

Public Safety Committee  
Council Chambers  
August 17, 2016  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilor James Gray (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Deputy Chief Toussaint, Police Dept.  
Anthony Lazzaro, 81 Whitehouse Road  
Bradford Kenyon, 88 Whitehouse Road

Minutes

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

1. Approve Minutes from July 20, 2016

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

2. Public Input

Anthony Lazzaro of 81 Whitehouse Road and Bradford Kenyon of 88 Whitehouse Road were present to discuss speeding issues on Whitehouse Road. Mr. Lazzaro stated that he has lived at his residence for 44 years and has seen 2 deaths: an 8 year old and a 16 year old girl, both related to speed and alcohol. He lives right on one of the hills and says it's like a race track. He said vehicles often travel at 50 mph and many drivers are on their cell phones. He also stated that the street paving will make a smoother surface, resulting in increased speeding issues. He went to DPW in the spring to ask for an additional speed limit sign facing the Somersworth side; he said a sign ended up being installed on the other side of the road. He said Waste Management trucks that carry the roll-offs often speed on Whitehouse. Councilor Lachapelle said he works for Waste Management and said each truck has a GPS unit installed that record time and location; he will look into this further. Mr. Lazzaro also stated that he has called the police department in the past and they have sent a directed patrol, which helps with the speeding for a while, but eventually the speeding returns. The traffic at 6:30 AM seems to be the worst. Mr. Lazzaro said that they should have "blind driveway" signs as well. Councilor Lachapelle

asked if Mr. Lazarro thought more speed limit signs would help. Mr. Lazarro said he thinks that more police presence would help more than the speed limit signs. Mr. Lazzaro said that in other areas of the country speed trailers are used to take photos of license plate numbers of speeding vehicles, which is used to generate a ticket. Deputy Chief Toussaint said the police department does not have that technology. With that technology the owner of the vehicle may not be the one driving the vehicle, but they would get the ticket. The police department uses their speed trailer to track how many vehicles, time of day, and speed. This lets them know if and when there is a problem, so that resources can be targeted effectively. Mr. Kenyon said he has lived at 88 Whitehouse Road for 11 years; he lives at the bottom of one of the hills. He said there should be at least two blind driveway signs on the road. He reiterated that the new pavement will create even more of a racetrack. He said that the police department could use the area at his property by the stone wall for directed patrols. Deputy Chief Toussaint said that Whitehouse Road is one of the known problem areas. Councilor Lachapelle suggested doing some direct patrols for now and to keep the blind drive request in committee to get more information on the area.

3. Estes Road - School Bus Sign Request

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Kyle Repucci, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, has requested "school bus stop ahead" signs on Estes Road near house #128, which is on the curve near the intersection of Howard Brook Drive. The School Department is willing to pay for the signs. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install "school bus stop ahead" signs at the discretion of DPW, with the condition that the School Department will pay for the signs. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

4. Profile Bank - Site Line Safety Concern

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. There has been a pickup truck that has been parked in the first space by the exit of Profile Bank on Summer Street. Although the truck was legally parked, it had been there for a long time and was creating a difficult situation for vehicles attempting to exit Profile Bank at that location. It was difficult to see traffic coming from the left on Summer Street due to the location of the parked pickup truck. Deputy Chief Toussaint said that the truck had been broken down for a month, and has since been removed from the area. He stated that this was an isolated incident and that there have been no other complaints. No action was taken.

5. Strafford Square - Intersection Safety Concern - Signage Request

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. A resident relayed an incident that occurred at the Strafford Square intersection where a vehicle blocked part of the intersection waiting to turn left onto North Main Street. The resident requested a "Do Not Block Intersection" sign. Councilor Lachapelle asked when the roundabout project was going to start. Mr. Bezanson stated that the first part of this project is scheduled to go out to bid this winter and start construction in the spring. No action was taken. Councilor Hamann will contact the person to let them know the Strafford Square construction will start soon.

6. St. Leo Church - Handicap Parking Request (kept in committee to review area)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that DPW had looked into what it would take to install handicap parking on the street. In order to install a proper ADA-compliant handicap parking space(s), the sidewalk would need to be relocated; however, the City's right-of-way is not wide enough to accommodate the new location of the sidewalk. Significant funds would be necessary for the project and property would need to be acquired from the Church. No action was taken. Councilor Hamann will contact the Church.

7. Ten Rod Road/Tebbetts Road - Horse Crossing Signs (kept in committee - pending info)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson shared with the Committee the location of the existing signs on Ten Rod Road. The signs are near the veterinarian clinic. There was some discussion regarding horses on Blackwater Road, rather than Tebbetts Road. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to take no action unless this request comes back to the Committee with more information. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

8. Other

*Olde Farm Lane - Deaf Person Signs*

Councilor Hamann stated that residents of Olde Farm Lane were present at the last City Council meeting inquiring about the installation of "Deaf Person" signs on their street. Mr. Bezanson stated that DPW does have "Deaf Person" signs in stock and they will be installed near 72 Olde Farm Lane soon.

*Portland Street - Remove "Deaf Child" Sign*

Mr. Bezanson said the "Deaf Child" sign near 372 Portland Street is on the schedule to be removed soon.

#### *Wildcat Transit - Gonic Bus Stop*

Mr. Bezanson said that the current Wildcat Transit schedule ends next week and that the new schedule starts August 29, 2016. The Gonic bus stop has been eliminated from the new schedule.

#### *Chestnut Hill Road - Stony Brook Coop Mobile Home Park Entrance*

Mr. Bezanson said that DPW has been in communication with Eversource and representatives of the MHP. The natural topography of the ground creates an obstruction for vehicles exiting the MHP from the northernmost entrance road. Eversource has stated that it's a sizeable amount of material that needs to be removed, but wanted to do it when they had another project in the area. The MHP representatives had mentioned possibly installing "blind driveway" signs near this entrance to the MHP. Councilor Lachapelle asked if any legal action could be taken. Deputy Chief Toussaint said it is more of the lay of the land than a mound of deposited material. Councilor Gates asked if there was any knowledge of accidents in the area. Deputy Chief Toussaint said he didn't know of any right off hand. This was kept in committee; the police department will get information on any accidents in the area and Mr. Bezanson will look to see if the area warrants "blind driveway" signs.

#### *Charles Street/May Street - No Parking Sign*

Mr. Bezanson said there is a line of sight issue when exiting May Street onto Charles Street. Residents have requested no parking on the corner of Charles Street immediately south of May Street. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install a "no parking here to corner" sign at the discretion of DPW on Charles Street at the May Street intersection. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

#### *Charles Street - New Crosswalk*

Mr. Bezanson said that the sidewalk on the east side of Charles Street ends by the house at 160 Charles Street near the gas station. There are no crosswalks on Charles Street for more than 2000 feet from the Columbus Avenue intersection. In order to provide connectivity for the sidewalks on Charles Street, Mr. Bezanson is proposing a new crosswalk at a location just over 400 feet from the Columbus Avenue intersection on Charles Street. ADA-compliant curb ramps would be installed under the current sidewalk contract. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install a new crosswalk and***

*associated curb ramps on Charles Street at a location approximately 400 feet from the Columbus Avenue intersection. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*

*Downtown Two-Hour Parking Signs*

Mr. Bezanson said that the DPW Highway Supervisor was preparing to replace several of the downtown "two hour parking" signs and wondered whether the Council would be supportive of standardizing those with effective hours. Currently there are two versions of these signs in the downtown area, each with different effective hours: either "8AM-5PM MON-FRI" or "MON-THUR 9AM TO 5PM FRIDAYS 9AM TO 9PM". There are also signs that simply state "TWO HOUR PARKING". There was some discussion that the later effective hours on Fridays was no longer necessary. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to standardize to "TWO HOUR PARKING 8AM-5PM MON-FRI" signs in the downtown. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.