

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
August 21, 2013
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Brian LaBranche
Councilor James Gray
Councilor Stephen Hervey

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Gretchen Young, PE, Construction Engineer
Captain Gary Boudreau, PD
Donald Gagnon, Rochester Truck
Louis Archambault, 224 Chesley Hill Rd.
Daniele Billings, 161 Chesley Hill Rd.
Bonnie Billiers, 161 Chesley Hill Rd.
Robert McCabe, 234 Chelsey Hill Rd.
Vincent Denobile, 146 Chelsey Hill Rd.

Minutes

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

1. Public Input

Donald Gagnon the owner of Rochester Truck was present to voice his concerns about the "No Thru Trucks over 26,000 G.V.W.R." signs on Flagg Road. He stated that his truck servicing business is located at 8 Flagg Road and he relies on the ability to test trucks at slow speeds on Flagg Road. He stated that testing on 125 would not work due to the high volume of traffic because he needs to go at slow speeds for testing. Councilor Walker stated that if his business is on Flagg Road then he is not considered thru traffic. Captain Boudreau agreed with Councilor Walker. Mr. Gagnon asked if he could get a letter from the city stating this incase it ever became an issue. Councilor Walker said that DPW or the police department should write a letter stating that the business located at 8 Flagg Road is not considered thru truck traffic.

2. Chesley Hill Road-Speed limit Signs

There were members of the public present for item #5 so this item was moved up on the agenda. Councilor Walker summarized that there had been concerns regarding the 35 MPH speed limit on Chesley Hill Road. Vincent Denobile of 146 Chelsey Hill Road was present to voice his concerns regarding the speeding problem on Chelsey Hill Road. He would like the speed limit reduced to 30 mph. Louis Archambault of 224 was also present to speak on this issue, he stated that he thought there should be an electric sign on Chesley Hill Road directly across from the water tower to address vehicle coming up the hill from Route 125 prior to reaching the sharp bend in the road.

Daniele Billings of 161 Chelsey Hill Road lives at the top of the hill right at the sharp bend, she stated that she has witnessed 3 accidents near her house where the cars have struck the trees. She was present to prevent any further problems. She stated that there are no lines on the road and that the signage in this area is not adequate. Robert McCabe of 234 Chesley Hill Road said that there was some vegetation near his driveway that prevents him from being able to see oncoming traffic when exiting the drive. He would like the vegetation removed and the speed limit changed. Bonnie Billings of 161 Chesley Hill Road said there should be better signage, after dark vehicles are laying rubber all the way down the hill. Members of the committee discussed that there were really two issues here, the first is the speed of the entire roadway, and the second is the speed and signage at the sharp bend at the top of the hill. Councilor LaBranche made a **motion to recommend that the full council approve the speed limit to be reduced to 25 mph near the curve on Chesley Hill Road and 30 mph on the rest of Chesley Hill Road seconded by Councilor Hervey. The motion passed unanimously.** Councilor Walker asked Ms. Young to have DPW check the bushes near 234 Chesley Hill Road to see if they were obstructing the view of vehicles. Councilor Hervey said that if they talked to there neighbors and had them write letters and put them in the Councilors mailboxes that are in the city managers office explaining the issue then the Councilors would have a little bit of a background on the issue.

3. Airport Drive- Curbing

The city has received a complaint from the businesses on Airport Drive that folks have misjudged the new left turn onto the drive and have hit the granite curbing, usually second or third shift in the dark. They have requested the city look at lighting or signs to help with that. Ms. Young said that it is most likely because the pavement, sidewalk and curbing are so new it can actually look like the curb is just a line in a flat paving surface. Councilor Walker stated that there is already adequate room to make the turn and a fog line to indicate the edge of the road so drivers should not have an issue with the curbing. Councilor Gray suggested that perhaps the troubles came before the line work was completed. The committee discussed the issue and determined that there were no improvements necessary in this area. No action was taken.

4. Innovation Drive-Speed Limit Sign

The city has received a request from the businesses on Airport Drive for a speed limit sign to be located at the entrance of the business park. Councilor Walker asked if there was any signage out there. Ms. Young stated that there was a single 30 MPH sign located on Airport Drive just before the new secondary entrance to the Newport Computers Site. Councilor LaBranche suggested moving the sign to a more appropriate location at the entrance to the park. The committee discussed this option and agreed. Councilor Walker asked Ms. Young to have DPW relocate the sign to the entrance to Innovation Drive.

5. Blue Hill Drive- No Outlet Sign

Councilor Walker stated that people are turning onto Blue Hill Drive thinking it is a cut through from Route 202 to Route 125. Councilor Walker said the “no outlet” sign is appropriate. **Councilor Gray made a motion to recommend that the full council approve the “no outlet” sign on Blue Hill Drive, seconded by Councilor Hervey. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Sheridan Avenue

Councilor Walker asked if there were any updates on Sheridan Avenue parking near the school. Captain Boudreau stated that there have been no issues this summer while school is out. Councilor Walker said one of the solutions the committee was talking about was to have no parking on Sheridan, vehicles would have to park on Charles Street. This item will remain in committee until school has started.

7. Other

Senior Parking at the Community Center

Ms. Young said the Senior Center was looking for more senior parking signs because there was a complaint that high school students were parking in the area. Councilor Walker said that a “Senior Only” sign is not enforceable, Captain Boudreau agreed. The committee discussed the idea of having permit only signage and allow the Senior Center to issue permits. Ms. Young noted that there were also 8 accessible parking spaces in this location for anyone with a handicap license plate or pass. Councilor Gray stated that he did not believe that students would park so far from the school accept later in the day for an athletic event when the Senior Center is closed. The committee discussed the difficulty in enforcing such a restriction and did not think it was practical to add the signs. No action taken.

Ten Rod Road-Horse Signs

Councilor Hervey asked if the horse crossing signs were up. Ms. Young said she was told by DPW staff that they were but she has not seen them herself.

Motorcycles at stop lines

Councilor Hervey said that some motorcycles were having trouble at lighted intersections triggering the light to change. He stated that the intersection of Portland and Charles Street had been a problem. Ms. Young said that the lights are triggered by a magnet that senses steel. She did not know if you could increase the sensitivity of the triggers but that she would look into it.

Councilor Hervey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor LaBranche. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.