

**Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2023
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair
Councilor Alexander de Geofroy
Councilor Skip Gilman

Members Absent

Councilor Dana Berlin (excused)
Councilor Amy Malone

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Jarrod Norris, P.E. Assistant City Engineer
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas, PD

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

1. Approve Minutes from Public Safety Meeting

Councilor Gilman MOVED to approve the minutes from April 19, 2023 Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

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

3. Salmon Falls Road Speed Limit Issue and Electronic Sign Placement (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. At last month's Public Safety Committee Meeting the Police Department submitted a list of streets that may warrant the electronic sign that is currently placed on Salmon Falls Road. One of the areas is on North Main Street by Poulin's heading into town. Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief Thomas if the sign might benefit being placed closer to town by the circle. Deputy Chief Thomas stated that the speed trailer was placed downtown from April 1st through May 16th 2023 on the square there was 112,345 vehicles with the average speed being 18.53 mph and the average speed 24.51. He said there doesn't seem to be a speeding issue there is always the perception that they maybe going faster. Mr. Bezanson said they are constructing the Strafford Square not sure how that will calm traffic getting around the the circle and that the 25 mph speed limit signs will be posted soon, not sure how they will help. Councilor de Geofroy stated if the data is not supporting speeding it could be distracting drivers and not paying attention to pedestrians trying to cross the road. Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief Thomas if the list was in order of importance, Deputy Chief Thomas said it was not. Councilor Lachapelle read the list of 8 streets aloud to the committee.

1. Whitehall Road before the Hospital
2. Portland Street area of Flower Street heading in to town
3. Washington Street coming into town before Lowes

4. Portland Street in East Rochester at the bottom of the hill by the East Rochester School
5. Ten Rod Road coming into town by Industrial Way
6. Eastern Avenue coming into town
7. Walnut Street by Twombly coming into town
8. North Main Street by Poulin's heading into town

Councilor Lachapelle said that the raise tables are still at the Public Works Committee, so he doesn't think they should make a decision tonight. Councilor de Geofroy asked if the police department had any accident data for these specific areas to see if the speed is contributing to accidents. **(kept in committee)**

4. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin was not in attendance and this is still in the Public Works Committee, Director of City Services Peter Nourse is looking into this. **(kept in committee)**

5. Quarry Drive Requesting Additional Speed Limit Sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Thomas said that the speed trailer was placed on Lowell Street in the area where the speed limit sign was requested. March 29, through April 27, 2023 there was a total of 8,805 vehicles the average speed was 32.5 mph and the speed limit is 30 mph. Chief Thomas recalls the concern was vehicles travelling from Harding Street to Lowell Street. Mr. Bezanson could recommend an additional speed limit sign as it is a long stretch. Councilor Gilman suggested moving the sign down the street a little.

Councilor de Geofroy MOVED to recommend to full Council to install "30 mph" in the area Hillside Drive at the discretion of DPW Councilor Gilman seconded seconded the motion. Mr. Bezanson said the cut through traffic from Harding may go into this neighborhood. ***Councilor de Geofroy amended his motion to install 30 mph speed limit sign between the 2 Churches on Lowell Street at the discretion of DPW. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. The MOTIONED CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

6. Street Light Request-53 Gear Road (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. He said that coming from 125 to Gear Road there is a series of lights then there is a gap by 53 Gear Road. Councilor Lachapelle stated it does meet the street light policy. **Councilor Lachapelle MOVED to recommend to full Council to install street-light on pole near 53 Gear Road at the discretion of DPW. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. The MOTIONED CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

7. Crowhill Road-Requesting "Dead End" or "No Outlet" Sign (kept in committee)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson checked to see what kind of sign would be appropriate because this is a class 6 road that the city maintains until the driveway. **Councilor Gilman MOVED to recommend to full council to install a "no thru street" sign on Crowhill by Copper Lane. Councilor de**

Geofroy seconded the motion. THE MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

8. Meadow Lane-Requesting Warning Signs

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. The request came in from the mayor for some sort of warning sign. Councilor Lachapelle said there was already a warning sign there. Mr. Bezanson did say there was a warning sign there, he stated he drove the area to see how bad the curve was and said you have to drive slow to maneuver the it. He also stated you can add an advisory speed sign there, he said it is not enforceable but it will warn people of the 90 degree curve and to slow down. Mr. Bezanson also said he spoke with an abutter near Meadow Lane and he said it is a problematic area if you do not know the area. The abutter also said he was ok with whatever sign the committee wanted to put up to help the area. The phase three construction is almost complete Mr. Bezanson was not sure if they would utilize this area for a detour for that or not. Mr. Bezanson recommends changing the existing signs to 90 degree angled curve signs and adding a lower advisory speed sign. **Councilor de Geofroy MOVE to recommend to full Council to install a “90 degree turn” sign with a 10 mph advisory” speed sign in both directions near curve on Meadow Lane. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. The MOTION CARRIED 3 to 1 with Councilor Gilman opposed to the “advisory speed sign”.**

9. Other

Mr. Bezanson said that this would be his last meeting and it was a pleasure to serve the Public Safety Committee and the City for 9 ½ years and he appreciated the opportunity. Councilor Lachapelle to Mr. Bezanson it was a pleasure working with you and hates to see him go but was happy for him. Mr. Bezanson introduced Jarrod Norris to the committee who will be taking over Mr. Bezanson duties on the committee. Councilor Lachapelle ask Mr. Bezanson if he would pass on the items that have been in committee to Mr. Norris.

Councilor Lachapelle said the next Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on June 21, 2023.

Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief Thomas if a meeting could be set up with him, the Police Department and the gentleman with the issue with the Oak Street target shooting.

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:28 PM.

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