk was just put in a little while ago since he has been with the City, it is a midblock crosswalk. He also said the pavement is not in good condition and it is hard to move. fast on this road. Lt. Aucoin said that there is a housing office that can check for crosswalk violations. If he feels it is a speed issue, then they can do some directed patrol.

10. Crowhill Road-Requesting “Dead End” or “No Outlet” Sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said this becomes a Class VI Road. He said that someone placed a “no thru traffic” sign on a utility pole, he doesn’t know who put it there. Mr. Bezanson said he would look into warning signs for Class VI Road ahead. **(kept in committee)**

11. Norway Palins Road Speeding Issues-(letter sent to City Manager’s office)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Lt. Aucoin said the speed trailer was placed on Norway Plains Road from April 12-18, 2023., the average speed was 35 mph. He stated there didn’t appear to be a speeding problem in the area. No action taken.

12. Other

England Road

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. A resident of England Road said that people dump trash on the City property located at the corner of Pickering Road and England Road. He requested a “no littering” sign. Lt. Aucoin said there were 5 true illegal dumps, they couldn’t trace the trash back to anybody. Councilor Lachapelle said putting a sign up probably won’t help, they won’t obey it. No action taken

Meadow Lane

Mayor Callaghan said asked if some sort of warning sign could be placed on Old Dover Road near the sharp turn by Meadow Lane. He said he had received concerns from his neighbors Councilor Berlin asked if chevrons were warranted for this curve. He asked if DPW could reach out to the 3 houses by the curve to see if they could place the chevrons there. **(kept in committee)**

Salmons Falls Road Speed Limit signs

Councilor Fonteau said he drove Salmon Falls Road he requested to have the speed limit changed to 35 going out. Councilor Gilman found a 30 mph sign by the s curve. Councilor Lachapelle said it was probably intended to lower speed because of s curve and if a school is going to be there it will be lowered more. No action taken.

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:10 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin and Utility Billing Supervisor

Subject:

FW: the 8 streets suggested for the flashing light

Whitehall Road- before the hospital coming into town
Portland Street – in the area of Flower Dr. heading into town
Washington Street-coming into town before Lowe's
Portland Street East Rochester- at the bottom of the hill near the East Rochester School
Ten Rod Road- coming into town near Industrial Way
Eastern Ave- coming into town
Walnut Street- coming into town near Twombly Street
North Main Street- in the area of Poulin's heading into town

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