

Public Safety Committee
Rochester Public Works Department
October 18, 2017
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Peter Nourse, P.E. Director of City Services
Michael Bezanson, P.E., City Engineer
Dan Camara, GIS Technician
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Councilor Ray Varney
Councilor Sandra Keans
David Walker
Geoff Hamann
Helen Gouveia, Cocheco River Estates
Jerry Gouveia, Cocheco River Estates
Devs Dupuis, Cocheco River Estates
John Dupuis, Cocheco Rvier Estates
Barbara Liebfried, Cocheco River Estates
Bill Golonka, Cocheco River Estates
Johann Golonka. Cocheco River Estates
Virginia Chappell, Cocheco River Estates
Diana Dacke, Cocheco Rvier Estates
Ann Heisler, Cocheco River Estates
Leslie Heisler, Cocheco River Estates

Minutes

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

1. Route 11 Light-Timing Study

Item #6 was moved up on the agenda. Residents of Cocheco River Estates on Route 11 were present to discuss the safety issues present when turning out of Cocheco River Estates onto Route 11. Jerry Gouveia of Cocheco River Estates sent an email to Councilor Gray regarding the traffic on Route 11. He stated that living so close to both the Spaulding Turnpike and the new Ridge Marketplace

shopping plaza has been fantastic and convenient, but the traffic is bad. He would like a traffic signal at the intersection to allow opportunity to enter onto Route 11. Councilor Gray responded to the email stating that the installation of a traffic signal in this location would be expensive and to do it the State normally wants the road widened with two lanes of traffic on each side, turn lanes and someone to pay for the improvements. As the Ridge continues to develop the loop road is planned to continue behind the apartments on the other side of Route 11. When this happens the Planning Board will most likely require the upgrade to the road and the light to be installed. Some of the residents of Cocheco River Estates were present to voice their concerns with the traffic. Bill Golonka of Cocheco River Estates stated he cannot get out of the park taking a left hand turn. He said it is very difficult to turn; it might help if the red light coming off Route 11 was 16 seconds longer, and right now the light change is pretty quick. He said there is no gap between traffic. Reverend Ronald Webber stated that the housing unit adds to the traffic. He is afraid someone will die on the street especially as the Ridge expands. Councilor Gray stated that some of the things that were being talked about are Planning Board functions. With Phase 2 and 3 there are traffic signals planned near the loop road at Crane Drive and Nashoba Drive; however, at this time the traffic study doesn't indicate that a traffic signal is warranted for the Nashoba Drive intersection. Councilor Hamann asked Mr. Bezanson who has the jurisdiction in this area, State or the city. Mr. Bezanson said the State does. He said that he has sent written correspondence to the State regarding a traffic signal at the Nashoba Drive intersection, including the petition signed by the residents of Cocheco River Estates. Councilor Gray said the Police Department will compile the accident data for this intersection and a letter can be sent to the State. Mr. Gouveia thanked Councilor Gray and Councilor Hamann for letting them come to the Public Safety Committee to discuss the issue. Councilor Hamann said he could ask the Strafford Regional Planning Commission to help bridge the gap with the State. Councilor Gates asked if the timing was changed on the traffic light near the over pass would that be enough of a break in traffic. A majority of the residents said yes.

2. GIS presentation

Dan Camara, GIS Technician was present to give a GIS Presentation on asset management.

3. Approve Minutes from September 20, 2017

Councilor Gates made a motion to approve the September 20, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

4. Public Input

The only members of the public present for Public Input were present for the Route 11 light-timing study which was moved up on the agenda.

5. Stop Sign-Ashwood/Watson Drive

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated there were no accidents in 2016 and 1 in 2017. Councilor Hamann asked Councilor Gray if he thought a stop sign was needed since he lives in the area. He said the one accident was probably someone who ran the stop sign. Committee felt stop sign was not needed, no action taken.

6. Colby Street-Crosswalk Visibility

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Albert Small sent an email to Councilor Gray regarding the speeding being done on Main Street and Colby Street. He lives with his 7 children on Colby Street. There is a large amount of large truck traffic on Colby Street. In addition to these traffic concerns they are concerned with the lack of visibility of the crosswalk at Colby and Main Street. They are looking for signs similar to those that Dover uses at some of their crosswalks when you press a button and bright LED lights flash to catch the attention of drivers. He is also requesting truck traffic over 23000 GVRW be restricted from Colby Street. The police department will do a directed patrol. This was left in committee until next month to get the results of the directed patrol. Fire Chief Mark Klose asked if temporary pedestrian signs are used in crosswalks in Rochester and Mr. Bezanson said yes, during the warmer months there are several that are put in crosswalks throughout the City.

7. Myrtle Street-Speeding Concerns

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that he tried to get up to speed on Myrtle Street and it is a short street with a stop sign in the middle. There was no action taken on this request.

8. Downtown Crosswalk Signage

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said there is money for safety issues. The Public Works Department had a consultant look at the downtown area crosswalks. Some of the recommended changes were simple and some included moving concrete ramps. Several signs relating to the crosswalks were mentioned, including 3 signs for right turning vehicles and 35 locations for pedestrian signs. Mr. Bezanson stated he just introducing the topic this month and would bring more details to the committee next month.

Councilor Gray made a motion to place a stop sign and a no left turn sign on Crocker Court near City Hall going onto Wakefield Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Councilor Hamann asked about painting sign routes on the road. Mr. Bezanson said they've begun using a different crosswalk style recommended by the consultants called "Continental" style.

9. Strawberry/Cider Hill-Dark Corner

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. This request came from Councilor Keans, there is a dark corner in this area. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there is a light at the intersection and one at the right of the intersection but no street-light at the corner. Councilor Gray said to stay with the street-light policy which is every 3rd pole, 1 or both may have to move to stay within the criteria. This was kept in committee until next month; Mr. Bezanson will get an overview from Pictometry. .

10. Other

Parking Columbus Avenue

Councilor Hamann said that he was going to bring up the parking issue on Columbus Avenue, but Councilor Varney said not to worry about it, it was just because they were paving.

Handicap Parking at City Hall Parking Lot

Mr. Nourse, Director of City Services, said they will be repaving the City Hall parking lot in the future. There are 7 handicap spaces that are normally empty. He thinks there are more spaces than needed. Councilor Hamann said the 2 handicap spaces by the side door are coming out, so there will only be 3 in this area. Councilor Gray said the only handicap accessible area is the door by the

Annex. Councilor Gray said they should ask planning how many handicap spaces are needed. He also said there may be employees that may need to use the handicap spaces. Councilor Hamann said they should meet the minimum on handicap spots.

Designated Parking Spots for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Klose said it was his understanding that there use to be designated parking for the Fire Department by the fence before the construction and wanted to know if this is something they want to bring back. He said there are 9 people to a shift and a majority of them use the City Hall parking lot. Councilor Gray said they could look in to a stacking arrangement, they don't need to assess their vehicles when they are on their shift. Fire Chief Klose said he would work with Mr. Nourse on the parking.

Rochester Housing Authority-Wyandotte Falls

Mr. Nourse said the Housing Authority would like no trespassing signs because the area has been cleared of brush and there is a retaining wall down below and the kids like to sled in the area and it's very dangerous. Deputy Chief Boudreau said this would be a low priority issue, by the time the police get there they would be gone.

Norway Plains Development

Mr. Nourse said the developer of Norway Plains road needed to extend the side walk. He stated that the crosswalk across the road needs to be blacked out immediately. It's very dangerous, there is no signal and it's inviting trouble. Councilor Gray said there is money for sidewalks in the budget. Councilor Hamann asked how much sidewalk was added. Mr. Nourse said 500 feet. Councilor Gray said the only way to get the crosswalk removed sooner is to talk to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Mr. Nourse said he was just letting the committee know it needs to be done immediately. Councilor Gray stated that the Commissioner has notified the Committee of a hazardous condition within 72 hours of the safety issue.

Prospect Street- Speed Trailer Data

Deputy Chief Boudreau had the results of the speed trailer on Prospect Street. The speed trailer was placed on Prospect Street from September 27 to October

15, 2017. The majority of the vehicles were going 21 to 30 mph, which was 47.9 percent. 40 percent of the vehicles were going 11 to 20 mph. 7 percent were going 31 to 40 percent and there was 3 vehicles going 31 to 50 mph.

Public Safety Festival

Fire Chief Klose wanted to mention that the first Public Safety Festival that the Fire Department put on was a huge success. It was attended by over 500 people. The burn cells and an antique fire truck was there, they also handed out free smoke detectors.

New Hampshire Association of Fire Chief Meeting.

Mr. Klose said that the City of Rochester hosted the NH Association of Fire Chief Meeting and was a great turn out and they are on the docket to host next October as well.

Change Setting on Traffic Lights near Cocheco River Estates

Councilor Gates asked if the traffic light settings could be changed to give Cocheco River Estates a little relief in getting out of there park. Mr. Bezanson will talk with the State of NH.

Ebony Drive-Speed Issues

Mr. Bezanson said that a request came in for a speed limit sign on Ebony Drive. Deputy Chief Boudreau will have a directed patrol done in the area.

Councilor Barnett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.

