

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2020
6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

Members Present

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair
Councilor Palana Belken
Councilor Peter Lachapelle
Councilor Chris Rice

Members Absent

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Tech
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD
Mark Klose, Fire Chief

Councilor Hamann brought the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00PM and he read the following statement:

Good Evening, as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, State and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of City government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

a.) Public Input: Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the City of Rochester will be taking extra steps to allow for public input, while still ensuring participant safety and social distancing. In lieu of attending the meeting, those wishing to share comments, when permitted, with the Public Safety Committee (Public Hearing and/or Workshop settings) are encouraged to do so by the following methods:

- **Mail: Public Safety Committee, Rochester DPW 45 Old Dover Road
Rochester, NH 03867 (*must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date*)**
- **Email: laura.miller@rochesternh.net (*must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date*)**
- **Voicemail: 603-335-7569 (*must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed*)**

Please include with your correspondence the intended meeting date for which you are submitting. All correspondence will be included with the corresponding

meeting packet (Addendum).

In addition to the above listed public access information, the City Council will be allowing the public to enter Council Chambers and speak in person during the Public Input portion of this meeting. In an effort to adhere to CDC guidelines; enter only at the front Wakefield Street entrance and exit on the side closest to the police department and adhere to 6-foot social distancing while inside. Hand sanitizer and facemasks will be available at the Wakefield Street entrance. Participants will be admitted into Council Chambers one at a time to speak and will exit directly thereafter. Please note; the seating in Council Chambers will not be available for the public during meetings.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting by phone. The public can call-in to the below number using the conference code. This meeting will be set to allow the public to “listen-in” only and there will be no public comment taken via conference line during the meeting.

Phone number: 857-444-0744 Conference code: 843095

b.) Roll Call: Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name (and/or ward), also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law. (Additionally, Council members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.)

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name and ward, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law. Additionally, Committee members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.

Councilor Peter Lachapelle	Ward 3 Present
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson	Ward 5 (Excused Absent)
Councilor Chris Rice	Ward 5 Present
Councilor Palana Belken	Ward 2 Present
Councilor Don Hamann	Ward 5 Present

1. Public Input

There were no members of the public present for public input.

2. Gonic Road/Oak Street/Coby Street Intersection-Turning Movement

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson gave credit to the Police Department for noticing a camera that had been installed recently at the intersection by the State of NH DOT. Mr. Bezanson said that he reached out to NHDOT and they replied with a message stating it was a point, tilt, and zoom camera to monitor the traffic at the intersection while they refine the signal phasing. NHDOT stated that they had some controller issues and hoped to finish the

intersection work and remove the camera by the end of the month. The camera is producing a live feed and no recording is being done. Mr. Bezanson will keep the Committee informed regarding this intersection.

3. Speeding Concerns-Cemetery Road (follow-up)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there were no speeding issues based on the data on the speed trailer. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that he was able to go back 5 years for accident data and there was 1 accident at the intersection of Flagg Road; there were no other issues with speed or other accidents on Cemetery Road. Councilor Lachapelle stated he reached out to the resident that had the concern and at this time he hasn't heard back from her and he also stated that by his observation traffic on Flagg Road to Route 125 seemed to be going much faster than on Cemetery Road. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if he had heard back from the State regarding a signal at the intersection of Gear Road and Route 125. Mr. Bezanson said he had not heard back from NHDOT and said that they probably wouldn't consider a signal unless a study was done to see if the intersection warranted a signal or if there was a political reason to have a traffic signal there. Mr. Bezanson said he would follow-up with NHDOT. Councilor Lachapelle said other than waiting to hear from the State there is really nothing else that can be done at this point. Mr. Bezanson said he had a few other issues to bring up to the State and he will follow-up with this at the same time and get back to the Committee.

4. Street Light Request-Corner of Juniper Street and Meadow Lane

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Pappalardo called DPW regarding a street light requested at the corner of Juniper and Meadow. He stated there is a pole already there with no light and the area is extremely dark. Councilor Hamann asked Mr. Bezanson if this location meets the guidelines of the City's Street Light Policy. Mr. Bezanson said the Policy includes installation of intersections with no existing light. He also stated that this intersection is the only intersection in the neighborhood that does not currently have a street light, and that this intersection is no less important regarding a need to be lit than any of the other intersections on Juniper Street. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install a street light at the intersection of Juniper Street and Meadow Lane. Councilor Belken seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion.***

Councilor Lachapelle	Ward 3	Yes
Councilor Rice	Ward 5	Yes
Councilor Belken	Ward 2	Yes
Councilor Hamann	Ward 5	Yes

5. E911 Update

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that they didn't meet this month and that nothing was passed down to him from the Fire Marshall Tim Wilder. There was a meeting with City staff to go over a perspective SOP (standard operating procedure) for the committee.

6. Emergency Management Update

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Chief Klose said there was a big storm coming in tonight starting around 11pm into about 1pm tomorrow. He stated to have the residents get their vehicles off the road so the plows could do their jobs and if you didn't have to be out to stay home. The storm and clean up would be going on for 24 to 36 hours. Councilor Hamann also stated that it would be helpful if you have a fire hydrant near your residence, if you could shovel in out, to help the Fire Department. Chief Klose said that, yes that would be helpful and it would have to be shoveled 3 feet all around the hydrant for them to get access to it.

7. Covid-19 Statistics Update

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Chief Klose said that last week there were 107 positive cases in the City and yesterday there were 52 positive cases in the City. The State of NH changed their recording system as of yesterday and as people come off their 10-day quarantine numbers change, last meeting the quarantine was 14 days; as the guidelines changed and the antigen testing was added into the numbers, today the positive cases were 208. Chief Klose said the numbers are increasing; there was some good news that one of the local living facilities was at 30 positive cases and as of yesterday there were 0 new cases. DHHS has been working with them and the facility has been following the guidelines and the staff will continue to be tested weekly. Chief Klose said the vaccine was here Tier 1A will be 1st responders, healthcare and long term facility. The process will begin December 26th or the week of the 28th of December. They are awaiting approval of the Moderna vaccine, which should be approved tomorrow. In late December into January the vaccine will go to the Police, Fire and EMS; this is volunteer and dispatchers aren't included because they do not have direct patient contact. Tiers 3 and 4 are for the general public it should be available by March, April, or May. The vaccine is a 2 shot process, Pfizer has 21 days between shots and Moderna's interval is 28 days. There will be 10 fixed vaccine stations and 3 mobile stations, they are talking about having 50 to 60 thousand people a week vaccinated. Rochester is a dispensing city; there were two locations proposed: one at the Rochester Middle School and the other at the Community Center. Mark Klose and Mike Riley met with the National Guard at the Community Center and ended up suggesting that the armory on Brock Street would be a better location because the vaccine has to be monitored and locked up every night. Councilor Rice thanked Chief Klose for updates. He also asked about traffic issues during vaccine hours. Deputy Chief Boudreau is the point of contact for traffic and the concerns during the vaccine hours. To get the vaccine you will have to register online. Councilor Rice asked about making Brock Street a 1 way during this time. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the idea has been considered.

8. Other

690 Pickering Road-Sign Request

Councilor Hamann stated that a request came in for signage near 690 Pickering

Road. Susan Miltner is requesting signage at the roadway curve in this area; she is concerned about the many accidents that have been happening and thinks signage showing the corners may help the situation. Mr. Bezanson said that the request just came in today and that he didn't have time to fully evaluate the situation yet; but, there is existing advance warning signage existing in each direction. Mr. Bezanson said that he would evaluate whether the existing signage meets MUCTD standards and whether additional signage would be warranted, such as chevron signs at the curves. He may also need to coordinate with Dover, as the curves are located close to the City line. This was kept in Committee and Mr. Bezanson will evaluate the area and get back to the Committee.

Councilor Hamann adjourned the meeting at 6:36 PM.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. Miller, Admin Assistant II.