

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
May 22, 2013
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice Chairman
Councilor Stephen Hervey
Councilor Julien Savoie

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Brian LaBranche

OTHERS PRESENT

Gretchen Young, Construction Engineer
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.
Latasha Fifield, Gonic
Albert Mutascio, 25 Main Street

Minutes

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

1. Public Input

Latasha Fifield of Gonic was present to voice her concerns about an unsafe situation at Pickering Pond. On Mother's Day Ms. Fifield and two of her children went to Pickering Park to enjoy the day. She had seen men hanging around in this area, some were alone. She asked around and did some research and found that this was one of the parks in Rochester that was known for this type of activity. Councilor Lachapelle stated that single men are allowed to be at the park unless they are caught doing something illegal. Deputy Chief Dumas said there are 5 areas in the city known for this type of activity. There is not much that can be done unless they are caught doing something illegal. He also stated that this area is good for hiking and bird watching and it would be a shame to close the park. Ms. Fifield asked if there were any positive community activities such as races or Frisbee golf that could be held at the park to deter the negative activities. Deputy Chief Dumas agreed that approach would help; he also said that it may help to advertise that there is police presence in the area. The police would also do some specific visits to these parks on nice weekend days, and may potentially call owners of cars just to talk to the visitors. Councilor Lachapelle said he is on the recreation committee, he will bring this to the committee to see if there are any events that could be planned at Pickering Pond. Councilor Walker said he doesn't want no trespassing signs because it's a beautiful park.

2. Handicap Sign-25 Main Street, East Rochester

Albert Mutascio from 25 Main Street was present to discuss placing a "handicap" sign near 25 Main Street. The committee agreed to let this item go next on the agenda. Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Mutascio stated that when the house was built in 1902 it was built without a driveway. They will be having

a 76 year old family friend move in with them soon that is on oxygen full-time. The neighbors have a driveway but tend to park on the street in front of there house. They are requesting a "handicap" sign there so it will be designated for handicap parking. Councilor Walker said there needs to be a curb cut for an accessible route, additionally there would need to be a full 13' wide parking area designation for the full length of the parking stall in order to legally designate an accessible space. Councilor Walker stated that if the city designated a space accessible and something happened to a user of that space, the city would be held liable. The committee agreed that a full ADA space could not be provided in this area, therefore it would not be appropriate to post a "handicapped" sign at this location. No action was taken on this request.

3. Weight Limit-Flagg Road and Hansonville Road

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young said that the Barrington Planning Board had not voted on the proposed Gravel Pit, so there are no finalized plans. The development agreement is not approved yet but in the agreement Trinity Corp. is proposing is to make substantial improvements to Greenhill Road on the Easterly side and prohibit truck traffic to the west of the site. As part of the proposed agreement a "Truck" is defined as a vehicle weighing over 26,000 lbs. A sign would be posted. The first and second offense would be \$250.00 for driving on the westerly side of Greenhill Road, and \$500.00 after that. Councilor Walker asked Ms. Young what she recommended for a weight limit. She stated that at the request of Barrington, Trinity Corp. has retained a geotechnical engineer to do borings along Greenhill Road to analyze the pavement section and subsurface conditions and determine what the baring capacity on that road was, as well as recommend an appropriate pavement section to handle the anticipated truck traffic. The geotechnical engineer for that project has recommended limiting the truck traffic to less than 26,000 lbs or reconstruct the road to provide a 16" subbase, 8" base, 2.5" binder and 1" top roadway section. She stated that although Rochester had not retained a geotechnical engineer to analyze the city roads through here, it is likely that a similar recommendation would be made and that the city roads in question (Hudsonville, Gear and Flagg) have not been constructed with the recommended pavement section. She also stated that Dover did something similar on all of their local roads, and that they have created an ordinance to limit through trucks on local roads to vehicles under 26,000 lbs Grosse Vehicle Weight Rating, she stated that the rating allows police officers to monitor without having access to a scale. Councilor Walker stated that they did not want to limit through trucks. Deputy Chief Dumas said the cost for the scales is between \$2,100.00 and \$4,600.00, plus a vehicle to tow them. He stated that Waste Management said that Rochester could use there scales. As long as it is within a ten mile radius they can run them up to Waste Management. Councilor Lachapelle asked Ms. Young if it would be appropriate to limit any trucks and keep the weight restriction lower than 26,000 lbs. Ms. Young stated that a concern in limiting any trucks would be that trucks such as Waste Management that do exceed 26,000 lbs. would not be able to use these roads. She stated that in Dover Waste Management can use the restricted roads because they are not considered

through trucks. Councilor Lachapelle stated that the Town of Barrington has still not voted on the Gravel Pit, and that even once the approvals are in place it will likely be some time before the pit is fully operational. This was kept in committee to see what the outcome of Barrington's meeting was.

4. Coast Bus Issues.

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young said that coast bus has there own grant. She stated they would probably hire SUR through the regular bid they have with the City of Rochester. The block grant would also be a potential to cover the cost but because there is a Coast Bus Community Grant that would likely be even easier to apply for. Councilor Savoie made a motion to recommend to City Council to approve the modifications to the proposed locations and approve the construction of the two shelters as long as the cost was covered through a grant funding source. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

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

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young said that the cost estimate that PSNH gave for the Industrial Park lightening is \$15,538.00. The City Manager and Director of Public Works have met with NHDOT. NHDOT is considering postponing the transfer of Route 11 for about 4 years and they are also considering completing the lighting work in the business park. The negotiating is on going. This was kept in committee until negotiations are finalized.

6. Main Street, East Rochester-Traffic Warning Light over the school signs

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas said that they had completed the speed analysis in this area and that the only consistent concern was that people were not slowing down during school hours. He stated that they could do a directed patrol of this, however, it may not be effective at this point as there are only a few weeks left of school. The police will pick up again at the beginning of the next school year. Councilor Walker stated that the signs at this location were older. Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend to City Counsel to replace the old school zone signs with new ones that are used near the schools, seconded by Councilor Hervey. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

7. Sheridan Avenue Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas said they did directed patrols in the area and there were not many violations and there was only two vehicles parking where there was "no parking" signs. It's only a 10 to 15 minute window of time in the afternoon that this is a problem. No action was taken.

8. Traffic Control-Intersection of Sunview and Forest Avenue

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas said there is no “stop” sign on Sunview Lane at the intersection of Sunview and Forest Ave. Councilor Savoie made a motion to recommend to City Council to install a “stop” sign on Sunview Lane at the intersection of Sunview and Forest Ave., seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

9. Parking Issues-Summer Street

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Some vehicles are getting tickets for being over the fog line. He said the lines were not striped in the correct location and should be restriped. Ms. Young stated that this road was redone just over a year ago and that blacking out the lines and restriping would not be attractive. She questioned whether it was illegal to park over the fog line or if they could simply leave the fog line as is and stop ticketing parked cars. Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend to City Council to paint over the current lines with black paint and repaint the fog lines, seconded by Councilor Savoie. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

10. Other

Birchwood Avenue

Councilor Savoie said 13 Birchwood Avenue has a “slow children” sign in the street. He wanted to know if they can do that. Councilor Walker said that home owners were not permitted to place signage in the city right of way, and that the sign can only be on private property. Deputy Chief Dumas asked if he should have a police officer approach the home owner. The committee did not think that was necessary at this time, and that Councilor Savoie would approach the homeowner first. No action was taken.

Salmon Falls Road

Councilor Hervey wanted to know what the outcome was of the horseback riding sign that was requested for Salmon Falls Road. Councilor Walker said he does not remember one coming to the Public Safety Committee. Councilor Hervey said near Broadview Animal Hospital there are horses that cross the road and that there is a hill right there and the vehicles can not see the horses. This was kept in committee and Ms. Young will see if there is an appropriate sign that could be placed in the area and see if this had been addressed in the past.

31 Chamberlain Street

Councilor Walker said he received an e-mail from Ms. Young about a tree that is in the city right-of-way. Ms. Young said that there is an existing, 3-phase – 32,500 volt power line going through a tree at the front of 31 Chamberlain Street. The power company is concerned that this is a safety issue and has directed the

arborist to trim the tree. The resident of 31 Chamberlain Street was very vocal about saving the tree. The tree company that does the work for the City of Rochester wanted support of the city before removing branches. Councilor Walker said if it is in the city's right-of-way and is a safety hazard the tree can be trimmed or removed as necessary to provide a safe condition. The committee did not think that this was something that would require full City Council approval as the tree is within the right-of-way. Ms. Young stated that she would direct the tree removal company to do the necessary work and have the resident call public works if there were any additional concerns.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Hervey. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Miller
Secretary II, DPW