

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
March 21, 2018
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson
Councilor Geoff Hamann
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, P.E., City Engineer
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Jason O'Brien, 129 Eastern Ave.
Emily Pelletier, President Rochester Main St.

Minutes

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

1. Public Input

The members of the public present were there for items already on the agenda.

2. 129 Eastern Ave. - Streetlight Request

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Jason O'Brien of 129 Eastern Avenue was present to discuss the need for a streetlight in the area. Three weeks ago his car was vandalized; a cinder block was thrown through the window of his Nissan Murano. It was dark the next morning when he entered the vehicle and he did not see that the window was shattered. As he sat in his vehicle, the broken glass cut his hands and leg. He stated that across the street at #132 Eastern Avenue at times there have been strange vehicles out front. The American Legion is close by and also the new subdivision. Mr. O'Brien said one morning he was backing out of his driveway and almost hit someone because it was so dark. He also stated that cars go whipping up and down the street. There is light by the Church when they have functions, but it is directed toward the property and away from the road. He installed security cameras and flood lights in his yard on motion-activated sensors; as it would cost too much to keep them on all the time. He is asking for the safety and extra protection of a streetlight in the area, as the area is very dark and he is located right at the corner of the intersection with Regency Court. He said there is a utility pole across from his house that would be a good place to add a streetlight. Councilor

Hamann said that the current streetlight policy would be in affect because it is near the intersection. **Councilor Gates made a motion to add a streetlight on Eastern Avenue on pole 840/7. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.** Councilor Gates asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if there were many calls for this area. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he would check and get back to the committee.

3. Airport Drive - Speed Limit Sign Request

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. DPW had received a call from Bill Bailey of Albany Engineered Composites. He requested one or two 30 mph speed limit sign(s) on Airport Drive (maybe one in each direction). There was a sign on Airport Drive before the roadway was reconfigured; that sign is now on Innovation Drive as you enter the business park. Councilor Hamann said this was non-residential and no kids are in the area. Councilor Hamann said they could place the speed limit trailer in the area of Airport Drive. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the back up speed trailer will be up and running within a month as the weather gets better and that the purchase order was done for the new one that replaces the one that was hit last year. **Councilor Gates made a motion to deny the 'speed limit' sign request on Airport Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

4. E911 Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that he got paperwork from the last time the committee was active, the new committee has all new members. He said that Chief Assessor Jonathan Rice looked at the standards and he said that 25 residents would need to be renumbered to bring Eastern Avenue up to regulation. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that it is required to give the residents 3 notices then a public hearing can be held. He is hoping to hold the hearing in June. Fire Chief Klose noted that the Fire Department (FD) had taken a look at their records and found that many years back there was a fire on Eastern Avenue and the FD initially went to the wrong location due to address numbering confusion.

5. Downtown Crosswalks and Striping (kept in committee)

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Emily Pelletier, the president of Rochester Main Street, was present to discuss the downtown crosswalks and

striping. Ms. Pelletier brought written recommendations to the Public Safety Committee.

- Wakefield Street - They prefer Option B, which includes parallel parking and designated bike lanes.
- North Main Street - They prefer Option C, which includes parallel parking and designated bike lane on one side of the roadway and a sharrow on the other. For the crosswalk near the municipal parking lot, they prefer the location nearest to the North Main Street Bridge, which removes the parking spaces ahead of the crosswalk on both sides of the street for better visibility.
- Union Street - They prefer the crosswalk be located in the area of 12 Union Street near businesses such as Curley's Comedy Club. They believe this location will encourage use of the crosswalk rather than jaywalking.
- General notes - They prefer the brick pattern in the crosswalks and opposed green crosswalks. Also, they preferred the parallel parking spaces to be individually lined to encourage more efficient use of the parking space available.

There was some discussion related to Hanson Street; however DPW did not have any draft plans for Hanson Street as this was not in the scope of work for downtown striping. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there is not enough room for two-way traffic and they would lose parking. Ms. Pelletier said the recommendation would be to leave Hanson Street as is. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he did some research on angled parking versus parallel parking. He stated that a community in Kentucky had a policy that angled parking should be avoided. People load items into the rear of their vehicles, which positions people near or in the travel lane. Reverse angled parking in which a driver backs into a space is another option, but backing into an angled parking space can be tricky. Councilor Hamann said he would like to see the massive plan before voting and if the crosswalks are all changing he wants to look at the entire downtown. Mr. Bezanson stated that although their consultant had performed a comprehensive downtown crosswalk study with several recommendations, DPW is only proposing to implement a few of the recommendations with the proposed downtown striping plan primarily due to cost concerns. The proposed plan only includes moving those crosswalks within the area that currently utilize driveway aprons as crosswalk ramps; that includes the mid-block crosswalk on North Main Street at the municipal parking lot, the mid-block crosswalk on Union Street, and the mid-block crosswalk on Wakefield Street at the former Ben Franklin Crafts store. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend the 4 recommendations for the downtown crosswalks and striping from Rochester Main Street to the full City Council for consideration. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Mr. Bezanson said that the mid-block crosswalk on Wakefield Street at the former Ben Franklin Crafts store was originally part of the Wakefield Street Area Infrastructure Improvements design. Councilor Hamann said if there are many crosswalks like the one on Wakefield Street then he thinks they should create a policy on crosswalks instead of looking at them individually. Councilor Walker asked that the crosswalk on Wakefield Street remain in its current location until the Wakefield Street Infrastructure Improvements project is constructed. Councilor Hutchinson asked why the consulting engineer that conducted the crosswalk study recommended Continental-style bars rather than the previously used brick stamp. Mr. Bezanson said that it was likely due to the visibility of the white paint and the fact that painted red brick isn't a standard recommended in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Councilor Hutchinson said that in some Massachusetts communities they have the brick stamp with white stripes on either side of the crosswalk. Mr. Bezanson agreed that to be MUTCD compliant any crosswalks with the red brick pattern would need white stripes on either side.

6. Other

Granite Street - Stop Sign/Yield Sign Request

Councilor Walker summarized a request that had been received from Russell Allen. He requested a "stop" sign or "yield" sign on Granite Street due to a fence that was installed at the corner that creates poor visibility around the corner. Councilor Walker noted that it is one way traffic on Granite Street and one way traffic around the corner on Sheridan Avenue. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny the "stop" sign or "yield" sign request. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haman. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

Common and Hancock Streets - Speed Limit Sign Request

Councilor Walker received a request from Donna Demers regarding loud exhaust and vehicles going too fast. The request was made for 30 mph speed limit signs in the area of Hancock and Common Streets. Councilor Walker stated that typically they do not post 30 mph speed limit signs in neighborhoods. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny a "speed limit" sign on Common and Hancock Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

Portland Street - School Zone Sign with Times Posted Request

Councilor Hutchinson said that Skip Marsh was requesting a "School Zone" sign with times posted on Portland Street near the East Rochester School. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny "school zone" sign with times posted, as there is an existing sign in place already. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Councilor Hutchinson also said that a request was received for the installation of a "school zone" signal on Main Street in East Rochester near the crosswalk near Pearl Street. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny a "school zone signal" on Main Street in East Rochester, as there already is an existing "School Zone" sign closer to the East Rochester School on Portland Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Emergency Management Update

Chief Klose updated the Committee on the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. He stated that there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, March 22, 2018. This will be the first meeting as the prior week's scheduled meeting was cancelled due to the winter storm.

Chief Klose said he wanted to let the committee know that the Tri-City Co-op was opening up a warming facility (the old C & K building), it is not a shelter. It was approved as a warming shelter before the latest nor'easter arrived. The warming shelter will be allowed to stay open until Friday at noon time.

Councilor Lachapelle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.