



*City of Rochester, New
Hampshire*

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 Wakefield Street □ Rochester, NH 03867

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January 11, 2023

TO: Public Safety Committee

REGARDING: Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on **January 18, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes from December 21, 2022 Public Safety Meeting pages 1-4
2. Public Input
3. Oak Street-Sign near 119 Oak Street (kept in committee)
4. Emergency Call Boxes (Request from Councilor Berlin) (kept in committee)
5. Intersection of Summer and Columbus-Request to changer Pedestrian Walk Sign to Push button (Request came in from City Mangers office)
6. Sara Court-Request to install “no parking” signs (kept in committee)
7. Crosswalk Lights and Speeding Issues on North Main Street (Request from Mayor Callaghan)
8. Salmon Falls Road Noise Abatement Signs(Request from Councilor Gilman)
9. Other

cc.

Mayor and City Council
Chief Gary Boudreau
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas
Fire Chief Dennis Dube
Assistant Chief Tim Wilder
Mr. Michael Bezanson
Mr. Timothy Goldthwaite
Ms. Lisa Clark

**Public Safety Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2022
6:00 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Councilor Amy Malone (excused)

Others Present

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician
Deputy Chief Jason Thomas, PD
David Smith, 588 Salmon Falls Road
Martin Hamel, 584 Salmon Falls Road
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 October 19, 2022. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

2. Public Input

Salmon Falls Road

Mr. Smith of 588 Salmon Falls Road was present to talk about the newly placed flashing sign. He stated that the sign does not belong there and it is an eyesore. He also stated that the speed limit should not be 25 mph; it should be 35-40 mph. He said that speed was not the issue and that the original complaint was from the person that is 500 feet from the intersection complaining of noise issues, such as motorcycles racing engines and trucks using jake brakes. Mr. Smith explained that the 25 mph is making the roadway more dangerous. Motorists are now traveling too slow for this road and others are passing in a no-passing zone marked by solid double yellow centerlines. There is essentially no pedestrian or bicycle traffic on this roadway; the area was not designed for walking. There is no sidewalk or crosswalk in the area; and, there is no school zone or business zone in the area. Motorists are now slamming on their brakes when they see how fast they are traveling compared to the 25 mph speed limit; or motorists are speeding up to see how fast they can get the sign to read (the sign does not show speeds greater than 40 mph). He said that the speed limit is inconsistent one side 30 mph and the other 35 mph; he thinks it should change to 40 mph by Tara Estates. Martin Hamel of 584 Salmon Falls Road was there to discuss the placement of the flashing sign. He said the flashing speed limit sign is in front of his house and it is an eyesore. He doesn't see

much that the sign is helping and he feels it is making matters worse. He feels that the value of his property has been reduced because of the location of the sign. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if there was a requirement for where the sign was placed. Mr. Bezanson said no, the City can establish a speed zone where they want to. DPW will report back why the flashing sign was placed in the current location. **(kept in committee)**

119 Oak Street

Mr. Sergei Markovskii said the roadside ditch 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, then violently smashes into his driveway, gets airborne and lands on the other side of the driveway. He knows of 1 police report for this type of incident, but many do not call the police only a tow truck. He requested some sort of sign at least as a warning measure. Councilor Lachapelle said that guardrail is probably not the answer for this situation. Mr. Bezanson will look into options, including potentially installing delineators. **(kept in committee)**

- 3. Flat Rock Bridge Road/Salmon Falls Road Intersection Safety Concerns**
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said there was no update on this request. Councilor Lachapelle removed this agenda item from future agendas until such time as there is something to report or discuss.
- 4. Safety Issue Crosswalk Columbus Avenue near KFC (Route 125) (request was sent by Councilor Berlin)**
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he did not yet have a cost estimate from Eversource to install poles and streetlights at this crosswalk location. Councilor Berlin said he was really irritated with Eversource; it shouldn't take 8 months to get a cost estimate. ***Councilor Berlin MOVED to recommend to full council to install an RRFB (rectangular rapid flashing beacon) at the Columbus Avenue crosswalk near KFC. Councilor Gilman seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.*** Councilor de Geofroy asked if there was a cost estimate for the RRFB. Mr. Bezanson said the cost differs depending upon the specific installation location and the range is approximately \$15,000-\$25,000.
- 5. Colby Street-One Way Traffic**
Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he does not have update on the analysis that NHDOT is going to incorporate into a project in the area. Councilor Lachapelle said he received an email from a resident asking a few questions; one was regarding the "no thru truck" signs. Councilor Berlin said the current signs installed on Colby read "no thru trucks class 8 and above". Mr. Bezanson said that the "no thru truck" signs are on order and will replace the current signs when they come in. Councilor Lachapelle asked Deputy Chief Thomas about direct patrols, which was another question in the

email. Finally, the last question was regarding speed tables, which Councilor Lachapelle said that he would need to discuss separately with the Chair of the Public Works and Buildings Committee and Director of City Services Peter Nourse. Councilor Lachapelle removed this agenda item from future agendas until such time as there is something to report or discuss.

6. Emergency Call Boxes (Request from Councilor Berlin)

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Councilor Berlin asked Mr. Bezanson whether emergency call boxes have been considered for the Union Street Municipal Parking Lot project. Mr. Bezanson stated the design consultant for the project is researching different options and that he would likely have more information next month. Councilor de Geofroy asked if the cost of the towers includes the Wi-Fi or cell connection service or if the City's IT Department would need to be involved in connection to the City's network. Councilor Berlin said that the towers do not include the cost of the Wi-Fi, telephone, or cellular service that would be needed; that would be paid separately. **(kept in committee)**

7. Hospital Signs-Whitehall Road to the Right

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. ***Councilor Berlin MOVED to recommend to full council to install a "hospital" sign on Salmon Falls Road in the eastbound direction approaching Whitehall Road at the discretion of DPW contingent upon the hospital purchasing the sign. Councilor de Geofroy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

8. Intersection of Summer and Columbus-Request to change Pedestrian Walk Sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue and asked Mr. Bezanson about an upcoming project at this intersection. Mr. Bezanson said yes there is a project being designed for improvements at this intersection, including new signals and potentially adding turn lanes at the intersection. As part of the design, pedestrian crossing improvements are being considered. Construction of this project could begin sometime next year. He also said that DPW will look into the timing of the current pedestrian phase signals and will report back to the committee whether immediate improvements can be made. **(kept in committee)**

9. Sarah Court-Request to Install "No Parking" signs

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said Sarah Court is a very short and narrow dead end street. Deputy Chief Thomas said emergency vehicles would not be able to get down the street when the vehicles are parked on both sides. Councilor Berlin said there is a duplex at the beginning of the street. Councilor Berlin suggested that "no parking" be placed in the narrow areas of the street. Mr. Bezanson will look into how Sarah Court is plowed and Councilor Lachapelle will look into how Waste Management

picks up the trash. **(kept in committee)**

10. Coleman Street/Richardson Street Intersection-Request for Yield Sign or Stop Sign

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Thomas described the vehicle movements at the intersection that were cause for the request. Councilor Lachapelle asked whether a painted stop bar would be enforceable without a sign; Deputy Chief Thomas responded that he did not believe so. **Councilor de Geofroy MOVED to recommend to full council to install a “stop” sign on Richardson Street at the intersection of Coleman Street. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

11. Chesley Hill Road-Discussion on Pedestrian Walking Signs and Line Painting

Councilor Lachapelle summarized the issue. He stated there are now more houses in the Chesley Hill Road area; and, Chesley Hill Road is now used as a cut-through road. There is a lot of vehicle traffic; and, a lot of people walk this road. **Councilor Lachapelle MOVED to recommend to full council to place a “pedestrian warning” sign on each end of Chelsey Hill Road. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.** Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson to report back next month with costs for line striping certain portions of or the entire length of Chesley Hill Road.

12. Other

No others for this agenda item.

Councilor Lachapelle ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:56 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin. Assistant II