

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
May 18, 2016
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann
Councilor Ray Barnett
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor James Gray
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Deputy Chief Toussaint, Police Dept.
Kristine Connor, 11 Gagne Street
Jim Reynolds, Hansonville Road
Beverly Cray, Wildcat Transportation

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from April 20, 2016

The first order of business was to approve the April 20, 2016 minutes. *Councilor Gates made a motion to approve the April 20, 2016 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*

2. Public Input

Jim Reynolds of Hansonville Road was present to discuss the 6-wheel dump truck traffic that travels to and from the gravel pit in Barrington. They use Hansonville Road to get to the gravel pit even though it is a posted road. Deputy Chief Toussaint said one of his day shift officers is working on this. Mr. Reynolds stated he is not trying to get anybody in trouble; he just doesn't want them traveling on a posted road and prematurely deteriorating the road. They seem to start around 7 or 8 in the morning. Deputy Chief Toussaint is working on it and will get back to the committee next month.

3. Pine Street-On Street Parking Striping (resident request)

Councilor Hamann stated he has no information on this request. This was kept in committee until there is more information.

4. Dynasty-Street Light Request (business request)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that although the request appeared to be for a new street light, there is an existing light at the intersection of Signal and Leonard Streets. The street light is out, however; so a work order has been called in to Eversource for a repair/replacement. Councilor Gray asked Mr. Bezanson to let him and Councilor Bogan know when it was repaired so they can get back to the person who requested it.

5. Wildcat Transit-Gonic Bus Stop (Wildcat request)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle stated there is a lot of traffic and congestion in this area. Ms. Cray of the UNH Wildcat Transit stated when she spoke with Councilor Lachapelle it was intended that the funding for this route would run out by the end of summer. Other runs were cut due to low amounts of riders so this run in Gonic would be on the schedule for 2 more years. Councilor Lachapelle asked if the riders that use the Gonic bus stop could go a little further to Lowes. Ms. Cray said they use the Gonic stop because they spend less time on the bus. She also stated more people get off at that stop than on in the morning. For the month of April, 26 boarded on Colby Street and 35 got off; she said about 1 person a day. Councilor Lachapelle asked if the stop could be moved; Ms. Cray said moving it would cause more time on the bus. They already moved it away from Colby Street due to complaints that riders were on residents' lawns. She said that they would be willing to take the Gonic bus run off the schedule if they could wait till the fall. Councilor Gray said the Gonic Mill is there maybe the vehicles can park there. Ms. Cray said it would take more time for the route and the roads are narrow. Councilor Lachapelle said he will let people know that the Gonic bus run would be eliminated when the new fall schedule is released.

6. Meaderboro Road/Route 202A Intersection-Mirror Request (non-resident request)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. It was agreed that a mirror was not a typical safety feature at a public roadway intersection. Mr. Bezanson had checked with the NHDOT and they stated that there are no safety improvement projects planned for this intersection in the near future. Mr. Bezanson also stated that an email from NHDOT received by Public Works a few years ago acknowledged that geometric anomalies at the intersection create a problem that should be addressed by an intersection improvement project. Councilor Gray said a letter could be sent to NHDOT start such a project. Mr. Bezanson will send a letter to that effect. Councilor Hamann asked if the town of Farmington could be copied on the e-mail since the request originated in Farmington; then, if they choose to contact the resident who originally sent the request it would be their decision.

7. River Street-No Parking Striping (kept in committee)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson stated that the pavement is 26 feet wide curb-to-curb and only 18 feet wide with a parked car. It would be difficult to stripe “no parking” there, since it would only be 4 feet wide. Deputy Chief Toussaint said waiting is not an issue; there is not a huge volume of traffic. Mr. Bezanson also said it’s a low volume road and waiting does not seem to be a problem, since there is not a queuing issue. Ms. Connors of 11 Gagne Street said during Fair time there is a lot of traffic and she has a hard time seeing past the parked cars. Councilor Hamann said he thinks there are 2 areas that need to be looked at and only the area by the school was looked at. This was kept in committee until Deputy Chief Toussaint can check out the area.

8. Home Depot/North Main Street Intersection-Traffic Signal Timing (update)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said they took a close look at the signal timing on a few different days and times. The timing is functioning well and there is no queuing. The Cumberland Farms/McDonald’s light allows 3 to 4 cars to go before changing. Giving more time to that light will affect other legs of the intersection. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to keep the Home Depot/ North Main street traffic lights as is. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

9. Other

Intersection of Salmon Falls/202-Traffic Lights

Councilor Lachapelle said the light at the intersection of Salmon Falls and 202 changes quickly. Kept in committee-Mr. Bezanson will take a look and get back to the committee next month.

Intersection of Estes/Washington Street

Councilor Gates said he thinks the State DOT did a great job with the intersection, and wanted to know if Mr. Bezanson could send a letter to the State letting them know what a great job was done. Mr. Bezanson said he certainly can send a letter to the State.

Salmon Falls Project Meeting

Councilor Gray stated a resident said she was promised the speed trailer on Salmon Falls Road and she has not seen it yet. Deputy Chief Toussaint said Salmon Falls Road is patrolled regularly, but he will have the speed trailer placed on Salmon Falls Road.

Wakefield/Columbus-Red Light

Deputy Chief Toussaint and Mr. Bezanson both reported on the Wakefield/Columbus Street Light. Mr. Bezanson said the “red hand” portion of the pedestrian signal was not flashing, causing the appearance of a very short pedestrian signal. The pedestrian signal has been fixed and the “red hand” now flashes. One “red hand” light appears to be out, but will be fixed soon.

City Hall "no parking" signs

Mr. Bezanson said the Opera House is concerned about parking for Friday nights. The sign currently says 2 hour parking, Mon.-Thurs. 9am -5 pm, Friday 9am-9pm. The Opera House would like the same as Mon-Thurs. Councilor Hamann will find out some history on these signs that were placed. Councilor Lachapelle said he is reluctant to change the signs until he finds out why they were posted that way. Kept in committee until they can find out some history.

Salmon Falls Road HSIP Project Update

Mr. Bezanson said that this safety improvement project that will address two curves on Salmon Falls Road cannot be bid until funds are available from the State after October 1, 2016. The bidding will take place in the winter time and construction is now planned for next year.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.