

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair
Councilor Dana Berlin
Councilor Alexander de Geofroy
Councilor Skip Gilman
Councilor Amy Malone

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas, PD
Robert Benoit, Mitchell Hill BBQ, 50 N. Main St
Sergei Markovskii, 119 Oak Street

Minutes

Councilor Lachapelle brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Approve Minutes from Public Safety Meeting.

Councilor Berlin MOVED to approve the minutes from December 21, 2022. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

Members of the audience present were there for specific items on the agenda.

3. Crosswalk Lights and Speeding Issues on North Main Street (Request from Mayor Callaghan)

Item # 7 was moved up on the agenda. Robert Benoit, owner of Mitchell Hill BBQ at 50 North Main Street, was present to discuss safety issues with downtown crosswalks and speeding issues on North Main Street. Mr. Benoit mentioned that due to traffic speed safety concerns they will probably no longer offer outside dining. He said vehicles are going too fast and they cannot see pedestrians in the crosswalk on North Main Street at Factory Court; he said there are truly safety issues in this area. Mr. Benoit said a flashing light may work in this area like the one recently installed in downtown Gonic and wanted to know if it was a portable sign. Mr. Bezanson stated that it is not a portable sign. Mr. Benoit said the flashing light by the Lilac City Grille does work for pedestrians crossing the road; you really notice it. He requested that the speed limit be dropped to 25 mph. Mr. Bezanson said that after the last action by City Council for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) on Columbus Avenue by KFC there likely was not enough budget remaining for the installation of another during this fiscal year. Councilor Berlin said this area would be perfect for a raised speed table crosswalk. Councilor de Geofroy asked if there was a list of crosswalks that needs signs and lights. Mr. Bezanson said the Committee as a whole could come up with a list of crosswalks for safety improvements. Councilor Lachapelle said we should focus on downtown right now. ***Councilor Lachapelle MOVED to change the***

speed limit to 25 mph on North Main Street from Strafford Square through downtown to South Main Street at the intersection with Franklin Street and from that intersection on South Main Street through downtown to Wakefield Street at the intersection with Chestnut Hill Road. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Oak Street-Sign near 119 Oak Street (kept in committee)

Sergei Markovskii of 119 Oak Street was present to discuss the issue of the roadside ditch that is pretty deep right before his driveway with practically no shoulder and the road turns slightly left in the westbound direction in this area. There have been numerous incidents where a car drifts off the road into the ditch and smashes into his driveway. Mr. Bezanson stated that there is no shoulder to be able to place delineators. An option is to extend the culvert and that this work can be done in house the cost would be labor and materials. Mr. Bezanson said they would have to go out check the area closely to make sure the water would flow correctly and find the correct pipe size then the area can be filled in and delineators can be placed. Kept in committee. Mr. Bezanson will check the area for a proper water flow and pipe size for a possible culvert extension in this area.

5. Emergency Call Box (Request from Councilor Berlin) Kept in Committee

This item has been removed from the agenda.

6. Intersection of Summer and Columbus-Request to change Pedestrian Walk Sign to Push button (Request came in from City Manager's office)

Mr. Bezanson will update the Committee when he has information. Mr. Bezanson said that the walk signal is very short and that DPW staff tried to fix this in house but could not. The contractor we use for traffic lights will be called in to look at this signal. Kept in committee.

7. Sarah Court-Request to install "no parking" signs (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue and said that Waste Management trucks back down Sarah Court and the automatic arm is on the righthand side of the truck. Mr. Bezanson said for winter maintenance DPW uses a loader with a push blade; the snow is piled at the end of the road until it is removed with a loader and trucked away. ***Councilor Berlin MOVED to recommend to full Council to install "no parking" signs on the left side looking down Sarah Court. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.***

8. Salmon Falls Road Noise Abatement Signs (Request from Councilor Gilman)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. This item will be discussed at the February Public Safety Committee meeting. He stated that he does not want the residents to fight, but wants to discuss the pros and cons of both sides.

9. Other

Wakefield Crosswalk in front of Grace Community Church

Councilor de Geofroy said there is a parking spot that large vehicles park in and when

people are trying to cross you cannot see them. Councilor Lachapelle said he thinks there a policy that you can park with in a certain distance of a crosswalk. Mr. Bezanson said yes you cannot park a certain distance in advance of a crosswalk. **Councilor de Geofroy MOVED to recommend to full Council to install “no parking” striping south of the crosswalk on Wakefield Street near Linscott Court. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.**

North Main Street Crosswalk

Councilor Gilman said he thought it was good idea to add the flashing lights to the North Main Street crosswalk discussed earlier in the meeting. Councilor Lachapelle said they would work on a policy for raised tables and flashing lights for next month and ask Councilor Berlin if he wanted to start it. Councilor Berlin said he already has.

Chelsey Hill Road Striping Follow-up

Mr. Bezanson shared an update from last month’s discussion regarding striping on Chesley Hill Road. He said that DPW has an annual contract with a cost for road striping by the foot. Chelsey Hill Road is approximately 7,200 feet long; this year’s cost to stripe the entire roadway length once would be \$1,850.00. Councilor Lachapelle thinks that would be great, but wondered whether it makes more sense to only stripe a certain section around the curves. Mr. Bezanson said he measured the area including the two curves and it is approximately 1,900 feet long; that equates to an amount of approximately \$500.00 with this year’s rates. Councilor Berlin asked if it could be separated the double yellow and white lines. Mr. Bezanson said yes they can, but he would recommend striping the double yellow and the white edge lines around the curves. **Councilor Lachapelle MOVED to recommend to full Council to stripe double yellow and two white lines on Chelsey Hill Road between Donald and Browning. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.**

Salmon Falls Road Deer Crossing Sign

Councilor Lachapelle said that he received an email from Councilor Fontneau mentioning that he had a constituent that has requested “deer crossing” signs on Salmon Falls Road between Whitehall and Haven Hill Roads. Deputy Chief Thomas had provided Councilor Lachapelle with data that there were 8 deer hit in that area in the last year. Mr. Bezanson said there is a standard MUTCD sign for deer crossing, but does not know if DPW has any in stock. **Councilor Lachapelle MOVED to recommend to full Council to place “deer crossing” signs on Salmon Falls Road between Whitehall Road and Haven Hill Road in each direction at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.**

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:57 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin and Utility Billing Supervisor