

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
July 17, 2013
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice Chairman
Councilor Brian LaBranche
Councilor Stephen Hervey

OTHERS PRESENT

Gretchen Young, PE, Construction Engineer
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.
Jeremy LaRose, Coast Bus
Brian Deguzis, Coast Bus
James Gray

Minutes

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

1. Public Input

The public that were present were there for items already on the agenda.

2. Coast Bus Stops

There were members of the public present for item 4 so this item was moved up on the agenda. Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Jeremy LaRose of Coast Bus was present to discuss the Coast Bus stops at Spaulding High School. As part of an overall improvement to the Coast Bus service in the City, they would like to relocate the Spaulding High School stop location. Mr. LaRose described two potential locations and outlined the pros and cons of each location. The preferred location is at the north side of the triangle as previously submitted. He said the pros to this are that a southbound bus would stop beyond the crosswalk and out of traffic flow, the southbound bus blocks the one-way entrance into high school, which is the safest option for a stop near a driveway like this, it prevents traffic turning blind around the end of the bus into a pedestrian. The shelter would be located off the edge of the sidewalk and would require no pavement improvements. The location is close to main entrance for students and staff and the northbound bus stops prior to crosswalk and fully in travel lane, which is the safest option for the bus stopping near to a crosswalk to prevent potential vehicle-pedestrian conflicts. The disadvantage of this location is the busy intersection along a busy road during school hours. The alternative location proposed would place the southbound stop at the far end of the green across from Glenwood Avenue. The pros of this location is that the stop was far away from the High School main entrance but that there are more disadvantages including the complex intersection with angled crosswalks. The committee agreed that this second location would not be satisfactory. Councilor Hervey asked if a stop at the originally proposed location could be installed temporarily with just a sign to see if it would work, Mr. LaRose stated that the funding for the shelter needs to be used by September. He said that they could just install the shelter at the community center and only have a sign for the High School stop, however, that would not be ideal for patrons. After discussion Councilor Walker summarized the

three choices, 1-to only provide a stop at the community center and forgo the Spaulding High School stop, 2 – install the new Community Center and High School stops as proposed, 3- place a shelter at the existing location by the football fields and continue to share between the Community Center and the High School. Councilor Hervey said it would helpful if a representative of Coast Bus was present to talk to the full council. The Public Safety Committee is in support of the original proposal.

3. Pinecrest Avenue-Speeding Issue

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas stated that he stopped to talk to Roger Buzzell of 3 Pinecrest Avenue. Deputy Chief Dumas said that vehicles are using Watson Dr. to Pinecrest Ave. as a cut through to Portland Street to avoid the light. He stated that the Watson/Pinecrest intersection had an odd configuration and that there is an island in the intersection. He stated that there is currently a yield sign for traffic from Watson Dr onto Pinecrest Ave. giving traffic from Mapplewood Ave. to have the right-of-way. Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to replace the current yield sign with a stop sign, seconded by Councilor LaBranche. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

4. Tebbetts Road-Speed Limit Signs

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young stated that on Tebbetts Road between Pickering Road to Old Dover Road there were 35 mph signs in both directions. Between Old Dover Road and Lowell Street there are no signs in either direction, and between Lowell Street and Rochester Hill Road there are 30 mph signs only in the easterly direction with no signage in the westerly direction. Councilor LaBranche made a motion to place a total of three new 30 mph speed limit signs between Old Dover Road and Rochester Hill Road, 2 west and 1 east bound at the discretion of the Public Works Department, seconded by Councilor Hervey. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

5. GAP Project

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. He said the two things that they could do is to take the no right turn on red sign down on Bridge Street and retime the lights. Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to remove the no right on red sign on Bridge Street and to retime the traffic lights, seconded by Councilor LaBranche. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

6. Weight Limit-Flagg Road and Hansonville Road

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young said the signs were on order, and they would say “no through trucks 26,000 GVWR”.

7. Industrial Park Update-Exit 14/Ten Rod Road

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young said that NHDOT has agreed to pay for the lighting as long as the City agrees to take ownership of a portion of Route 11 between Ten Rod Road and the beginning of the Spaulding Turnpike Exit 15 ramp. She stated that maintenance of the City's maintenance of the road would begin in July 2015. She stated that Commissioner Nourse was going to bring this request up at the next Council meeting. Councilor Walker said this area will be a problem to plow, but if they do not accept it, they will not get the lights for Industrial Park.

8. Sheridan Avenue Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas said he had no update that most of the problems were during school. This was kept in committee.

9. Ten Rod Road -Horse Crossing Sign

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Councilor Hervey passed out a map of the area at 78 Ten Rod Road where there are frequently horse crossing. Ms. Young said there are currently no horse crossing signs on Ten Rod Road, she also said that they should be placed 150 feet from where they cross. Councilor Hervey made a motion to place horse crossing signs on Ten Rod near where the horses cross at the discretion of the Public Works Department, seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

10. Other

Create Policy for Outside Details for Non Profits

Deputy Chief Dumas said that the City Manager had discussed at the department head meeting the need for a policy on the way that outside detail for no profits are billed. Councilor Walker asked if there currently was a policy in place and deputy chief Dumas said no. Councilor Walker said that this should be sent to the Finance Committee.

North Main Street Project-New Sidewalks

Ms. Young said they are working on the North Main Street Project for new sidewalks. She is requesting to have some of the current crosswalks relocated. Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to remove the crosswalk at North Main Street mid block near laundermat and Charlie's Pizza and move to corner of Letourneau Street and North Main street parallel to Lois and Letourneau Street; and remove the crosswalk by Carriage Hill Building that crosses North Main to vacant lot and install new one where the sidewalk will end to cross pedestrians over where Burger King is, seconded by Councilor LaBranche. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Hervey. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Miller Secretary II, DPW